

# King Jehoshaphat

CHARACTERS: 11 Iddo, JJ, Huldah, Dr. Solomon Ethan, roving reporter 1, Hozai, Zedekiah, Micaiah, Prophet A, Jahaziel, servant (doubling is possible)

PROPS: iron bull horns, microphones for roving reporters

SETTING: TV news room, throne room,

RUN TIME: 12 minutes total.

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: 2 Chronicles 16-20, 1 Kings 22

FK reading level: 6.5

## Scene 1

*A rise: TV news station*

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm Jehu, JJ for short, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news

JJ: King Asa died today at the age of 61 after a 41 year reign. It is unknown at this time if his death was related to his foot disease. He will be buried in Jerusalem.

IDDO: His son Jehoshaphat has ascended the throne. He immediately gave orders to station troops in every fortified city and garrison in response to the ongoing Israeli threat. [Cut to]

ROVING REPORTER 1: King Jehoshaphat, what will you do about filling your cabinet positions?

JEH: I plan to seek the God of David and walk by his commands.

HOZAI: What about the Baals?

JEHOSHAPHAT: They are false gods. I've given orders to have the high places and Asherah poles removed from the whole country.

ROVING REPORTER 2: What about education policies?

JEHOSHAPHAT: Education is critical for the people of our nation. Five officials, nine Levites and two priests will be making a tour of the towns in Judah with the book of the Law of Moses to make sure everyone in our nation knows how to live. [Cut to]

HULDAH: The weather forecast for Judah looks good unlike the severe drought plaguing the neighboring Israelis. Look for ample rain and good crops.

## Scene 2

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*A rise: TV news station*

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news

JJ: A delegation from the five Philistines lords arrived in Jerusalem today bringing gifts and silver as tribute. Not to outdone, the Arabs delegation brought 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

IDDO: Work continues on the fortresses and storage cities, all part of Jehoshaphat's ambitious building plan.

JJ: Reminds us of the golden period of David and Solomon and all their public works and royal construction.

IDDO: We interviewed Dr. Solomon Ethan at Jerusalem University to comment on these first years of Jehoshaphat's kingship. [Cut to]

DR: Jehoshaphat appears to be growing stronger and stronger. Neighboring nations seem afraid to show any hostility, partly due to the warriors in Jerusalem, partly because of his devotion to God.

ROVING REPORTER 1: What do you think about all the gifts Jehoshaphat is receiving?

DR: It is a good sign that neighboring rulers respect him and want to stay on his good side. I'm not surprised about the livestock. With drought affecting Israel's pasturelands, there's not much of a market there for rams and goats.

ROVING REPORTER 1: With the alliance by the marriage of Prince Joram to Ahab's daughter Athaliah, is Israel much of a threat these days?

DR: Yes, but not a military threat.

ROVING REPORTER 1: Can you clarify what kind of threat you mean?

DR: Sure. Athaliah is the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, both of whom have stopped to murder, deceit, treachery and theft to get what they want. Jezebel is an avid worshipper of Baal and very hostile to God and his prophets.

ROVING REPORTER 1: I know the saying 'the apple doesn't fall far from the tree' but in all honesty, we don't really know what influence they have had on their daughter, do we?

DR: No. But we can guess Athaliah will be an influence on Joram, and I'm guessing it will NOT be a godly influence. Just look at what happened to King Solomon -who I happened to be named after. His godless wives led him away from God.

ROVING REPORTER 1: Thank you Dr. Solomon Ethan. Back to you Huldah [cut to]

HULDAH: Expect showers early in the morning. The drought continues in Israel. This is year three of no rain as predicted by Elijah the prophet.

### Scene 3a

*A rise: TV news station*

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news.

JJ: A war or at least military action may be in the works as we speak. King Jehoshaphat is contemplating joint action with the Israelis against Ramoth-gilead. We go live, outside the palace of Ahab, king of Israel. [Cut to]

ROVING REPORTER 1: Jehoshaphat has been quoted as saying "I am as you are, my people as your people; we will be with you in the battle" to Ahab's request for military assistance against the Arameans.

HOZAI: Talks are temporarily stalled while 400 prophets are summoned because Jehoshaphat insisted on first consulting the Lord.

ROVING REPORTER 1: To a man Ahab's prophets are saying God will deliver the rebel army into Israel and Judah's hands. Here's a peek inside the throne room

### Scene 3b

*At rise: Center stage, Kings are sitting on thrones in royal attire surrounded by a crowd of courtiers, prophets and guards*

JEHOSHAPHAT: *(to AHAB)* Isn't there a prophet of Yahweh here anymore? Let's ask him.

AHAB: There is still one man, Micaiah, who can ask Yahweh, but I hate him because he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster.

JEHOSHAPHAT: The king shouldn't say that.

AHAB: *(to a servant)* Hurry and get the prophet Micaiah. *(servant exits)*

ZEDEKIAH: *(holding iron horns by his head)* This is what the LORD says: 'You will gore the Arameans with these until they are finished off.

FALSE PROPHET A: March up to Ramoth-gilead and succeed, for the LORD will hand it over to the king. *(ad lib by other prophets agreeing. To the side MICAIAH and SERVANT arrive and take a step or two onstage. Center stage action without sound continues.)*

SERVANT: Look, the other prophets are unanimously backing Ahab's plan. So let your words be like theirs, and speak favorably.

