

The charges the King gave them were:

- 1) They must do all in the fear of the Lord; setting Him always before them, that they act faithfully, conscientiously, and with an upright heart
- 2) They must do everything to prevent sin, and to warn the people not to trespass against God. Sin is hurtful to themselves and the public and is an offence to God. Failure to do so would bring God's wrath on the law breaker and the judge if they did not punish it.
- 3) They should act with resolution by dealing courageously and by fearing no one. In the discharging of their duties they should be bold and daring.

As King, Jehoshaphat was the head of his military. He used mighty weapons of war - Praise, Worship and Prayer. When a vast army of Moabites and Ammonites came against Judah Jehoshaphat prayed "we do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." How humble, how sincere, how brilliant; he was at God mercy and trusted God and what He could do. Jehoshaphat appointed "Men to sing to the Lord and to praise Him for the splendor of His holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever". God set ambushes against the opposing army and defeated them.

This month let us pray for the leaders of New York state to reverence God; and to be motivated by the fear of the Lord to keep them from doing wrong. Pray that they realize they are not working for man but for God. It is the Lord who has put them in office and is aware of everything they think, say, do, decide and pass onto law. **May the fear of the Lord be upon them?**



## God Looks for Those Who Will Intercede. November 2013

One of the areas that I believe is least understood by Christians is the partnership that God has called us to with Himself in the area of prayer. God, in His wisdom and sovereign power, has chosen to accomplish His will on this planet through the prayers of His people. God has decided not to arbitrarily move in and out of situations on earth, even though He is able to do just that. Instead, He waits on His people to pray and then pours out His power in response to those prayers.

Ezekiel 22:30 is a passage of Scripture that illustrates this principle of how the Lord works. "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none." God uses the illustration of a walled city to demonstrate His commitment to prayer. The walls protect a city from enemy attack. But through neglect (sin), the walls can begin to crumble and a gap or opening in the wall can create a dangerous situation where the enemy can come in. God said of Israel in Ezekiel's day, that they had allowed such a situation to develop. It was going to result in the destruction of the land, unless someone stood before the Lord in the gap on behalf of the land. This is a clear picture of God's desire for us to engage in intercessory prayer.

What is absolutely heartbreaking is that God Himself was looking for an intercessor. He was looking for someone who would stand before Him in prayer on behalf of Israel so that He would not have to destroy her because of sin and rebellion. God's desire is made clear here. He did not want to destroy Israel. He was waiting for an intercessor so He wouldn't have to. God had chosen to reserve His power to save the nation of Israel for those who prayed. But no intercessor was to be found. Israel was defeated by the Babylonians and her people were in exile for 70 years.

—Adapted from the article [Partnering with God in Prayer by Dave Butts](#).

*Gracious God, how often have I failed to stand in the gap when You have urged me to intercede? Holy Spirit, You have prompted me and I have let my heart and mind drift to other pursuits instead of the holy endeavors of intercession. Forgive me, and strengthen my resolve to listen and obey when you call me into the gap!*

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## Prayer Points

Praise Jesus, who is the gate of salvation (Jn. 10:7-10). Thank him for bringing you through that gate and for the security you find inside. Confess those times when you seek security in something other than Jesus. Commit yourself to being a door-keeper in the house of God rather than dwelling in the tents of wickedness (Ps. 84:10). Ask God to use you to attract those outside of Christ to enter into a saving relationship with him.

Pray that your church will march triumphantly against the hosts of Satan, with the assurance that the gates of hell cannot prevail against God's church (Mt. 16:18).

### Prayer Pointer

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."  
—Philippians 4:6-7

—Prayer Points taken from [Patterns for Prayer by Alvin VanderGriend](#)

## The Wisdom of a King

Discover King Jehoshaphat of Judah in the Old Testament. (2 Chronicles 17-20)  
From the beginning of his reign he was devoted and dependent on God. "He served his Father's God, obeyed God's commands and did not act in the way the kings of Israel did. The Lord gave Jehoshaphat firm control over the kingdom of Judah, and all the people brought him gifts, so that he became wealthy and highly honored. The countries surrounding Judah did not make war against him and he grew more powerful."

What did King Jehoshaphat do that made him successful?

1. He sent preachers throughout Judah to instruct the people of God's law.
2. Then he sent out judges to see that the law was being followed – "to be a terror to evil-doers."
3. He completely remodeled their judicial system with new officials and a new mandate.

The new Mandate:

### 1. He established inferior courts of justice.

The judges of these courts were to keep the people in worship of God, to punish the violators and to decide controversies between the people. There were two warning King Jehoshaphat gave to the judges to help them in their duties.

- a) Have great caution and circumspection: "Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for man but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict" (2 Chronicles 19:6)
- b) Have great piety and religion: "Let the fear of God be upon you" – that would be a restraint to keep them from doing wrong.

He gave them three motives to consider keeping them faithful:

- a) That from God they had their commission. Their powers were ordained by God and for Him. "You are not judging for man but for the Lord".
- b) God is the great example of justice to all magistrates: "there is no injustice or partiality or bribery". Magistrates are called gods and therefore must resemble Him.
- c) God's eyes were upon them - "he is with you in judgment to take notice of what you do"

### 2. He erected a supreme court.

It decided the difficult cases that occurred in the inferior courts. There were two types of cases heard here:

- a) Pleas of the crown – The laws of God were the laws of the realm. All criminals were charged with breaking some part of His law and were an offense against His crown and dignity.
- b) Common pleas – offences between fellow citizens. If the inferior judges did not agree about the law or commandment, any statute or judgment, this court determined the controversy.

The judges of this court were Levites and priests that were most learned in the law, eminent for wisdom and integrity, and some were the chiefs of the fathers of Israel, peers of the realm, and businessmen.

The Supreme Court had two presidents. The first one was a high priest to preside in ecclesiastical causes, and to direct the court. The second president presided in all civil cases.

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