

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God continues on the road to revival in this report. We're trying to trace the proper, correct and complete Biblical steps required for a "revival" to take place. This has been a rocky, unpaved and uphill road with precariously dangerous bridges. Our previous entire report was a continuation of the life of Jehoshaphat and the great revival he had in the southern kingdom of Judah during his reign. We witnessed an unholy alliance as Jehoshaphat's son married into the family of Ahab and Jezebel. What happened was almost unbelievable; and it would have been unbelievable – except we know it really happened. God said it happened; and I know it can happen exactly this way — from personal experience.

Our last report was a tragedy because Micaiah was imprisoned, but we're not told if he was ever released. His prophecy was correct; we do know that — because Ahab is dead. Remember, that treacherous friendship is over now; and Ahab tricking Jehoshaphat in battle almost resulted in Jehoshaphat's death, too! Well, Jehoshaphat made it home alright – but he is much more the sadder and wiser man now, you may be sure; and on his way back home from his near-death experience, God sent His prophet out to meet him....

XIX

¹ And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem.

² And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

³ Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

~ In spite of Jehoshaphat's character flaws, he was a remarkable man of revival and a very good king. Tragically, the intermarriage of his son into Ahab's family was wrong; and it brings the judgment of God upon Judah, as we will see later. God does not bless the mixed-marriage of a believer and a non-believer, friends. We took that up in our last report. If you didn't get a chance to read that report, I suggest you go back and read it now. If you look at mixed marriages closely, they are never happy marriages. Jehoshaphat was a good king. Ahab and his family were the enemies of God, in no uncertain terms. That makes for an awkward relationship.

In verse two, we are instructed in no unmistakable terms that God never asks us to love His enemy. God told you to love *YOUR* enemy – not His! Big difference, friends. When the sinner sins and he insists on sticking to and sinking in said sin, then he is identified with the wrath that already abides in him. Don't think so? – Ask John the Baptist! There is no other alternative; and I cannot say it any nicer than that. Some people who say they love God are, quite candidly, God's enemies; and they hate the Word of God unless it's slanted to their mistaken, misshapen, unlearned and ignorantly biased and hidden agenda. You can like it or not; but there are real enemies of the Word of God — and I don't love them — because God never asked me to love them.

The “*love, love, love*” crowd are not honoring God. That religious philosophy leads to hypocrisy because it's just too easy to make a statement of feigned love. I have had many people tell me they love me — only to find out they never even *liked* me. Some turned out to be deadly enemies. I do love them in that I want to see them saved; but don't give me hypocritical mouthing of love for everyone when there are very few people we genuinely love. Let's get real, shall we? Of course we are to love others in the sense of trying to get them to accept the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and trust Him as the paid penalty for

their sins, but *IN NO WAY* does that mean compromise with their sin in *ANY* way, shape, color or form.

Notice God didn't put Jehu the son of Hanani in Jehoshaphat's path *BEFORE* he went hanging around King Ahab. God never told Jehu to have a talk with Jehoshaphat about separation. Do you think a warning from God to Jehoshaphat would have been in order against becoming an ally with Ahab? It didn't happen. Too many people have deputized themselves as God's personal spiritual policemen. They can tell everyone else which divisions and decisions to make and who they should associate with and not – all the way down to what they can eat! We dealt with all of this in Romans. Paul made it perfectly clear that we aren't to judge others in questionable matters. We need to judge ourselves; because other people don't come before us in judgment. I don't think many people see that little nugget of truth, quite honestly.

Just because another Christian isn't as strong as you are, God is going to make that man stand, my friends. Anyone who has a personal saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ *shall not perish!* Jehoshaphat was God's man. Jehoshaphat made a huge mistake, but it was not up to Jehu to tell him not to do it. There are no prejudgments by God made upon Jehoshaphat for his unholy alliance with King Ahab, either. There is absolutely no interference with his free will. Now that Jehoshaphat has had this experience and has supposedly learned a lesson, God *NOW* has a message for him – and it will be God, Personally, Who will give him the message.

See, I will be required to give an account someday for my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. My Father in Heaven is my Master – not any man – and I am certainly not anyone else's master. The Lord Jesus is your Master *IF - IF* He is your Savior *FIRST!* Well, making that account keeps me so busy I won't have time to sit in judgment on you. So, I'll expect reciprocity of politeness. If I'm wrong about certain things, God will take care of me – trust me. Make sure you're praying for me. Nothing gets by Him. God took care of Jehoshaphat and He will take care of us....

⁴ And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beersheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

⁵ And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,

⁶ And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgment.

⁷ Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

⁸ Moreover in Jerusalem did Jehoshaphat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

⁹ And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

¹⁰ And what cause soever shall come to you of your brethren that dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between law and commandment, statutes and judgments, ye shall even warn them that they trespass not against the LORD, and so wrath come upon you, and upon your brethren: this do, and ye shall not trespass.

¹¹ And, behold, Amariah the chief priest is over you in all matters of the LORD; and Zebadiah the son of Ishmael, the ruler of the house of Judah, for all the king's matters: also the Levites shall be officers before you. Deal courageously, and the LORD shall be with the good.

XX

¹ It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

² Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.

