Revival.....Then What? 2 Chr. 7:14

WHAT DOES REVIVAL MEAN? — 2Cor. 5:6-21; Ep. 4:1-3

Intro: A.-Attitude:

1-ILLUS---A young man spent an entire evening telling his girl friend how much he loved her. He said that he could not live without her; that he'd go to the ends of the earth for her; yes, go thru fire for her, or die for her. When leaving for the evening he said, "I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW NIGHT---IF IT DOESN'T RAIN"--------How often we say we love God, yet deny it by our actions.

2-Is that your attitude toward God & His work?
- --If it doesn't rain
- --If it doesn't inconvenience me
- --If I don't have to do anything
- --If I'm not pressed for money
- --etc.....ad nauseum

B.-Special Meetings Last Week:
1-Wonderful
2-Salvation to some; Stirring of soul to some.
3-Challenge to all
4-How about NOW??--spiritual life thru faith
- --Real desire to Please Him?
- --Eph. 4:1-3

I.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR CHRIST:

A.-Backslidden Or Progressing?:
1-No middle ground
2-Reverse the apostasy of Rev. 2:4 by progress — Left your first love.
3-Backslidden if--not growing in love
- --not growing in dependence
- --not loving Christ more today than yesterday or ever before.

4-ILLUS--A very wealthy man lost his wife when his only child was very young. Then there came into his home a housekeeper to take care ofthat boy. The boy lived until he was of age & then died. The man had not other relatives; & he didd heartbroken soon after the boy died. He had no one to leave his enormous wealth to, & there was a question about what would become of his possessions. They could find no will. It looked as if it would all pass over to the state. At last it was taken over by the state & they held a sale to dispose of all the personal effects at the mansion where he had lived. The old housekeeper who had brought up that boy from infancy, not having any money of her own, being just as poor as when she began to work for this wealthy man, went to the sale. There was only 1 thing she wanted. She couldnt buy the furniture; she couldn't buy the expensive rugs, but there was a picture of the boy. She loved that boy. He had been to her a son, although she held no relationship to him. When the picture came to be sold, nobody else wanted it, & she bought it just for a few cents & took it home. It had been hanging on the wall for some time, & she thought she would take the back out & clean the glass. But when she took it apart, some important looking papers fell out. They were given to a lawyer, who said to the woman, "I guess you have you have come out well this time. This man has left all his wealth to the one who loved his son well enough to buy that picture. GOD WILL DO ANYTHING FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIS SON.

B.-Christ Becomes The Center Of Our Attention:

1-Please Him
2-Be with Him
3-Serve Him
4-Bring others to know Him

People who gathered in London Art Gallery before Picture of X. One said, "I LOVE HIM" Another replied "SO DO I" + soon a little Knot of men were drawn together because of HIM

5-ILLUS--A celebrated Japanese statesman once said, "We do not worship our emperor, we love him utterly. The commander before Port Arthur one day called for volunteers to cut the barbed wire entanglements. 'You will never come back,' he said. 'Nor can you carry a gun. YOu will take your place & cut 1 or 2 wires & fall dead. Another will take your place & cut 1 or 2 wires more. But you will know that upon your dead bodies the armies of your emperor will march to victory". Whole regiments volunteered for these 'sure death' parties. IF OUR LOVE AS CHRISTIANS WAS AS CHRIST-CENTERED + Brethren concerned is was their love for an emperor, we would not be long in taking the world for X,

6-Such a love for the Savior will manifest itself in the following ways:

II.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE WORD OF GOD:

A.-Intake:

1-Salv. is by grace thru faith----BELIEVE & BE SAVED
2-Assur. is by the word ----------STUDY & BE APPROVED
3-Necessary for us to become strong--1 Pet. 2:1-3
--2 Pet. 3:18
--Acts 20:32
4-This is the "normal way"; neglect is abnormal

Ps. 119:97
Ps. 1:1-3

B.-Peaceful Repose:

1-Ps. 119:165
2-Knowing & Doing God's will allows no disturbances inside
3-Storms of life rage---but we are at PEACE
4-Only God's Word is able to do this
5-Revival is seen in a REBIBLE

III.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE BRETHREN:

A.-Expression of Revival:

1-Refreshment of Love Toward Christ
2-Drives us to the Word for nourishment
3-Expressed in LOVE FOR BRETHREN
4-ILLUS--- see above for illus

B.-Brother-Love Is Badge of Christian Reality:

