

But I Hate Him >>>

<<< 2 Chronicles 17:9 – 19:2

~ Our Spiritual Safari begins our third report on the rocky, unpaved and uphill road to revival in this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God. We've been across three dangerous bridges to get where we are – but we haven't arrived at revival, yet. When Paul wrote to the carnal Christians in Corinth, he told them to not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. Righteousness has no fellowship with lawlessness. Light has no communion with darkness. And, naturally, there are consequences in how this truth works out when the principle is ignored.

We're going to consider this truth in an example that reveals what happens when a good king makes a bad alliance with a bad king; specifically, Jehoshaphat making a marriage alliance with the family of Ahab and Jezebel. In our last report, we saw the beginning of a revival Jehoshaphat led in Judah. We saw Jehoshaphat "... *seeking the face of the Lord.*" He wanted his people to know the Word of God properly, correctly and completely – so, let's begin there....

XVII

9 And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.

~ The main ingredient for revival in Jehoshaphat's day was a proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God. If you haven't realized how emphatically the Lord is stressing that, then you are *TOTALLY* missing the point of these reports. Jehoshaphat set up Bible schools — and so it was. He experienced a great revival as a result – there is no question about that. The Holy Spirit is always brought about and into the midst of believers

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through an educated teaching of the Word of God. That's the only way revival can happen. Period....

10 And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

11 Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats.

12 And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store.

~ So, these were good times in the land, and we see the man Jehoshaphat being marvelously used by God. As a result, he is experiencing great blessings upon himself and in the kingdom. It had a very real effect on ALL of the nation's round about. Even the Philistines have become friendly; sending gifts to Jehoshaphat! This revival penetrated amongst the Arabian's at the time in which we are studying. The most desperately needed thing right now is a Scripturally sound spiritual revival. Notice there is no war being made against Judah. When a nation is in constant turmoil, it is because that nation has turned from God. That's an inescapable hallmark of societies; and it is applicable to individuals, too. If ANY nation wants to have peace, they must come to God. That's His method, and it always has been His method; and it's the ONLY method He uses. So, Jehoshaphat is wonderfully and marvelously blessed by God....

13 And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem.

14 And these are the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand.

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15 And next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand.

16 And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour.

17 And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand.

18 And next him was Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war.

19 These waited on the king, beside those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah.

XVIII

¹ Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.

~ When we consider the last verse of the last chapter, and then we are told of this sudden alliance with King Ahab, the record seems almost unbelievable. To think that a man who was experiencing revival in his land would have fellowship with Ahab and his wife Jezebel is scandalous. No two characters in the Bible are more dissimilar than these two men. It may be the strangest partnership on record in the pages of Scripture; or anywhere else in literature. This is almost like saying we have light and darkness at the same time.

How these two formed any sort of relationship is an enigma from hell. They had *NOTHING* in common – certainly not spiritually. Jehoshaphat was a

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Godly king, according to the Word of God. Jehoshaphat loved the Word of God; he lived by faith, and he was what we would call a spiritually-minded man. Ahab and Jezebel, on the other hand – not so much. Ahab hated God. Jezebel was given to idolatry and grossly perverted immorality – not to mention the murder of Naboth. Jezebel *PARTICULARLY* hated the true prophets of God — like Elijah.

Well, there is a very definite reason for this most unlikely friendship. That reason is a three-fold alliance in partnership: first, it was materially based; purely physical and nothing spiritual about it. As we read later in second Chronicles, we discover there was a matrimonial connection. The son of Jehoshaphat married the daughter of Jezebel – if you can imagine that – and she is the bloody Athaliah we met and said goodbye to in Kings; but we'll see her again here in second Chronicles chapter twenty-one. My friends, this should literally make the hair on your neck stand up if you understand what you are reading. Jehoram is the son of Jehoshaphat. This is all wrong; and it is the same tragic condition of our contemporary church, culture and society, in general. Athaliah nearly exterminates the line of David, as you can see.

Sexual perversion in our society is so rampant that the institution of marriage may become meaningless, and the family unit of no value at all – *IF* that hasn't *already* happened. It would seem that divorce surpasses marriage, particularly in Europe and in America. Well, this is an area that all Christians need to speak loud and clear on; and it *MOST DEFINITELY* is a required ingredient in our safari revival recipe: a believer and a non-believer should not be married under *ANY* circumstances. It will almost always lead to divorce.

We have more heart-ache, heart-break and broken lives producing tragically maladjusted children in this world today; myriad more than we have solid, God-given marriages and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ as a family unit. I told you this would not be an easy portion of Scripture –

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and it gets worse. When the professing Christian and the professing non-Christian cross paths – it won't work. It's just that simple. I understand some get saved after being married – and that's fine – but if you want to deliberately walk into that trap to determine if it's dangerous or not, you're not very smart; because it is.

