

FOMBA 10 THE RISE OF KING JEHOSEPHAT

By Chaplain Paul Vescio June 2021



Joshua 10:25 Then Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight.”

Many years ago the elephant King summoned the herd's Storyteller to come and share a story. At that time the Storyteller was an elephant by the name of Nathan. Nathan told of a story that he said would one day come to pass, it was the story of a great elephant King who would go on to lead the elephant herd to great victory and prosperity. Nathan told the King that one day an elephant would be born with a red cross on his trunk and that this elephant was chosen to lead the elephant herd out of slavery and into freedom and prosperity.

Many years passed and this story was passed from generation to generation with the hopes that their great King would soon be born. Then King Jeraboom rose to power. King Jeraboom was the oldest of three brothers, their father King Charles The Second was a great elephant King who was very kind, strong and wise but his three sons were very bad and the worst of the three was Jeraboom. Jeraboom wanted to be king so bad that he planned to get rid of his father by setting a trap. One day Jeraboom asked his father to go for a hike and off they went, Jeraboom asked his father if they could please climb up a nearby mountain so he could see over the other side and when they reached the top Jeraboom and his two brothers pushed their father off of the mountain and he fell to his death.

The three brothers ran back to the herd and told the other elephants that they were attacked by lions and that their father fought off ten lions and fell off of the mountain protecting his three sons. They told of a story that Jeraboom was given great strength and power and after seeing their poor father fall to his death Jeraboom fought off all ten lions defeating them and saving his brother's lives.

Upon hearing this incredible story the elephant herd proclaimed Jeraboom as their new King and so began the years of misery and suffering for the elephant herd. Then three years later to the day a baby elephant was born with a red cross on his trunk and was given the name Jehoshaphant. O but Jeraboom knew very well of the story of this great elephant king and vowed to have him killed when he was born so Jehoshaphant's mother and father ran off to a far-off land and lived with the sloths until one day years later Jehosahphant would return to deliver his herd out of bondage and into freedom.

Jehoshaphant had a younger brother by the name of Bamboo and the two of them would live with their parents in the Land of the Sloth for over ten years. The sloths were a slow moving laid back bunch, in fact these slow moving creatures lived in the slow lane of life, they did everything slowly. One time as Jehoshaphant and Bamboo were out messing around Jasper the sloth looked down from a tree and said,

“Hayyyyyyyyy doooooo youuuuuuuu guysssssss wantttttt toooooo playyyyyy balllllll?”

“Sure, Ok, why not?” said Bamboo.

Jasper called for his sister Sally and his brother James and about an hour later they finally made it over to where everyone was waiting. Then it took an hour for everyone to get into position so they can play catch. Bamboo threw the ball quickly to his brother then Jehoshaphant quickly threw the ball back and with that Bamboo threw the ball to Sally Sloth and she caught the ball and slowly through it to her brother James, James slowly caught the ball and slowly threw the ball to his brother Jasper who slowly caught the ball and then slowly threw the ball back to his sister who slowly caught the ball and slowly threw the ball back to Jasper and Jasper slowly caught the ball and slowly threw the ball to James this kept going on for over 2 hours then finally Sally sloth slowly threw the ball to Bamboo who quickly threw the ball to his brother who quickly caught the ball and said,

“That’s it for me, we have to be going home now, thank you for playing ball with us, see you soon.”

And with that off Jehoshaphant and his brother Bamboo went and wouldn’t you know those three sloths slowly played ball for the next five hours. Living with the sloths taught these two elephant brothers great patience and self control which would one day serve them well in leading the elephant herd.

Laurie Sloth use to perform with the circus with her sister Sally and their father Saul. These three sloths were part of a unicycle act called the Flying Aces and they traveled around the world with the circus. After a few years Laurie and her family were set free and now they live very happily in Sloth Land and preform their circus act often.

The years past very slowly in Sloth Land and Jehushaphant and his brother Bamboo grew and grew and became very powerful. After their mother and father died Salmon the Sloth King told these two elephant brothers the story about a great elephant who would be born with a red cross on his trunk and who would one day go on to free the elephant herd, it is the story that was foretold by a great Storyteller many years ago.

Salmon explained that their mother and father wanted to wait until they were gone before the two brothers were told of what their destiny was, they wanted their two sons to live in peace in Sloth Land for as long as they could before going back to their land to fight for the elephant's freedom.

