

Living for God in "Interesting" Times

STOP SABOTAGING YOUR FRIENDSHIPS!

2 Chronicles 18:1 Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage.

2-Some years later he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria. Ahab slaughtered many sheep and cattle for him and the people with him and urged him to attack Ramoth Gilead.

3-Ahab king of Israel asked Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?" Jehoshaphat replied, "I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will join you in the war."

4-But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "First seek the counsel of the LORD."

5-So the king of Israel brought together the prophets - four hundred men - and asked them, "Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?" "Go," they answered, "for God will give it into the king's hand."

6-But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there not a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?"

7-The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." "The king should not say that," Jehoshaphat replied.

8-So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, "Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once."...

16-Then Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the LORD said, 'These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.'"

17-The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?"

18-Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD : I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing on his right and on his left.

19-And the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab king of Israel into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?' "One suggested this, and another that.

20-Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, 'I will entice him.' " 'By what means?' the LORD asked.

21- " 'I will go and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,' he said. " 'You will succeed in enticing him,' said the LORD. 'Go and do it.'

22- "So now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you."

23-Then Zedekiah son of Kenaanah went up and slapped Micaiah in the face. "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go when he went from me to speak to you?" he asked.

24-Micaiah replied, "You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room."

25-The king of Israel then ordered, "Take Micaiah and send him back to Amon the ruler of the city and to Joash the king's son,

26-and say, 'This is what the king says: Put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.'

27-Micaiah declared, "If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me." Then he added, "Mark my words, all you people!"

28-So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

29-The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will enter the battle in disguise, but you wear your royal robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle:

30-Now the king of Aram had ordered his chariot commanders, "Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel."

31-When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they thought, "This is the king of Israel." So they turned to attack him, but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him. God drew them away from him,

32-for when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they stopped pursuing him.

33-But someone drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between the sections of his armor. The king told the chariot driver, "Wheel around and get me out of the fighting. I've been wounded."

34-All day long the battle raged, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening. Then at sunset he died.

2 Chronicles 19:1-When Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem,

2-Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD ? Because of this, the wrath of the LORD is upon you.

3-There is, however, some good in you, for you have rid the land of the Asherah poles and have set your heart on seeking God."...

2 Chronicles 20:34-The other events of Jehoshaphat's reign, from beginning to end, are written in the annals of Jehu son of Hanani, which are recorded in the book of the kings of Israel.

35-Later, Jehoshaphat king of Judah made an alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel, who was guilty of wickedness.

36-He agreed with him to construct a fleet of trading ships. After these were built at Ezion Geber,

37-Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Maresah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have made an alliance with Ahaziah, the LORD will destroy what you have made." The ships were wrecked and were not able to set sail to trade.