1-Standard is "as I have loved you?"---Jn. 15:12
2-Proof is seen here--Jn. 13:34-35
3-Love is active--1 Cor. 13:4-7
4-ILLUS--An american who was walking down the streets of a Chinese city was greatly interested in the children, many of whom were carrying smaller children upon their backs, & managing to play their games at the same time. "It's too bad," the American sympathetically said to one little fellow, "that you have to carry such a burden all the time."....."HE'S NO BURDEN," came the quick reply, "HE'S MY BROTHER."-------Love that makes us bear the burden of our brother with joy is the badge of reality

5- Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ

IV.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE CHURCH:

A.-Universal Church:

1-All true believers

2-Draws the BOND OF BLOOD more clearly into view

3-Recognize our relationship---IN HIM

---TO EACH OTHER

In Dallas

4-ILLUS--There is a quiet little man, a vendor of fruits & vegetables, who passes my door every day. One day I picked up a small notebook near the spot where his wagon had stood. On the first page I was much surprised to find these words: "FOR HIS BODY'S SAKE, WHICH IS THE CHURCH." Throughout the book were many scriptural quotations & many notations like these: (1) "The following were absent from S.S. last Sunday, be sure to visit them." (2) "Ask about the sick baby" (3) "Leave fruit for the blind lady" (4) "Speak a word of cheer to the old crippled man." (5) "Invite the new family to church services."..... The next day I handed the book to the humble fruit peddler, with the querry: "I wonder if you dropped this yesterday?"----"Yes, indeed," was the reply. "It is my book of reminders as I call it. I thank you."---- I told him I had glanced at its contents & expressed my surprise at its unusual character." ...."Well," he answered, pointing to the first page text, "this is my motive, my reason for doing things, 'FOR HIS BODY'S SAKE, WHICH IS THE CHURCH'". .....Then with a full smile he added, "You see, it keeps my soul out of the dust."..... ....And so will it keep yours out of the dust to have such an attitude and motive of service.

B.-Local Body:

1-This is the practical local expression of the universal church

2-This is what He spent His blood for

3-This is the ONLY channel God ever ordained

--to reach the lost

--to build up the saints

4-Can we do less than give it our FULL SUPPORT???????

No "resignation" or "discharge" from the Army of the Lord.

Need LOYALTY

--Service

--Investment--ILLUS--A little orphan newsboy was selling his papers on the streets when a man stopped to buy a paper from him. While the man was searching in his pocket for a coin he questioned the newsboy where he lived. The answer was that he lived in a little cabin down in the dark part of the city on the river bank. The next question was, "Who lives with you?".....The answer was, "Only Jim. Jim is crippled & can't do no work. He's my pal."..... The man ventured the remark, "You'd be better off without Jim, wouldn't you?"..... The answer came with some scorn. "No, Sir, I couldn't spare Jim. I wouldn't have nobody to go home to. An' say, Mister, I wouldn't want to live & work with nobody to divide with."-----That was a short sermon, but I wonder if it went home to your heart?????

--Regularity

--Prayer

--Enlargement--ILLUS--About the turn of the century in the thick fog of the Thames the PRINCESS ALICE collided with another boat and sank. Following the accident the coroner was holding his inquest & asked of the owner of a ferryboat, "What did you do when you heard the crash and the cries of the people aboard?" ..."I jumped into my boat & pulled for the wreck with all my might; I crammed my boat

with women & children & when it was too dangerous to take even one other aboard I rowed away with the cry in my heart, "Oh God, for a bigger boat"...;....so our need here is a bigger boat to be invested in to reach and preserve many that will otherwise be lost.

5-Channel of our being blessed----------LOCAL CHURCH
Channel of our blessing others--------LOCAL CHURCH
"I love thy kingdom Lord---
The House of Thine abode
The Church the blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood"

6-EXAMPLE of Christ — Ep.5:25 — Can WE do less?

V.-REVIVAL MEANS INCREASED LOVE FOR THE SOULS OF MEN

A.-See Their Condition:
1-Revival freshens our vision — Rom. 10:1 — Saved — Thine Heart's Desire — Thine Prayer
2-Jogged to realize they are LOST
3-Reminds us God has set us as WATCHMEN
4-Stirs us up to be faithful

B.-See That Many Are Eager To Hear:
1-Not all, but many
2-Almost all will appreciate your concern
3-Many have never heard
4-Many will listen
5-ILLUS--Dick Yarnall with woman at work who hemmed & hawed about what the gospel really was. Dick said, "Set yourself down because I'm about to tell you what the gospel really is"...& did!

