

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

2 Chronicles 19:4-11

Sunday, July 29, 2012

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What difference does it make whether or not leaders and judges love and serve the LORD or not?

King Ahab turned from God, and as punishment for misleading his people away from God and into idolatry, he misled his people (and King Jehoshaphat) into war, where he lost his own life. Eventually, the kingdom of Israel that he ruled disappeared from history. King Jehoshaphat learned from observing what happened to King Ahab. King Jehoshaphat sought the LORD, but before he had become committed enough to the LORD to obey His righteous laws, establish a good system of administration, and make good decisions, he foolishly followed King Ahab into a war. When King Jehoshaphat heard from God's prophet, Jehu, he listened and led his people back into a right relationship with the LORD (that also improved the people's relationships with one another). The history of the kings of Israel and Judah show the difference it makes when people have godly leaders. When people have leaders who love and serve the LORD, the people are truly blessed and more likely to love and serve God and receive even more blessings from the hand of God.

2. Why should leaders understand that they are to lead on the LORD's behalf?

If they do not understand this obligation, they will more easily bow to special interests and other financial and political pressures rather than do what is right in the sight of God. They may show partisanship, instead of administering justly. They may use their positions of power to increase their power and enrich themselves. If they understand that God expects them as leaders to judge and teach "under God," they will better understand their awesome responsibilities, seek to better learn, understand, and apply the objective moral law of God, and ask the LORD to guide them when making decisions.

3. What encouragement did Jehoshaphat give to the judges that he appointed?

He told them that if they judged on the LORD's behalf that the LORD would be with

them in giving judgment (see 2 Chronicles 19:6).

4. What can happen to the leader or judge that does not fear the LORD?

If they do not see themselves as accountable to God, Who has promised to judge them as He judged King Ahab and the kings before and after him, they will be more likely to pervert justice, show partiality, and take bribes if possible (see 2 Chronicles 19:7). This fact may explain why some church leaders or “Christian” leaders in business and government pervert justice, show partiality, and take bribes: they have ceased to fear the LORD because of their unbiblical beliefs.

5. What did Jehoshaphat say were some of the consequences if leaders and judges did not give proper instruction to people?

The people would not know how to obey the LORD; therefore, they would do things that were morally wrong and suffer the consequences. If someone does not know or rightly use the physical law of gravity, they can hurt themselves and others. If someone does not know or rightly use the moral law against stealing, they can hurt themselves and others. God will judge appropriately all of those who take leadership over others (see 2 Chronicles 19:10).

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