Part 2 Jehushaphant Returns

One day Jehushaphant returned with his brother Bamboo and he told King Jeraboom that he was sent to serve him and that he and his brother were at King Jeraboom's service. King Jeraboom was a little bit suspicious and wanted to put these two brothers loyalty to the test so he sent them into loin country to steal their water stone. The lion's water stone was a magical stone which provided water whenever the lions wanted it. It was small enough where they could carry it with them on long journeys in order to provide them with fresh clean water.

Jehushaphant and Bamboo knew this wasn't going to be easy but they also knew they had to try in order to win over Jeraboom's trust. Meanwhile the elephant herd were being treated like slaves working day and night to provide for the lavish needs of Jeraboom and his family. There was a time when Jeraboom wanted a banquet and he wanted pumpkins but there were no pumpkins, King Jeraboom demanded that the elephants go and find him some pumpkins. He told the elephants that they were not to return until they had found some delicious pumpkins, many elephants starved and died out in the desert looking for pumpkins. Finally, the King called the elephants home and punished them for not finding him some pumpkins.

Jehushaphant and Bamboo set out to lion country to steal the water stone but the lions were told by Jeraboom's warthog messengers that they were coming to take the stone, 12 lions were waiting for them in ambush. The lions set the water

stone in plain view and when Jehushaphant and Bamboo came running toward it the lions attacked them head on, four big lions jumped on Bamboo's back and started biting and clawing at him. Jehushaphant grabbed the lions one at a time and threw them off of Bamboo then Bamboo and Jehushaphant stood back to back and started spinning in circles with their trunks held out knocking all of the lions out cold and with the battle won these two righteous brothers simply picked up the water stone and walked away that grateful day.

When the two brothers returned and handed King Jeraboom the water stone he couldn't believe his eyes and from that day forth he trusted these two elephant brothers. Oh almost forgot Jehushaphant covered the red cross on his trunk with some mud so King Jeraboom and Queen Molla couldn't see it.

As time passed Jehushaphant rose in the elephant ranks to second in command with his brother Bamboo right by his side and it broke their hearts to see how the rest of the herd were suffering each day but deep in his heart Jehushaphant knew that he had to wait for just the right time to strike. Part of Jehushaphant's plan was to help the other elephants in secret to gain their trust and support, many of them knew Jehushaphant's mother and father and some were related to the two elephant brothers.

Then a few years later the time to strike had finally arrived the Queen had died and Jeraboom was old and gray, his three sons were also ready for a change and two of them were secretly on Jehushaphant's side the only elephants standing in their way were Jeraboom's oldest son and the royal elephant guard of about eight big male elephant warriors.

Jeraboom summoned for Jehushaphant and his brother Bamboo to go and push the worker elephants very hard to finish gathering up food for the week and Jehushaphant looked at King Jeraboom and said,

"Not today, Jeraboom your days of misery are over."

Jeraboom looked at Jehushaphant and laughed and said,

"Go before you get hurt, GUARDS DISMISS OF THE TRAITOR!!!"

Then Jehushaphant made a very loud sound with his trunk and all of the elephants who were on his side came running from all around, the Royal Elephant Guard were caught completely off guard as a mighty battle for the elephant's freedom began. The battle lasted for five hours, 20 elephants were killed in the bloody battle then it was Jehushaphant and Jeraboom squaring off, all of the other elephants stopped and made a circle around them as a great battle ensued.

Jeraboom attacked first knocking Jehushaphant to the ground then Jehushaphant swung around knocking Jeraboom to the ground then the two charged running full on towards each other and hit heads with such force they both fell to the ground. Slowly Jeraboom began getting up with a smile on his face, then he looked over at Jehushaphant and noticed the red cross on his trunk and suddenly dropped over dead. Jehushaphant opened his eyes and winked and said.

"I'm Ok, just kidding, you all didn't think old Jeraboom could beat me now did you?"

All of the elephants began dancing and jumping for joy as they proclaimed Jehushaphant their new Elephant King, his brother Bamboo would be in the royal court too as Royal Duke Bamboo. Freedom had finally returned to the elephant herd that incredible day as the elephant herd went on to dance the night away.

PART 3 A NEW BEGINNING

King Jehushaphant was a very strong, wise, fair, and kind King in fact after he became King he went out to lion country and sat with the Lion King and gave him back their water stone and then created a lasting peace between the lions and the elephants. The Lion King was so grateful to get the water stone back that he called for a great celebration and invited the whole elephant herd to come and attend. King Jehushaphant and the Lion King agreed to bring peace throughout the land.

