

The Kings of Judah
Jehoshaphat: Rebuked by Jehu
2 Chronicles 19:1-3
Lesson VII

Written: December 3, 1989

SCRIPTURE READING 2 CHRONICLES 18:25 - 19:1-3

Verse 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; **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 28** So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead. **Verse 29** And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and I will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 1** And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. 2 Chronicles 18:25 through 2 Chronicles 19:1-3

From October 1985, until June 1986, we taught a series of Sunday School lessons on the "Kings of Judah."

We looked at Saul, David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa and Jehoshaphat.

But we did not complete the story of this last king. That explains our Scripture reading.

We have followed the history as given, primarily, in the book of Chronicles.

REVIEW THE INTRODUCTION OF THOSE LESSONS.

1. These things were written for our learning.

Romans 15:4

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For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:4

Examples:

Romans 4:3

Romans 4:23,24 cf Genesis 15:6

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Romans 4:3

Verse 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; **Verse 24** But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

Romans 4:23-24

And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

Notice, "it was not written for Abraham's sake alone but for us also" How was Abraham made righteous? By believing God! Do we dare to believe that? Do we dare question that? Genesis 15:6 "And he believed in the Lord and the Lord counted it to him for righteousness." Now if God could justify Abram by faith. God can justify us by faith. And we are to learn that. If God could justify Abram by that one act ALONE, "He believed God", then learn: God can justify us by that one act alone. If we believe what God says, we too can be justified. Thus, learning from the Old Testament, we can understand New Testament doctrine.

Example

1 Corinthians 9:9-11

Verse 9 For it is written in the law of Moses, thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? **Verse 10** Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. **Verse 11** If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

1 Corinthians 9:9-11

Here we learn a principle about both giving and receiving from the Old Testament Scriptures. For our sakes it is written.

2. By looking at these kings, we shall continue to look at ourselves.

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

In 1 Corinthians 10:1-12 there is a list of O.T. events. Then, follows these words in 1 Corinthians 10:13, " there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man.."

Thus what the Bible has to say to others it has to say to us. What the Bible has to say about others it says about us. And most sobering of all, what the Bible reveals about others it also reveals about us. And I confess, I often do not like what I see. Nor do I like to hear what the Old Testament prophets are saying. But whether I like to hear it, or whether I want to hear it, I find it is good for me when I hear and when I listen!

Verse 1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; **Verse 2** And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **Verse 3** And did all eat the same spiritual meat; **Verse 4** And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. **Verse 5** But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. **Verse 6** Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. **Verse 7** Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. **Verse 8** Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. **Verse 9** Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. **Verse 10** Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. **Verse 11** Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. **Verse 12** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:1-12

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

3. By looking at the Kings we learn about Leaders and Leadership.

Hebrews 13:17. Leaders are responsible. Leaders are responsible for people. Leaders are responsible before God. God does acknowledge leadership. It is well for us to remember, that Ephesians 4:11,12 and 1 Corinthians 12:28 teaches us that God hath placed ministries in the Church. HE gave Apostles. HE gave Prophets. HE gave evangelists. HE gave pastors. HE gave teachers.

James 3:1 warns of the responsibility that goes with a teaching-leadership. It was no small thing to be a King over God's people, Israel.

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Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:17

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:11,12

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:28

My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

James 3:1

And it is not a little thing to hold a place of leadership today in the Church of Jesus Christ. Pray for Leaders!

4. By looking at the story of the Kings we learn lessons about people.

Isaiah 53:6 Although we have seen many changes in our world, one thing remains. People are basically the same, generation after generation. People are like sheep. Sheep follow leaders, both good and evil. People are prone to say: "our church says". or "our pastor says", or "Billy Graham says." But a great percentage of Christian people do not know what the Bible says. And worse, do not bother to find out for themselves.

It has been my observation that many attend Church for the wrong reasons. Some only because their families or relatives attend. Others because they meet their friends there. Still others because of convenience. How few seem to go to church simply to HEAR what the Bible says. Today there are few Bereans and many Athenians. The saddest fact of all is, often the preaching is not biblical, and is intended to offend no one.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:6

In a paper published July 29,1875, entitled "Under the Table" there was an article entitled: "Mastering the Art of Preaching so as to Convert no one." Charles Finney wrote: 1. Let your supreme motive be to serve your own popularity. 2. Aim at pleasing, rather than correcting. 3. Let your sermon be flowery so your hearers never remember the lack of content. 4. Avoid preaching doctrines that are offensive to the carnal mind.

5. Preach the love of God, but ignore the holiness of His love. 6. Do not rebuke the worldly tendencies of the church, lest you should hurt people's feelings. 7. See to it that you say nothing to any hearer that applies to him or her, unless it be something flattering..." (he continued on for 45 points!)

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I expect in these lessons to break all of those rules! NOW WE RETURN TO THE STORY OF JEHOSHAPHAT.

