

# 2 Chronicles 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;

## Analysis

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**And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim;**

This verse is part of the narrative of Judah's kings, specifically addressing Teaching God's law brings blessing and security. The Chronicler's theological perspective emphasizes immediate divine retribution—kings who seek God prosper, while those who forsake Him face judgment. This pattern provides instruction for the post-exilic community on the conditions for God's blessing.

The account demonstrates God's covenant faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness. Even in judgment, God preserves a remnant and offers restoration through repentance. The repeated cycle of apostasy, judgment, and restoration reveals both human sinfulness and divine mercy. References to the temple, proper worship, and priestly service emphasize the Chronicler's concern for correct religious observance.

Theologically, these accounts point beyond immediate history to God's ultimate purposes through the Davidic line. Despite repeated failures, God preserves David's dynasty, anticipating the perfect King who will reign in righteousness. The pattern of judgment for sin and restoration through repentance prefigures the gospel message of salvation through Christ.

## Historical Context

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This passage occurs during the divided monarchy period when Judah existed separately from northern Israel. The Chronicler writes from a post-exilic perspective, addressing the restored community in Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile (539 BCE onward). His emphasis on temple worship, proper religious observance, and God's covenant faithfulness speaks directly to the needs of his audience who had just rebuilt the temple and were reestablishing their identity as God's people.

The historical context demonstrates both God's judgment on persistent sin and His readiness to restore those who genuinely repent. The Chronicler omits most northern kingdom material, focusing on Judah and the Davidic line to emphasize God's faithfulness to His covenant promises. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Lachish, Beersheba, and Jerusalem corroborate the biblical accounts of various kings' reigns and building projects.

Understanding the Chronicler's post-exilic perspective is crucial—he's not merely recording history but applying past lessons to his contemporary audience, showing that the same principles of seeking God, maintaining proper worship, and covenant faithfulness that determined blessing or judgment in the past still apply.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this verse illustrate the principle of divine retribution (blessing for obedience, judgment for sin)?

2. What specific applications does this passage have for maintaining spiritual faithfulness in contemporary Christian life?
3. How does this account point to God's ultimate purposes through the Davidic line and the coming Messiah?

## Interlinear Text

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|                           |                                   |                                |                     |                   |       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| וְיַהְיָה כִּי            | יְהוָשָׁפָט                       | כִּי                           | פְּלִרְמִן          |                   |       |
| H1961 <b>And the LORD</b> | H5973 <b>was with Jehoshaphat</b> | H3588 <b>because he walked</b> |                     |                   |       |
| H3068                     | H3092                             |                                | H1980               |                   |       |
| <b>ways</b>               | <b>David</b>                      | <b>of his father</b>           | <b>in the first</b> | <b>and sought</b> |       |
| H1870                     | H1732                             | H1                             | H7223               | H3808             | H1875 |
| <b>לֹא בָּאָלִים:</b>     |                                   |                                |                     |                   |       |
| <b>not unto Baalim</b>    |                                   |                                |                     |                   |       |
| H1168                     |                                   |                                |                     |                   |       |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 41:10** (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

**2 Kings 22:2** (References Lord): And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

**Isaiah 8:10** (Parallel theme): Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

**Psalms 46:7** (References Lord): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

**Psalms 46:11** (References Lord): The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

**Jeremiah 2:23** (Parallel theme): How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? see thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done: thou art a swift dromedary traversing her ways;

**Exodus 3:12** (Parallel theme): And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

**Exodus 4:12** (Parallel theme): Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

**1 Chronicles 22:18** (References Lord): Is not the LORD your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the LORD, and before his people.

**Matthew 18:20** (Parallel theme): For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.