

~ Several reports ago in our Spiritual Safari through second Chronicles, I stated we were going to place an emphasis on revival and understanding what it really means. In this report, God help you dear readers, because we're certainly going to get to it. There is much talk about revival today – but this passage instructs us in no uncertain terms; and it contradicts almost everything we see presented by the contemporary church in terms of "revival." I suggest you read very, very carefully....

XII

¹⁰ Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.

~ Rehoboam was a man who did not keep the law of God; he forsook the Word of God. Until this time, Israel had a spiritual protective wall around them that prevented other nations from prevailing against them; but we now discover that these other nations of the world are being permitted by God to penetrate His protective Hand. That had never happened before in their history. Now, one attack after another comes and the first one was Shishak; whom we met in our last report.

Shishak took away those incredible shields of gold Solomon had made; and Rehoboam was forced to replace them with inferior shields of brass. Of course, the gold spoke of wealth — whereas brass speaks of judgment. This was a humiliating experience for the king and the nation, in general. Rehoboam had been brought up in all the luxurious wealth and spectacular armaments of Solomon and David. But that's all gone now. All of the blessings that had previously come to the nation, palace and temple are quickly slipping away. It's humiliating. Well, this brings the perspective that the end is likely very soon....

11 And when the king entered into the house of the LORD, the guard came and fetched them, and brought them again into the guard chamber.

12 And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the LORD turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well.

~ You're going to have to read verse twelve again and in context here and ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom before continuing this report. When the man we were talking about above — Rehoboam — humbled himself, the "wrath" of the Lord was turned away from upon him, and from the people of Judah....

13 So king Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem, and reigned: for Rehoboam was one and forty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess.

~ David had been friendly with the Ammonites. They had made war against Israel, and David had fought them — and had won those wars, too — but had still remained friendly with them. Solomon had experienced total peace with Ammon. Well, Rehoboam was an Ammonite by his mother, as we read here; and God always gives the king's of Judah's mother's name's in their introduction because all mothers are greatly responsible for their sons. If he turns out to be a good king, she gets credit for that. If he turns out to be bad — she bears that responsibility. Believe me, in a wicked and evil empire, the mother is the ringleader every time. Okay, I hope you're reading along in the Bible text....

14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

15 Now the acts of Rehoboam, first and last, are they not written in the book of Shemaiah the prophet, and of Iddo the seer concerning

genealogies? And there were wars between Rehoboam and Jeroboam continually.

¹⁶ And Rehoboam slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David: and Abijah his son reigned in his stead.

XIII

¹ Now in the eighteenth year of king Jeroboam began Abijah to reign over Judah.

² He reigned three years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Michaiah the daughter of Uriel of Gibeah. And there was war between Abijah and Jeroboam.

³ And Abijah set the battle in array with an army of valiant men of war, even four hundred thousand chosen men: Jeroboam also set the battle in array against him with eight hundred thousand chosen men, being mighty men of valour.

~ Civil war was almost continuous from this point forward in Israel's history until the time they were carried away captives by Assyria and Babylon. We know the reason for war was because of the foolishness of Rehoboam. As we read on here, Abijah pleads to bring back together the ten northern kingdoms to Judah; and stop the fighting. Well, you can forget that now because Jeroboam has made himself king – and he's not about to make peace with anyone....

⁴ And Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in mount Ephraim, and said, Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel;

⁵ Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?

⁶ Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord.

⁷ And there are gathered unto him vain men, the children of Belial, and have strengthened themselves against Rehoboam the son of Solomon, when Rehoboam was young and tenderhearted, and could not withstand them.

⁸ And now ye think to withstand the kingdom of the LORD in the hand of the sons of David; and ye be a great multitude, and there are with you golden calves, which Jeroboam made you for gods.

⁹ Have ye not cast out the priests of the LORD, the sons of Aaron, and the Levites, and have made you priests after the manner of the nations of other lands? so that whosoever cometh to consecrate himself with a young bullock and seven rams, the same may be a priest of them that are no gods.