C.-Will See SOME Saved:
1-Not all, but some
2-But not unless they hear---Rom. 10:14-17 — Tiger that's tasted blood
3-When you get one it makes you "THIRSTY" for more
4-How????---Compasionately inform them
---Be sure it is Biblical in content
---Pray for souls---specific ones
---Rejoice over fruit — Ps. 126:5-6
5-ILLUS--Dr. Watson tells of once hearing a plain sermon in a country church. It was a layman farmer who preached, but Dr. Watson said he never heard so impressive an ending to any sermon as heard that day. After a fervent presentation of the gospel, the preacher said with great earnestness: "MY FRIENDS, WHY IS IT THAT I GO ON PREACHING TO YOU WEEK BY WEEK? IT IS JUST THIS, BECAUSE I CAN'T EAT MY BREAD ALONE."---------How like what the Lord would have in us, so much joy in salvation that it just HAS TO BE SHARED

CONCL: A.-Has This Kind Of Revival Touched YOU?
1-Love for Christ-----increased
2-Love for Word-------increased
3-Love for Brethren---increased
4-Love for Church-----increased
5-Love for Lost-------increased
6-Let's ask God to KEEP US REVIVED
7-ILLUS--During the Korean War a young man & woman were about to be married when suddenly the man was called to service & to the front. Letters of love passed back & forth & then they abruptly ceased to come from him. Several weeks & then there came a letter in a strange writing which read: "There has been another battle. I

have lost both my arms. I asked my nurse to write this for me & tell you that I release you from our engagement for I will not be able to work & support you."..... That letter was never answered. By the next train the young woman journeed to the U. S. Army Hospital to which he had been brought. She went directly there. Inquiring the location of the young man's bed she quietly approached & suddenly flung herself down by the side of the bed with the passionate words, "I will never give you up. THESE HANDS OF MINE WILL WORK FOR YOU. WE WILL HAVE OUR LIFE OF LOVE TOGETHER.

--Will you be the HANDS of Christ to reach a Lost world?

--That will be the evidence of a real revival in your soul!

"Four Conditions Of Revival" 2 Chron. 7:14; Ps. 85

Intro: Only ONE message of Revival as only ONE message of SALVATION

Intro:

A.-Definition Of Terms:
1-Revival--concerns the people of God
2-Evangelism--concerns reaching the unconverted
3-Revival MUST preceed effective mass evangelism

B.-Need For a Revival:
1-Spiritual dearth among Christians
2-Spiritual death among unsaved
3-Lack of concern--for souls
--for prayer
--for work of God
--for the Lord's Day
4-Greater concern for self
wealth
ease
baubles of the world
licensiousness
5-Dependance upon the wisdom + power of Washington, D.C.
6-More time on NEWSPAPER than on BIBLE & PRAYER

we follow wrong order + expect Apostate results Inadequate diet
- for faithfulness
- for missions
- for world
- for honor of God
Often

C.-Conditions Of Revival:
1-God sets them
2-We must meet them
3-Summarized in 2 Chron. 7:14
--Quoted by Eisenhower in 1st Inaugural speech
--Heart of God's plan of revival
--God's SURE-FIRE METHOD
--Worked in past; will work now if WE meet the condition

If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves, + pray, + seek my face, + turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven + will forgive their sin + will heal their land

"FINNEY Revival is not a miracle, but it's the appropriation of natural means"

no other message on this subject though instances could be traced — Asa, Jehoshaphat, Josiah, Hezekiah + Josiah

I.-HUMBLING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

Are You One Of His?

A.-Basics:
1-"My people"--Christians or believers of any age
2-"Which are called by My Name"--Known as God's children
--Objects of His love
--Objects of His concern
--Ones upon whom He has set the guarantee of His Name
3-This is a FAMILY affair

2 Chr. 20:33-34 — PEOPLE too! Not just leaders

Should be living like they are HIS.

B.-Humbling:
1-Hard for most of us; yet necessary
2-Full of pride & a haughty spirit
3-Think of ourselves as too superior for humility
4-Mistake MEEKNESS for WEAKNESS
5-These sins GRIEVE God
6-Meek Savior---Mt. 11:28-30
--Believe on Him
--Follow Him
--Learn of Him
7-Repentance for sin is REQUIRED--Isa. 57:15
--Ezra 9 & Daniel 9
--ILLUS---A short while before B. Chapman passed away, he was addressing a gathering of preachers when he said, "We have reached the place where one man plays a handsaw and another gives a 'Life Story' & gathering a big crowd & we call that a Revival. NO! That is not a revival, that's a farce.