A few years went by and King Jehushaphant realized that the elephant herd needed a Queen to help lead the herd and to stand by his side in being a true friend. So the word went out across the land in search of an Elephant Queen.

Meanwhile not too far away a small family of elephants were coming their way. This family of elephants had become lost during a great flood in the far east. One of them was an elephant who had grown up to become a great Storyteller, can you guess who it is?

The elephant family stopped by a small lake to rest for food and water, the younger elephants asked Eden Rayne to please tell them a good story,

“Everyone gather around and I will tell you the story of when the Animal Circus came to town.”

“A few years back or maybe it was a little longer than that music and a magical sounds could be heard, all of the elephants looked in utter amazement as the animal circus came to town. Now this circus didn't have clowns or lions or tigers or bears this circus was a circus of sloths, pandas, and white gentle doves and the acts they performed were out of this world. First The Ringmaster came into view he was a black and white panda too. Then fifty white doves took to flight flying and doing tricks that were simply out of sight. Afterword the Sloth Flying Aces began their acrobatic unicycle act and when the elephants saw their amazing tricks it really gave them all a really big kick. And now it was time for the grand finale with juggling sloths riding unicycles all around as three gentle pandas sang a song of peace, love and hope and as the setting sun melted away in the clear blue sky that memorable day all of the elephants cheered with tears in their eyes because they had all been greatly surprised. The End”

After Eden’s story there could be felt a gentle afternoon rain falling softly from gray skies, then all of the elephants gathered around and proclaimed Eden Rayne as being the best Storyteller around.

One day as Bamboo and a few other elephants were out patrolling they saw Eden Rayne’s family coming their way. The elephants greeted each other and after realizing that this family of elephants were lost Bamboo invited them to come and join his herd and when they arrived King Jehushaphant welcomed them right in.

Soon after Eden Rayne began telling her stories to the younger elephants and within a very short time all of the young elephants were asking Eden to share one of her wonderful stories. King Jehushaphant looked on from a distance with a watchful eye and then he appointed Eden Rayne as the herd's Lead Storyteller and the rest is history. Eden Rayne and King Jehusaphant fell in love and that's how Eden Rayne became Queen of the elephant herd, but instead of this story ending right here let's let Queen Eden tell the story of how King Jehusaphant saved her life one Spring day.

"GATHER ALL AROUND EVERYONE AND I'LL SHARE WITH YOU THE STORY OF HOW YOUR KING SAVED MY LIFE."

"It all began one Spring Day, I was out walking around with my best friend Gabi the helpful giraffe we were just messing around trying to find what we can see, we ventured off on a trail that led to a small pond. The water looked inviting and fresh so we thought we would stop for a drink and as we were drinking water we were suddenly surrounded by a pack of hyena. We really didn't know what to do, Gabi started to cry, I told her to stand firm and be brave for I believe that the good Lord will get us out of this mess.

Hyena slowly moved in for the kill, I raised my trunk to sound the alarm hoping that our elephant warriors were nearby. The hyena just laughed and said,

"Nice try, but there will be no saving your skins today, I'll bet my life on it."

Then from out in the distance The Lion King did arrive he was not about to let those hyena get out alive, your King came rushing in with ten mighty elephant warriors and started beating those nasty hyena to the ground. Then the hyena scattered with fear as The Lion King and your Elephant King came near, and as your King looked into my eyes he asked me to be his bride that memorable day and when I said yes with tears in my eyes everyone cheered with great excitement and joy and soon after we were blessed with a visit by a loveable young stork by the name of Stanley who blessed us with a baby elephant boy. I think we all know who that special little elephant was, for he would be named Fomba who started this whole incredible, magical, elephant story. The End"

“Hey Owl Paul, what did you think of Fomba 10?”

“Hi Chaplain Paul, jeeeeezzz, I was starting to think you weren’t going to include me in this story at all, I mean who was narrating, was it you are me?”

“Well this time my fine feathered friend it was me. I wanted to write Fomba 10 a little differently and shorter, but the good news is we can always go back and add to it in the future or we could write Fomba Book 11 just for fun.”

“Well, I thought this story was very cool but it was a little short, can we please work together on your next project, please Chaplain Paul?”

“Ok, sure, why not? After all Owl Paul I couldn’t have written these stories without you my fine feathered friend now could I?”

“Very funny Chaplain Paul, well I guess I’ll see you in the next book, until then I GOTTA FLY HOO HOO!!! SEE YA SOON HOO HOO!!!”