Ahab and Jehoshaphat had gone out to battle. Ahab did not return as he had boasted that he would. 2 Chronicles 18:33, a man drew a bow at a venture and that unaimed arrow pierced and killed Ahab. God was in that! The soldier may have thought it was but a venture, merely sport, but the time had come and that very day God required Ahab's soul.

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.

2 Chronicles 18:33

So here we are reminded of another solemn lesson. God has a sovereign right to remove any man from this earth. Any time, and in any manner God may choose. And no man, be he king or pauper can refuse His call. All men, rich and poor, great and small kings and people have no say whatsoever in the matters of life and death.

Ahab had his plans, but God had His. And Ahab did not get home as he had planned.

James 4:13 comes to mind. "Go to now ye that say, today or tomorrow, we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain. Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For what ye ought to say, if the Lord will we shall do this or that."

Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

James 4:13

Ahab had made his plans and had left God out of them. He did not return but Jehoshaphat does get home safely. One cannot help but wonder, what were Jehoshaphat's thoughts that day? What were the deep feelings of his heart? Was he relieved that wicked Ahab was dead? Perhaps. No doubt he had a sense of relief to be safely home from a dangerous battle. Was he glad in his heart that the league he had made with Ahab was ended? Perhaps. Would he be pleased with himself? Was he counting his lucky stars? We do not know, but we wonder out loud, was he yet aware of the fact that he had really done wrong? After all, he had gone to battle. And he had cried out unto the Lord. And the Lord had heard him. And the Lord had sustained him, and the Lord had spared his life. I am sure these were some of his thoughts. Had they not been, the prophet of God would not have been sent to rebuke the king, for that is the next story.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

1. KING JEHOSEPHAT RETURNS HOME FROM THE BATTLE.

2 Chronicles 19:1

From the human side, there seems to be no question but that Jehoshaphat had blundered, indeed, he had sinned, when he had joined in affinity with the wicked King Ahab. 2 Chronicles 18:1. It had been this unequal yoke that had brought him into a conflict, in which he really never should have been involved. As I grow older in years,(and every once in a while I am given a reminder of that fact) I begin to wonder...how many conflicts I have been in, that really were the result of my own wrong decisions, my own wrong choices?

Sometimes we do things in a cold-backslidden state that bring consequences we did not for see. However, there are two sides to every coin.

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

2 Chronicles 19:1

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

2 Chronicles 18:1

In life, there is the human side, and the Divine side.

God is Sovereign. He always had been and always will be. And God allows events in our life to bring us back to Him. Such are the ways of God, and this we shall see, is part of the story before us.

In government, God let Jehoshaphat go down to the battle with Ahab. In grace, God brought him out of that battle and back home to Jerusalem in peace. As stated, Ahab did not get home . He had planned to do so.

2 Chronicles 18:32-33 tells the story of what happened. The unknown soldier drew a bow, aiming at nothing, kills Ahab as we have seen.

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. 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.

2 Chronicles 18:32-33

11. KING JEHOSEPHAT IS THEN REBUKED BY A PROPHET.

2 Chronicles.. 19:2,3 When the King came home, the unexpected happened.

The prophet of God was there to meet him. This Jehoshaphat had not planned. Writes C.H.M. "God allowed him to come home, but He would speak to his conscience about his sin." This beloved reveals the ways of God. The prophets seem to have a way of disturbing our peace and quiet, especially when we have done wrong.

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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. 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.

2 Chronicles.. 19:2,3

This prophet was named Jehu. Otherwise he is unknown. And he went out to meet the victorious king, not to praise him, but to rebuke him. And who of us really appreciate rebukes and the people who seem to be in that business?

Writes Joseph Parker:

"How comfortable we should proceed, but for these seers. How well we could get on if there were no religion in the world. But these prophets, these religious critics, these spiritual censors are always there. And these cannot be bribed into silence. They are not afraid of kings. A truly spiritual man should not be afraid of anybody. The man who can pray as he ought to pray should never feel the blush of shame upon his cheek, or the trembling of weakness in his knees in the presence of earth's greatest men. What has the man to fear? Nothing! Why does Jehoshaphat listen? He cannot help it! If there were no Churches. If there were no sanctuaries. If there were no Lord's day. We would go on our way seven days a week in peace. Why will Jehu always come when we do not want to see him"? (end quote)

Some time ago a brother was telling us about the days when he was backslidden (G.Jones) And I am sure he would not mind my using what he said as an illustration.

Back in the thirties or early forty's one Sunday afternoon, he and his friends were playing cards. And who should drive into the yard but my Mom and Dad. And this brother said: " You should have seen how quickly we put those cards away." My folks were known for their out and out stand for the Lord and their very presence brought condemnation on this cold-hearted brother. Their appearance was like the appearance of this prophet Jehu, of whom we shall speak more next time.