Unbelievers aren't immediately involved but will be secondarily Rom. 14:3

Self Sufficiency & Self Centeredness

I dwell in the high + holy place with him also that is of a contrite + humble spirit + to revive the spirit of the humble + to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

Carmichael P. 94

"We"

Tears, sweat, and blood are the price of a revival, and some of us are not willing to pay the price."

---ILLUS--It has been well observed by an old divine that the man who pleads his own merit does not pray, but demands his due. If I ask a man to pay me a debt, I am not a suppliant, but a plaintiff claiming my rights. The prayer of a man who thinks he is meritorious is like serving God with a writ: it is not offering a request; it is issuing a demand. Merit in effect says, "Pay me that thou owest." LITTLE WILL SUCH A MAN GET OF GOD, for there is no REPENTANCE there!

II.-PRAYING BY THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

Scr — Biblical Message
Prayer

A.-Twin Means Of Revival:

1-There are two kinds of means requisite to promote a revival: the one to influence men, the other to influence God. The truth is employed to influence men, and prayer to move God

2-Prayer moving God--not changing God's mind
--not changing God's disposition
--not changing God's character
*--but producing a change in us rendering it possible for God to answer.

3-When a sinner repents, God can forgive him

4-When a Christian prays, God can answer and bless

5-Prayer is as essential a link in the chain of causes that lead to revival as is the preaching of the truth. BOTH are needed.

B.-Prayer:

WORD is the guide + gauge to our Prayers
See HIM in His Word

1-Inescapable ingredient of revival

2-Characteristic of a life lived for God

3-Ps. 85:6--Prayer to "REVIVE US"

4-1 Sam. 7:1-8--Effective beginning place is PRAYER TOGETHER 7:6

5-1 Kings 8:38-39--Made in a repentant heart
--Heard in heaven

Don't go to these passages

Solomon Says
Prayer
Prayer

III.-SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD BY THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

A.-Seek For Ourselves:

James 4:8

1-Draw nigh to Him

2-Then He'll draw nigh to us

3-Told to seek Him early

4-not cringingly

5-Not by proxy

6-But personally & boldly--Heb. 4:16

7-Remember, it is UNTO GOD that we are going

8-VEIL is rent; way is open

Must be able to see ourselves as GREATLY in need of HIM and w/o any alternative & w/o any other hope & help

B.-Seek For Others:

Acts 4:13

1-Be an intercessor - have CONCERN for others

2-Put arms, legs, feet, & voice to your concern

3-ILLUS--I heard of evangelistic services in Amarillo a few years ago. A contractor got converted. He was building two houses & had 2 crews of men. They were having 10:00 a.m. meetings. Do you know what he did? He went around to these houses & said to all those carpenters, plumbers, and painters, "Boys, we are having a meeting down at the church." Then he made some good comment about the preacher, and said: "I want you to hear him. I will tell you

what we'll do. Nobody will work on my job here from 10-11 o'clock. We are all going down to the church on my time." One man said: "I do not care to go to church. I'll stay here & work." "NO", said the newly converted contractor, "nobody is going to work on my job while the preacher is down in my church trying to save souls. We are all going down to hear him. So they came in their overalls, and some of them got converted. You know if you really brake up a business or break up a roof--if you are really interested in others-- you will see results.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me

IV.-TURNING FROM SINS BY THE PEOPLE OF GOD:

A.-Sins Short-Circuit Prayers:

1-Ps. 66:18

2-Isa. 59:2 — But your iniquities have separated between you & your God, & your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3-Must FORSAKE sins if we are to be heard

4-Sins hid His face

5-Sins break our fellowship

6-Sins disrupt our life for God — Infinite Outrage

7-ILLUS--Gen. 35:1-15--Jacob & His cohorts

--Called to Bethel to put away idols

--Come under terror of Lord to seek Him

--God appears & men are changed

--Received promises that others will be changed also.

Illus WEEDS OUT

Rev. 3:14-19 TO CHURCH

Not a popular word today — Lost chord in American preaching

B.-Cure Is Repentance

1-Sense of sin

2-Sorrow for sin

3-Severance from sin

4-Hos. 6:1 — Come, & let us return unto the LORD, for He hath torn & He will heal us; He hath smitten, & He will bind up.

5-Carmichael - P. 24

C.-Turning From Sin Will Show:

1-In you

2-ILLUS--During the revival which some years ago swept thru the land of Wales & whose power is still felt there today, a London man went down to take part in some of its services. He got out at a country station & asked the policeman standing in the village square, "WHERE IS THE WELSH REVIVAL?" The man in blue drew himself up to His full height, patted his chest, and said, "THE WELSH REVIVAL, SIR, IS UNDER THESE BUTTONS."