³ And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

~ It's a very normal reaction to be afraid. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom; so, we find Jehoshaphat seeking the Lord again, and he goes to God in prayer. Going to God in prayer is *NOT* a normal reaction; it's something that only the man of God will do. We also see Jehoshaphat doing something Asa his father did not do. Asa did not rest on the experiences of the past. That could and should have given him faith at that time in his life that was lacking – as we have already seen in previous reports. He knew what God had done in the past, and he should have looked back to and rested in those things. Here, we see Jehoshaphat is resting and taking the time to review the entire situation in prayer....

⁴ And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

⁵ And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,

⁶ And said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?

⁷ Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

⁸ And they dwelt therein, and have built thee a sanctuary therein for thy name, saying,

⁹ If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.

¹⁰ And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;

¹¹ Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.

¹² O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.

~ That's a judgmental way to wrap a prayer up – isn't it? Jehoshaphat knew God's eyes were upon them; He reminded God that they have truly turned to Him, and they were watching what *HE* would do for them, as well. Have you ever tested the spirits to see if they are good? We're told to do exactly that in Scripture; but we had better make sure we know what it really means, too. It means being in the will of God. This is a great scene in the life of a great king in an ancient kingdom. Jehoshaphat *KNOWS* he is totally helpless, so he casts himself completely on God. What a wonderful thing it is to be able to do that, friends....

¹³ And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.

14 Then upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, came the Spirit of the LORD in the midst of the congregation;

15 And he said, Harken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

~ Alright, read the last half-sentence of verse fifteen again; and let's stop rebuking Satan and all that nonsense. Perhaps everyone will want to stop reading here and let me just talk to God alone for a while? It's easy to forget that this safari is God's ministry; not mine. The Lord Himself brings into His service whom He will; and it doesn't happen to be ordained of men, my friends. What I am doing I sometimes do as if it were mine; I pick the burden up and drag it around. I face all the problems of being homeless, hungry and scared, as Jehoshaphat was. It's all extremely difficult; and, quite frankly, if I had known then what I know now I may not have even agreed to this little so-called safari ministry. Then, there came a day in my life when I realized this is God's work of Christ by the Holy Spirit through me – it's not mine. If you haven't noticed that the Spiritual Safari seeks to give God's Son Christ Jesus the glory on every single page of Scripture, then you aren't paying attention to these reports.

God can do whatever He wants to do with me and this thing. It's easy to forget that when problems come up. Sometimes I turn things over to Him and I lay them down, but I can't seem to leave them at the throne. As soon as my prayer is over, I pack my problems back up and start out all over again with them. Do any of you readers know anything about that type of a situation? Do you have problems from which you cannot extricate yourself? Are you fighting something from which you cannot see your way out? The battle is not ours – and, remember – we're still talking all about *REVIVAL* in this report! The battle is God's. I say this quite reverently: God says the battle is His, so He is going to have to fight it in my life. God is going to have to work my problems out now. True prayer is taking your burdens to Him in

faith and in confession of sins. It will take learning to get our problems worked out with God, my beloved; and God has nothing to learn – only YOU do....

16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.

17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

~ God says, *“Believe Me, Trust in Me; Believe My Word!”* We can rest in His Word. Man has nothing to say that can help us, friends. Listen to what God has to say. This safari is just a guideline to move you through the Bible – you don’t even have to necessarily agree with what I have to show you. God says trust and obey and believe Him. That’s how we become established in the faith. *THAT* is when we can truly say, *“... His Mercy Endureth Forever.”* As we read the rest of this account, we see the Lord has now won the victory for Israel....

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

26 And on the fourth day they assembled themselves in the valley of Berachah; for there they blessed the LORD: therefore the name of the same place was called, The valley of Berachah, unto this day.

27 Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat in the forefront of them, to go again to Jerusalem with joy; for the LORD had made them to rejoice over their enemies.

28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

29 And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries, when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel.

30 So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about.

~ Only the Lord Jesus Christ can bring us peace in the world today. Man seems to think that if we have the right friends and allies who agree to this and that type of treatise, then we'll never have to fight another war. Well, I think even the eighth-grade dropout knows that's never going to happen. War is here to stay; you can write that down a thousand times. See, God hasn't given the world peace, and one of the main reasons is because the world hasn't asked Him for it. They reject Christ wholesale....

31 And Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah: he was thirty and five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

32 And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the LORD.

33 Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first and last, behold, they are written in the book of Jehu the son of Hanani, who is mentioned in the book of the kings of Israel.

35 And after this did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel, who did very wickedly:

36 And he joined himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish: and they made the ships in Eziongeber.

37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

XXI

1 Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

2 And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.

3 And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the firstborn.

4 Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and divers also of the princes of Israel.

5 Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

6 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD.

7 Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever.

~ Well, maybe you noticed Jehoshaphat is getting together with Ahaziah. Ahaziah was an awful person; just as Ahab had been – and Jehoshaphat

was hanging out with Ahab immediately preceding his death. I have no further comment on that. That lead's to Jehoram. We already know this hopeless story of intermarriage with the house of Ahab. It seems like we have lost our way in our pathway to revival in this Spiritual Safari. Well, God doesn't lose His way. God doesn't bless mixed marriages, either, my friends – and things are very, very mixed up in our world today. Things are definitely mixed up in this time in which we are studying. We have reached a place in the Bible where God would normally have exterminated this line of people. Guess why God didn't do that? – because God always makes His promises good, my beloved readers. No other reason. We're going to make triple sure of that promise and what it really means in our next report ~

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Neither Know We What to Do >>>
<<< 2 Chronicles 19:1 – 21:7