¹⁰ But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him; and the priests, which minister unto the LORD, are the sons of Aaron, and the Levites wait upon their business:

¹¹ And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him.

¹² And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

¹³ But Jeroboam caused an ambushment to come about behind them: so they were before Judah, and the ambushment was behind them.

14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets.

15 Then the men of Judah gave a shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah.

16 And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand.

17 And Abijah and his people slew them with a great slaughter: so there fell down slain of Israel five hundred thousand chosen men.

18 Thus the children of Israel were brought under at that time, and the children of Judah prevailed, because they relied upon the LORD God of their fathers.

19 And Abijah pursued after Jeroboam, and took cities from him, Bethel with the towns thereof, and Jeshanah with the towns thereof, and Ephraim with the towns thereof.

20 Neither did Jeroboam recover strength again in the days of Abijah: and the LORD struck him, and he died.

~ And civil war rages on between God's chosen people Israel. The sins of Rehoboam against the people in the tax matter is the root of this evil. He loved that money, friends. Don't kid yourselves. And, just like that, we say good-bye to Jeroboam for dividing the nation and Abijah comes on the scene to take the throne. Well, uh-oh, here's direct disobedience in multiplying wives again — and we have seen repeatedly how polygamy was and is wrong — irrespective of myriad erroneous misinterpretations of the Bible — polygamy is wrong according to God....

21 But Abijah waxed mighty, and married fourteen wives, and begat twenty and two sons, and sixteen daughters.

22 And the rest of the acts of Abijah, and his ways, and his sayings, are written in the story of the prophet Iddo.

XIV

1 So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years.

2 And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:

~ God has provided a clear-cut road-map to revival in this section of Scripture; and strict adherence to His instructions is required for revival at any time in history: past, present and future. Man does not have the answers to today's problems, friends — and the things that are happening in the world are not encouraging. Well, if your road to revival is a smooth and easy path, it won't lead anywhere; because it isn't revival. No, revival is *ALWAYS* a rocky, unpaved and uphill road. The road to revival is clear, and we know it, but the path is treacherous, and the conditions in the bridges are deadly and dangerous — but *MUST* be crossed, nonetheless.

The northern kingdom of Israel had nineteen kings during their existence — and not a single one of them had a revival. Judah has twenty kings — five had revival: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah and Josiah. These five kings ruled over specific periods of time in the nation Israel's history and incubated reformation that brought about revival as a result of their obedience to God. While there is a strange similarity among them, there are also striking differences. Asa is the first, of course, Solomon was his great grandfather, and Rehoboam was his grandfather; you're reading the Bible text and these reports very carefully, right? ~

3 For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves:

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4 And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.

5 Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him.

6 And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest.

7 Therefore he said unto Judah, Let us build these cities, and make about them walls, and towers, gates, and bars, while the land is yet before us; because we have sought the LORD our God, we have sought him, and he hath given us rest on every side. So they built and prospered.

8 And Asa had an army of men that bare targets and spears, out of Judah three hundred thousand; and out of Benjamin, that bare shields and drew bows, two hundred and fourscore thousand: all these were mighty men of valour.

9 And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah.

10 Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.

11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.

~ Verse eleven is thoroughly abused and verse-grabbed blindly all the time; rendering it utterly meaningless to most people. Defeated groups generally

apply this to some lone spiritual warfare they perceive to be fighting; but I *NEVER* see it applied correctly in connection with revival as set forth in the Word of God. Verse eleven is genuine prayer. It isn't flowery pious prose — but direct and to the point. Asa said what was in his heart! Well, revival only comes about today by a man of God like King Asa at the time in which we are studying, friends. You can just write that down....

12 So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.

13 And Asa and the people that were with him pursued them unto Gerar: and the Ethiopians were overthrown, that they could not recover themselves; for they were destroyed before the LORD, and before his host; and they carried away very much spoil.