Secondly, bringing Jehoshaphat and Ahab together, there was a market alliance that Ahab and Jehoshaphat shared an interest in. We saw them in the Book of Kings joining their navy's and bringing all their ships together to import grain and gold. Interestingly, flip over and read first Kings Chapter twenty-two at verse forty-eight and forty-nine, and see what happened to that endeavor. A whole bunch of shipwreck is what Jehoshaphat got with old man Ahab. Well, joining Ahab in this war is nearly going to sink the ship of Jehoshaphat's life....

² And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead.

~ Ahab had a nice dinner party for his new in-law, Jehoshaphat; he's in the family now — you know — but it places Jehoshaphat squarely in the seat of vulnerability and scorn. There are a whole lot of people meeting together with those who they ought not be coming together with. God cannot and will not bless that sort of an arrangement, my friends. God had given Jehoshaphat peace as a blessing, but Jehoshaphat is choosing to fight a war alongside — of all people — Ahab. It almost seems unbelievable! Yes, they will send forth for Micaiah, but they ultimately ignore his advice and deal treacherously with him regarding his message from God....

³ And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war.

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4 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

~ When you are in the middle of doing what you know is wrong, that is *NOT* the time to enquire of the Word of the Lord, friends. There was one Micaiah and four hundred prophets of Baal; Jehoshaphat knew something was wrong, and yet he totally ignored Micaiah's prophecy; and he doesn't protest a single word about Micaiah being thrown in prison by his new buddy, either. That's a very real problem, my beloved; you may want to draw yourself a diagram of how this works and where we go from here. Paul asked, "... *am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?*" Micaiah is a prophet to truly love. He was a man of God who believed God; and he told the truth of the Word of God. Naturally, the ilk we find in the family of Ahab and Jezebel hated Micaiah....

5 Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand.

6 But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

7 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

8 And the king of Israel called for one of his officers, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla.

9 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in their robes, and they sat in a void place at the

entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

¹⁰ And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith the LORD, With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed.

¹¹ And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

¹² And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good.

¹³ And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.

¹⁴ And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.

¹⁵ And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?

¹⁶ Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace.

¹⁷ And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?

18 Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left.

19 And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner.

20 Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith?

21 And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so.

22 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.

23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?

~ Michaiah wasn't at the king's party to make friends and influence people, friends. He didn't say the thing everyone wanted to hear. It would be funny if it hadn't cost him his life. Micaiah said what God told Micaiah to say, you may be sure. See, Ahab and Jehoshaphat both *act* as if they want the Word of God, but they didn't want it. There are a whole lot of people like that today, too. Well, Micaiah got serious real fast; and with that seriousness, he brings biting sarcasm. God just doesn't happen to ask for advice from us! Every false prophet had their own suggestions but – in the end – it was only Micaiah who brought truth; and because of that, he stood alone. That was established when Micaiah said everyone else was a pack of liars – that tends to set the tone. I don't know how the Holy Spirit could make this any

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more real to the sincere Bible student. Ahab wasn't about to pay any attention to Micaiah — even after asking for the Word of God....

24 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

25 Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

26 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace.

27 And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people.

~ Ahab didn't return in peace, but the Bible doesn't tell us if Micaiah was ever let out of prison, either. I tend to believe he died eating the bread of affliction, or we would have been told otherwise. This is powerful stuff. As we read on, Ahab is very clever to dress like an ordinary soldier. I'm not sure if Jehoshaphat just wasn't thinking this through to its final conclusion; or if he was truly so gullible and naïve — because Ahab told Jehoshaphat that he was disguising himself. See, friends, when we get out of the will of God, we lose sound judgment. That's the way it works — every time....

28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.

29 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle.

30 Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that were with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel.

31 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him.

32 For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him.

33 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

34 And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died.

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.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes this report with Jehoshaphat barely escaping the battle alive. He is safe; but he's sad and wounded spiritually.

The “love, love, love” crowd who think we should love everything and everybody: God asks you this question: “*shouldest thou help the ungodly?*” Well, if you love those who hate the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel according to the Word of God, you have a huge problem with that doctrine. That problem is: you may not be saved!

I’m just repeating what God says, friends. Save your arguments against me for someone who cares about your difference of opinion. Tell God about it – and tell me what He says to you. Call me closed-minded – whatever; but ponder this report on your own accord in prayer. This is why it is critical to understand the *WHOLE* Bible. I’m teaching the *WHOLE* council of God! We’re going through tough Scriptures which may bruise the sensibilities of some readers. I understand that. That’s exactly what this safari is about. We have clearly established true revival comes only with the proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God. That statement becomes all the more true when pressed with some difficult, difficult – *EXTREMELY DIFFICULT* passages in Scripture. Our next report picks back up here on this dangerous bridge on the rocky, unpaved and uphill road to revival; and we’re going across this next bridge one way or another, God willing ~

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