

Consider The Cause

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. 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," 2 Chronicles 19:1-2.

Jehoshaphat was a good king in that he didn't worship idols. He sought the Lord and sent Levites to teach God's Law to the people. What is surprising is that while he didn't go after false gods, he joined Ahab who was an evil king. If he didn't seek idols himself, how could he help a man who did?

In 2 Chronicles 18 Jehoshaphat did not take the word of four hundred false prophets who said that God would give him and Ahab victory over the Syrians at Ramothgilead. He demanded to hear from a prophet of the Lord. The prophet Micaiah was

brought before the kings and prophesied that Ahab would fall in the battle. Even after hearing the word of the Lord Jehoshaphat still went with Ahab to help him in the battle. Ahab was killed according to the word of God and Jehoshaphat was saved by the grace of God. It was when he returned home that the seer, (prophet), rebuked him in the name of the Lord.

Consider this, same man who had led the people to seek the Lord and had the word taught to them didn't appear to have learned all that he should have for himself. He knew that God was real and what his law was, so there was no question of faith. It was more a story of him helping a man who lived a life condemned by God. I don't see how he could claim to not know how Ahab lived for he was one of the most evil kings of Israel. What is it about Ahab that enticed Jehoshaphat to admire, like, or whatever it was that caused him to support him in any venture?

God didn't approve of him joining with wicked Ahab in any endeavor. Since Jehoshaphat had followed the Lord and not went after sinful things, he had been blessed with honor and peace. War had not come to

him and to Judah, but he went seeking it by helping Ahab. He escaped with his life and saw that Micaiah had told the true word of the Lord. Then when he got home he was told that God was displeased with his going to try to help Ahab, when God had marked Ahab for defeat.

If this wasn't enough to teach him what God wanted him to do he made the same mistake again. After the death of Ahab his son Ahaziah became king of Israel. He was evil like his father and continued the worship of idols. Jehoshaphat joined him as he did with Ahab. They made ships to go to Tarshish, joining together in this plan. The ships were built and God sent a prophet who told him that his works would be broken because he had done this. A storm destroyed the ships preventing the kings from completing their plans.

Why did a king who knew that God was angry at him for helping one wicked man go right along and help another? Often times people do things because they just want to do them, not because they don't know what they should do.

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345 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT

WHILE ABRAM'S BEAUTIFUL WIFE, SARAI, SLEEPS IN PHARAOH'S PALACE, A VIRTUAL PRISONER, A SUDDEN PLAGUE ATTACKS PHARAOH AND HIS HOUSEHOLD IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, NOW....

...THE HEALING PRIESTS OF EGYPT HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED AND ALREADY AWAIT THEIR PHARAOH'S FRENZIED VISIT...

...AND AS THEIR TERRIFIED RULER STUMBLES INTO THE INNER SANCTUM...

...HE IS MET BY THE HEAD PRIEST, WHO HAS ALREADY FORMED AN OPINION ABOUT THE ENTIRE SITUATION!

ONLY THE HEALING PRIESTS CAN HELP ME NOW!

...FRIGHTENED SERVANTS HELP THE CHOKING RULER TO THE TEMPLE OF HEALING....

YOU HAVE TAKEN A MAN'S WIFE AWAY FROM HIM, AND BROUGHT HER INTO YOUR HOUSE - A MAN WHO IS A PEACEFUL VISITOR IN YOUR OWN LAND! YOU HAVE ANGERED THIS MAN'S GOD - AND YOU, AND YOUR HOUSE, WILL SURELY DIE UNLESS YOU MAKE AMENDS!

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