14 And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the LORD came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them.

15 They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.

XV

1 And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

~ At the time in which we are studying, God says Israel has *already* been a long time without the True and Living God *AND WITHOUT A TEACHING PRIEST* – *and* without law – that is, without the Word of God. The tragedy of our hour today is a lack of respect for the teaching the Word of God in the church. We don't need more preachers – we can buy them like banana's – by the dozen. But a proper, correct and complete *TEACHING* of the Bible just happens to be few and far between. That is the thing that is needed today, and it is what they needed in the day in which we are studying – *IF* they wanted to have revival....

⁴ But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

~ It seems so simple; and yet it is just this complicated. If you mean business with God, then God will mean business with you. People say, "*I try to study – I try to pray – I try to do this, and I try to try to – but I don't get anywhere.*" Who do you think you are kidding? That is nothing short of calling God a liar! That theology will never work out well for you in the end, I promise you....

⁵ And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

⁶ And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

⁷ Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

~ Asa is beginning to turn to God and the true prophet encourages him in doing so. However, the nation Israel has gotten very far from God at this time and, as a result, they are having problems. Now, I don't speak ex cathedra, and I have no inside information – but – studying the Word of God and seeing how the Lord dealt with these people, and combining that

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with the mind-numbingly preposterous decisions being made in our government today, I ask: how can such smart people make such alarmingly stupid decisions? Why can mankind not have law and order? We have already examined exhaustively in this book why we cannot have peace. Why can we not have real revival? — It's because God is left out — there is no room for Jesus in man's philosophy — they don't seem to need Him because they believe they are so smart....

⁸ And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.

⁹ And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

¹⁰ So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa.

¹¹ And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

¹² And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

~ So, we end this leg of our so-called safari with a nation on the verge of revival; because they are turning to God and — again — that means turning to the Word of God. The first bridge on the rocky revival path is that the Word of God must be accepted God's way — and that will never be easy. We will see one common denominator in all five periods of revival — a return to the Word of God. I state dogmatically that there has *NEVER* been a revival without a return to the Word of God. You cannot detour around

Holy Writ and expect your church to experience revival – it is *i-m-p-o-s-s-i-b-l-e*! God accepts *NO* substitutes for an educated, sincere, systematic, complete, correct and proper Spirit-filled and Spirit-led consideration of Christ.

D.L. Moody began the *Bible Institute* which was one of the greatest movements in modern history for the study of the Word of God; but that movement is all but dead now, friends. The reason is because people have gotten away from the Word of God while indulging in it more than ever. The superficial familiarity of a few verses creates an artificial, super-pious vocabulary that is abhorrent. God hates it. What we need isn't service or activity or method — but a genuine knowledge and a *sincere* love for the Word of God taught properly, correctly and completely – have I already said that? Well, without it – forget revival ~

This is some candid talk and, candidly, you may not want to read any more as we conclude this report. There is not *one* other single preacher or teacher alive who is promoting the *EDUCATED* study of the Word of God as *ALL-IMPORTANT* today – and that alarms me a great deal. I find it almost impossible to motivate anyone to study the Bible as we do. What they do around this forum on which I teach is take a little text from some familiar passage which they still cannot explain correctly when asked, and they make these so-called “*devotions*” that are chaotically absurd. Well, it means *NOTHING*, brothers and sister – nothing to God. He said so. Make a note.

See, if the Bible isn't a thrill to you, and if you do not make it primary in your life, there is something radically wrong with your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. I already know I have an Elijah complex – don't bother writing me about that. I feel *VERY* much alone and *TOTALLY* misunderstood in my life. If we will not, individually, come to know the Word of God, there will never be another revival in this world. That's why I teach it like I do; is because I am hoping true revival *IS* going to come. I have children, and they will likely have children. Well, that difficult bridge was the easiest one of all.

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We have some treacherously blunt bridges coming ahead in our expedition if we are to arrive at "revival." Stay with me ~

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