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## **Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 14, Bible Truth 1**

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### **The Case of the Middle of the Mess 2 Chronicles 19-20**

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*(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)*

1. This story is about king with a funny-sounding name: Jehoshaphat. This king's name may sound funny, but his country of Israel was in the middle of a mess that wasn't funny at all. Lots of powerful enemies surrounded Israel on every side, and they all wanted it for their own.

2. Who were these enemies? There were Philistines next to the sea in the west. And, the Syrians up in the mountains to the north. And, in the mountains to the east, there were THREE MORE powerful enemies: the Ammonites, Moabites, and the Meunites. Now that's a lot of enemies!

3. It would be terrible if these enemies took Israel! This was where people came to worship the LORD, learn His Word, and live by His good laws. It was where the Temple was – the LORD's special worship place. These enemies would make everyone worship their fake gods, instead.

4. One day, King Jehoshaphat received some awful news: "The powerful enemies in the east are coming to take our land. They're so sure they will win that they're coming with their bags packed to move in right away," the messengers told the king.

5. This was bad, bad news! King Jehoshaphat was afraid, but he knew what to do. THEY weren't strong enough to fight off these strong enemies, but the LORD, their God, was. HE was strong enough to fight off even the strongest enemies! Jehoshaphat would cry out to the LORD for help.

6. King Jehoshaphat gathered the people together at the Temple to pray. "LORD, You are God in heaven. You rule over everyone," he exclaimed. "You gave us this land, and our enemies are coming to take it. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on You. Please help us!" he pleaded.

7. The LORD heard their prayers and answered them through Jahaziel, a teacher of God's Word. "The LORD says to you: 'Don't be afraid. The battle is Mine, not yours. I will fight it for you. Face your enemies tomorrow. Have faith in Me and watch Me save you,'" the LORD promised.

8. How happy were King Jehoshaphat and the people of Israel! They bowed down before the LORD. As they worshiped Him with their faces to the ground, the teachers of God's Word stood up, raised their hands, and praised the LORD with a very LOUD VOICE.

9. The people of Israel went out early the next morning to face their enemies. There were so many, fierce and ready to fight. And nearby were wagons of their packed things. They were sure they would win and make Israel their new home that very day! How scary!

10. "Don't worry. Trust the LORD," King Jehoshaphat told the people. "Teachers of God's Word, walk in front of our soldiers. Sing and praise the LORD," he ordered. The teachers obeyed, and facing all those fierce enemies, sang, "Give thanks to the LORD for He is faithful. His love never ends."

11. And as they sang, the LORD kept His promise. He caused the enemies to turn and fight each other until they were all gone. The LORD had fought the battle and WON! King Jehoshaphat and the people praised the LORD. Their enemies were gone. They and their land were safe.

12. Then, King Jehoshaphat, the people, and the teachers of God's Word went back to the Temple to praise the LORD. With harps, trumpets, and lyres they sang their joyful praises. He was the great, one true God. He had rescued them from their enemies!