

窑匠與泥土 - 2

Potter & Clay - 2

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約沙法王

King Jehoshaphat

“..... 我們也不知道怎樣行，我們的眼目單仰望你。”

“... nor do we know what to do, but our eyes *are* upon
You.”

1. 約沙法王的背景 (King Jehoshaphat's background)
2. 約沙法王的考驗與他的反應 (King Jehoshaphat's test & his response)
3. 我們從約沙法王的一生能學到什麼? (What can we learn from the life of King Jehosphaphat?)

1. 約沙法王的背景 (King Jehoshaphat's background)

亞撒的兒子約沙法接續他作王，奮勇自強，防備以色列人，安置軍兵在猶大一切堅固城裡，又安置防兵在猶大地和他父亞撒所得以法蓮的城邑中。耶和華與約沙法同在；因為他行他祖大衛初行的道，不尋求巴力，(代下 17:1-3)

Then Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his place, and strengthened himself against Israel. And he placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had taken. Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David; he did not seek the Baals, (2 Chron. 17:1-3) ⁵

只尋求他父親的神，遵行他的誠命，不效法以色列人的行為。所以耶和華堅定他的國，猶大眾人給他進貢；約沙法大有尊榮資財。(代下 17:4,5)

but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel. Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honor in abundance. (2 Chron. 17:4,5)

約沙法作猶大王，登基的時候年三十五歲，在耶路撒冷作王二十五年。他母親名叫阿蘇巴，乃示利希的女兒。約沙法效法他父亞撒所行的，不偏左右，行耶和華眼中看為正的事。(代下 20:31,32)

So Jehoshaphat was king over Judah. *He was* thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name *was* Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. **32** And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing *what was* right in the sight of the Lord. (2 Chron. 20:31,32)

2. 約沙法王的考驗與他的反應 (King Jehoshaphat's test & his response)

- A. 與亞哈結盟 (He allied himself with Ahab)
- B. 三國侵略猶大國 (Three nations launched an invasion to Judah)
- C. 與亞哈謝交好 (He allied himself with Ahaziah)
- D. 與約蘭聯合 (He allied himself with Jehoram)

A. 與亞哈結盟 (He allied himself with Ahab)

約沙法大有尊榮資財，就與亞哈結親。過了幾年，他下到撒瑪利亞去見亞哈；亞哈為他和跟從他的人宰了許多牛羊，勸他與自己同去攻取基列的拉末。(代下 18:1,2)

Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab. After some years he went down to *visit* Ahab in Samaria; and Ahab killed sheep and oxen in abundance for him and the people who were with him, and persuaded him to go up *with him* to Ramoth Gilead. (2 Chron. 18:1,2)

以色列王亞哈問猶大王約沙法說：你肯同我去攻取基列的拉末麼？他回答說：你我不分彼此，我的民與你的民一樣，必與你同去爭戰。**約沙法對以色列王說：請你先求問耶和華。** (代下 18:3,4)

So Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, “Will you go with me *against* Ramoth Gilead?” And he answered him, “I *am* as you *are*, and my people as your people; *we will be* with you in the war.”

Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “Please inquire for the word of the Lord today.” (2 Chron. 18:3,4)

以色列王和猶大王約沙法上基列的拉末去了。以色列王對約沙法說：我要改裝上陣，你可以仍穿王服。於是以色列王改裝，他們就上陣去了。(代下 18:28,29)

So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead. And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself, and they went into battle. (2 Chron. 18:28,29)

先是亞蘭王吩咐車兵長說：他們的兵將，無論大小，你們都不可與他們爭戰，只要與以色列王爭戰。車兵長看見約沙法便說，這必是以色列王，就轉過去與他爭戰。約沙法一呼喊，耶和華就幫助他，神又感動他們離開他。
(代下 18:30,31)

Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots who *were* with him, saying, “Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel.” So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, “It *is* the king of Israel!” Therefore they surrounded him to attack; but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the Lord helped him, and God diverted them from him. (2 Chron. 18:30,31)

猶大王約沙法平平安安地回耶路撒冷，到宮裡去了。先見哈拿尼的兒子耶戶出來迎接約沙法王，對他說：**你豈當幫助惡人，愛那恨惡耶和華的人呢？**因此耶和華的忿怒臨到你。然而你還有善行，因你從國中除掉木偶，立定心意尋求神。(代下 19:1-3)

Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned safely to his house in Jerusalem. And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, **“Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?** Therefore the wrath of the Lord *is* upon you. Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God.” (2 Chron.¹⁴ 19:1-3)

B. 三國侵略猶大國 (Three nations launched an invasion to Judah)

有人來報告約沙法說：從海外亞蘭(又作以東)那邊有大軍來攻擊你，如今他們在哈洗遜他瑪，就是隱基底。約沙法便懼怕，定意尋求耶和華，在猶大全地宣告禁食。於是猶大人聚會，求耶和華幫助。猶大各城都有人出來尋求耶和華。(代下 20:2-4)

Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar” (which is En Gedi). **And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord,** and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. So Judah gathered together to ask *help* from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord. (2 Chron. 20:2-4)

我們的神啊，你不懲罰他們麼？因為我們無力抵擋這來攻擊我們的大軍，我們也不知道怎樣行，我們的眼目單仰望你。猶大眾人和他們的嬰孩、妻子、兒女都站在耶和華面前。
(代下 20:12,13)

O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” Now all Judah, with their little ones, their wives, and their children, stood before the Lord. (2 Chron. 20:12,13)

他說：猶大眾人、耶路撒冷的居民，和約沙法王，你們請聽。耶和華對你們如此說：不要因這大軍恐懼驚惶；**因為勝敗不在乎你們，乃在乎神**。約沙法就面伏於地，猶大眾人和耶路撒冷的居民也俯伏在耶和華面前，叩拜耶和華。（代下 20:15,18）

And he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus says the Lord to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, **for the battle is not yours, but God’s**. And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. (2 Chron. 20:15,18)

哥轄族和可拉族的利未人都起來，用極大的聲音讚美耶和華以色列的神。約沙法既與民商議了，就設立歌唱的人，頌讚耶和華，使他們穿上聖潔的禮服，走在軍前讚美耶和華說：當稱謝耶和華，因他的慈愛永遠長存！（代下 20:19,21）

Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high. And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy *endures* forever."
(2 Chron. 20:19,21)

眾人方唱歌讚美的時候，耶和華就派伏兵擊殺那來攻擊猶大人的亞捫人、摩押人，和西珥山人，他們就被打敗了。
(代下 20:22)

Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. (2 Chron. 20:22)

C. 與亞哈謝交好 (He allied himself with Ahaziah)

此後，猶大王約沙法與以色列王亞哈謝交好；亞哈謝行惡太甚。二王合夥造船要往他施去，遂在以旬迦別造船。那時瑪利沙人、多大瓦的兒子以利以謝向約沙法預言說：**因你與亞哈謝交好，耶和華必破壞你所造的。**後來那船果然破壞，不能往他施去了。 (代下 20:35-37)

After this Jehoshaphat king of Judah allied himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who acted very wickedly. And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber. But Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, **“Because you have allied yourself with Ahaziah, the Lord has destroyed your works.”** Then the ships were wrecked, so that they were not able to go to Tarshish. (2 Chron. 20:35-37)

約沙法製造他施船隻，要往俄斐去，將金子運來；只是沒有去，因為船在以旬迦別破壞了。亞哈的兒子亞哈謝對約沙法說：容我的僕人和你的僕人坐船同去罷！**約沙法卻不肯。**
(王上 22:48,49)

Jehoshaphat made merchant ships to go to Ophir for gold; but they never sailed, for the ships were wrecked at Ezion Geber. Then Ahaziah the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships." **But Jehoshaphat would not.** (1 Kings 22:48,49)

D. 與約蘭聯合 (He allied himself with Jehoram)

猶大王約沙法十八年，亞哈的兒子約蘭在撒瑪利亞登基作了以色列王十二年。他行耶和華眼中看為惡的事，但不至像他父母所行的，因為除掉他父所造巴力的柱像。... 前行的時候，差人去見猶大王約沙法，說：摩押王背叛我，你肯同我去攻打摩押麼？他說：我肯上去，你我不分彼此，我的民與你的民一樣，我的馬與你的馬一樣。
(王下 3:1,2,7)

Now Jehoram the son of Ahab became king over Israel at Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned twelve years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like his father and mother; for he put away the *sacred* pillar of Baal that his father had made. ... Then he went and sent to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, saying, “The king of Moab has rebelled against me. Will you go with me to fight against Moab?” And he said, “I will go up; I *am* as you *are*, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” (2 Kings 3:1,2,7)

約沙法說：這裡不是有耶和華的先知麼？我們可以託他求問耶和華。以色列王的一個臣子回答說：這裡有沙法的兒子以利沙，就是從前服事以利亞的(原文作倒水在以利亞手上的)。... 以利沙說：我指著所事奉永生的萬軍耶和華起誓，我若不看猶大王約沙法的情面，必不理你，不顧你。(王下 3:11,14)

But Jehoshaphat said, “*Is there no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord by him?*” So one of the servants of the king of Israel answered and said, “Elisha the son of Shaphat *is* here, who poured water on the hands of Elijah.” ... And Elisha said, “As the Lord of hosts lives, before whom I stand, surely were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you, nor see you. (2 Kings 3:11,14)

3. 我們從約沙法王的一生能學到什麼? (What can we learn from the life of King Jehosphaphat?)

在挑戰中我們該如何行？

(How shall we do when we face challenges?)

什麼時候我們最容易犯錯？

(When do we make mistake easily?)

當我們悔改回頭時神總是接受我們

(God always accepts us when we return/repent)

我們如何與世人合作？

(How do we partner with people of the world?)

“..... 我們也不知道怎樣行，我們的眼目單
仰望你。”

“... nor do we know what to do, but our
eyes are upon You.”