

## **Bad Companions – Bad Decisions – Tragic Results**

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Can godly people who otherwise love God make ungodly decisions?  
King Jehoshaphat is going to help us today learn from his mistakes.

### **A. What kind of person was Jehoshaphat?**

1. He was the son of King Asa. He came to the throne of Judah at the age of 35 and reigned 25 years.  
2 Chronicles 20:31
2. “The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because in his early years he walked in the ways his father David had followed.” 2 Chronicles 17:3
3. In his third year he sent teachers throughout Judah to teach the people the way of the Lord. 2 Chronicles 17:7
4. Jehoshaphat often had great faith.  
2 Chronicles 20:6-12 He said Lord “We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” Vs12

### **So what was Jehoshaphat’s sin?**

#### **B. Jehoshaphat made ungodly alliances or partnerships.**

“He allied himself with Ahab by marriage” 2 Chronicles 18:1  
He took the daughter of Ahab, Athaliah, for his son, Jehoram.

#### **These contracts always required at least three things.**

1. Non-aggression treaty between kingdoms
2. Acceptance, worship or tolerance of their god or gods
3. Agreement to help them against their enemies.

### **Who was this Ahab?**

1 Kings 21:25 “There was never a name like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel, his wife.”

Because of Ahab’s rebellion God said, “I will consume your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel, slave or free.” 1 Kings 21:20-21

### **C. What were the consequences of Jehoshaphat’s decision?**

Jehoram, his son, is now married to Ahab’s daughter. What’s the big deal about marriage?

1. Jehoshaphat’s grandchildren are also Ahab’s grandchildren, putting them under the curse of death.
2. Jehoram killed all his brothers (sons of Jehoshaphat) 2 Chronicles 21:4
3. Jehoram, Jehoshaphat’s son, having married Ahab’s daughter. “He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab.” 2 Chronicles 21:6  
God struck him with a disease of the bowels and he died at age 40.  
At his death... “he passed away, to no one’s regret.” 2 Chronicles 21:20
4. Athaliah killed all Jehoram’s sons except a baby by another wife (a grandson of Jehoshaphat but not Ahab)

## LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

### **One small decision can have big consequences.**

1. Trust God in all circumstances. “Lord our eyes are on You.”
2. Do not compromise God’s standard. Do not substitute God’s plan for your plan.
3. The decisions you make will not only affect you but everyone you love possibly for generations.  
The law of reaping and sowing.

### **Before making any decisions ask yourself these simple questions.**

1. Does this decision violate any command or principle of God?
2. Seek advice from people who are committed to God’s principles.
3. Even if it is not a right or wrong decision, what affect will this decision have on me and those I love?
4. How will his decision affect my relationship with my Lord?  
Today and long-term