MICAIAH: As the LORD lives, I will say whatever my God says. *(enters and bows before the kings)*

AHAB: Micaiah, should we go to war, or should I refrain?

MICAIAH: *(obviously sarcastic)* March up and succeed, for they will be handed over to you.

AHAB: *(angry and frustrated)* How many times must I make you swear not to tell me anything but the truth in the name of Yahweh?

MICAIAH: *(loudly, seriously)* I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd.

AHAB: Didn't I tell you he never prophesies good about me, but only disaster?

MICAIAH: *(strong, powerfully)* Hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and the whole heavenly host was standing at His right hand and at His left hand. And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel to march up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' A spirit came forward, stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will entice him. I will become a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' *(He points at ZEDEKIAH, then sweeps his hand to include all the prophets)* The LORD has put a lying spirit into the mouth of these prophets and the LORD has pronounced disaster against you.

AHAB: Put Micaiah in prison and feed him only bread and water until I come back safely.

MICAIAH: *(as he is hauled away)* If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me.

#### Scene 4

*A rise: TV news station*

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news.

JJ: King Jehoshaphat suffered defeat against the King of Aram today in a fierce battle that took the life of Ahab, king of Israel.

IDDO: Upon his return to Jerusalem he was confronted by the prophet Jehu with the words "Do you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the LORD's wrath is on you."

JJ: His condemnation was somewhat tempered when he finished with "However, some good is found in you, for you have removed the Asherah poles from the land and have decided to seek God."

IDDO: Jehoshaphat has embarked on a campaign to bring the people of Judah back to Yahweh. This includes the appointment of judges. We cut to a speech he delivered live to some of the appointees. [Cut to]

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JEHOSHAPHAT: Consider what you are doing, for you do not judge for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the matter of judgment. . Watch what you do, for there is no injustice or partiality or taking bribes with the LORD our God. Be strong; may the LORD be with those who do what is good. [Cut to]

JJ: On a less favorable note, an entire fleet of ships were destroyed today off the coast of Tarshish. The fleet was co-owned by Jehoshaphat and King Ahaziah, king of Israel, son of the former King Ahab.

IDDO: We have Dr. Solomon Ethan for his take on the matter.

DR: Ahaziah is a pretty shady character. This is the Lord's doing because he was displeased that Jehoshaphat formed an alliance with Ahaziah.

## Scene 5

*A rise: TV news station*

IDDO: Good evening. I'm Iddo the Seer

JJ: And I'm JJ, court secretary.

IDDO: And this is Judah's nightly news.

JJ: A nationwide fast has been proclaimed following reports that a vast army composed of eastern enemies has amassed in En-ge-di, a former stronghold of King David's.

IDDO: The king delivered a prayer at the temple today. [Cut to]

*JEHOSHAPHAT is praying and from offstage come "amens" and other ad libs*

JEHOSHAPHAT: Yahweh, the God of our ancestors, are You not the God who is in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one can stand against You. Are You not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and gave it to us, to the descendants of Abraham Your friend, forever? *(ad lib agreement)*

Now here are the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. You did not let Israel invade them when Israel came out of the land of Egypt, but Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them. Look how they repay us by coming to drive us out of Your possession that You gave us as an inheritance. *(ad lib agreement)*

Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to You. [cut to]

IDDO: Following the king's prayer a Levite prophesied deliverance from this threat to national security. [cut to]

JHAZIEL: Listen carefully; this is what the LORD says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's. You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for Yahweh is with you. [cut to]

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JJ: The king reportedly bowed and worshipped, joined by singing Levites

IDD: We will be bringing you live coverage of this event tomorrow.

### Scene 6

VOICE OVER: We interrupt our regular programming to bring you this news flash.

ROVING REPORTER: The Lord has given a tremendous victory to Jehoshaphat and Judah. In a surprising turn of events, the assembled armies turned on each other and annihilated themselves and all threats to Judah. *(fiddling with ear piece)* Hozai, are you there? Come in

HOZAI: *(offstage and seemingly breaking up)* It is incredible. Not one enemy is left standing.

ROVING REPORTER: What happened?

HOZAI: *(coming in more clearly)* Just before the battle was to begin King Jehoshaphat appointed singers to go in front of the armed forces.

ROVING REPORTER: You must be breaking up. Did you say singers or stingers?

HOZAI: Singers. He stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in Yahweh your God, and you will be established; believe in His prophets, and you will succeed. Then he appointed some to of the people to sing for the LORD and some to praise the splendor of His holiness.

ROVING REPORTER: *(incredulous)* So when they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing?

HOZAI: Yes. It was remarkable. They sang 'Give thanks to the LORD, for His faithful love endures forever'. The moment they began their shouts and praises, the LORD had the enemies destroy each other.

ROVING REPORTER: What is happening now?

HOZAI: They are still singing and gathering the plunder!

ROVING REPORTER: Amazing. Let's connect back to our station. JJ, are there?

JJ: We are. Reports are flooding in that the terror of God fell on all the neighboring kingdoms when they heard that Yahweh had fought against our enemies.

IDDO: Kind of reminds me of David vs. Goliath. As we say 'the battle belongs to the Lord'.

JJ: I think we'll be seeing a peaceful, quiet kingdom with God-given rest on every side.

IDDO: I agree. Iddo and JJ signing off.

*(other similar format scripts available for Asa and Hezekiah)*