3-In your actions

4-ILLUS--During that same Welsh Revival, a village doctor remarked to a friend, "Well, the revival is doing me some good anyway." "Do you mean you're having more patients?" his friend inquired. "NOT AT ALL," the doctor answered; "BUT OVER $100.00 DUE TO ME WHICH I HAD WRITTEN OFF BY BOOKS AS HOPELESSLY BAD DEBTS, HAVE BEEN PAID TO ME SINCE THE REVIVAL BEGAN."

Think that changed the effectiveness & the witness of these believers

V.-PROMISED REVIVAL:

A.-Four Things We Must Do:

1-Humble ourselves

2-Pray

3-Seek His face

4-Forsake our sins

Ps. 51:13 — "THEN...

5-ILLUS---A famous journalist who visited the revival in

Wales, upon returning to London, was asked: "But is it all emotion? Is there not teaching?".....He replied, "Precious little. Do you think teaching is what people want in a revival? The people, all the people in a land like ours, are taught to death, preached to insensibility. They all know the essential truths. They all know that they are not living as they ought to live, & no amount of teaching will add anything to that conviction. To hear some people talk, you would imagine the best way to get the sluggard out of bed is to send him a tract on Astronomy, showing him that according to the fixed & eternal law, the sun will rise at a certain hour in the morning. THE SLUGGARD DOESN'T DENY IT. HE IS ENTIRELY CONVINCED OF IT. But what he knows is that it is precious cold at sunrise on a wintry morning & that it is warm between the blankets. WHAT THE SLUGGARD NEEDS IS TO BE WELL SHAKEN, AND IN CASE OF NEED, TO BE PULLED OUT OF BED."

B.--Then God Will:
1-Hear us
2-Forgive us
3-Heal our land
"...and it needs it!

Life More Abundant

thou wilt revive me
Wilt thou not revive us again?

C.-This Is God's Work
1-Ps. 138:7--in me
2-Ps. 85:6--in us
3-Hab. 3:2--in the work of God
4-Ps. 126:1-2 When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion we were like to them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for us."

Read
Revive thy work in the midst of the years

Concl: A.-Summary Is 2 Chron. 7:14

B.-Application is Personal:
1-Are you willing?
2-Will you pay the price?
3-ILLUS--Due to report of successful revivals by Gipsy Smith, a certain preacher approached the noted evangelist to ascertain the secret of his success. He was asked to explain the best method to begin a revival. The answer was: "BROTHER, GO BACK HOME, LOCK YOURSELF UP IN A PRIVATE ROOM. TAKE A PIECE OF CHALK AND MARK A CIRCLE ON THE FLOOR, GET DOWN ON YOUR KNEES INSIDE THE CIRCLE, PRAY GOD TO START A REVIVAL INSIDE THIS CIRCLE. WHEN THIS PRAYER IS ANSWERED, THE REVIVAL WILL BE ON."
4-We MUST have a revival, but it will only be as we meet God's conditions.

5- Not a Question of "Can We Have Revival Now?" but of Do we want Revival enough to pay God's price?

#407 - O Worship The King

Costs are: Physical — Involvement
Financial —
Spiritual — Restoration / Outreach

#60 - Cleanse Me
#366 - Revive Us Again

BUT: —— so are the RESULTS!

"REVIVAL IS CONDITIONAL" or "FOUR CONDITIONS OF REVIVAL"

2 Chron. 7:14: Ps. 33:12
Read Psalm 85

(1)

INTRO:

A.-Proclamation Of Congress: (attached)

B.-Proper Definition Of Terms:

1-Evangelism==reaching the **unconverted** with the good news
2-**REVIVAL**=="cause to **live again**"
==**"restore** to former state"
--Concerns the people of God
--**ONLY** used in Scripture in relation to **God's own** people
--Revival must really precede evangelism
3-Only **ONE** message of **salvation**
Only **ONE** message of **revival**
} They are NOT the same

C.-Pressing Need For Revival:

1-**International** scene
2-**Domestic** uncertainties
3-Spiritual **DEATH** among the unsaved
4-Spiritual **DEARTH** among christians--More time with the news than with their Bibles
For souls
For prayer
For work of God
For the Lord's Day
5-Self-concern & self-gratification complex of our age
6-Dependence upon the wisdom & power of **Washington, D.C.**

D.-Prescription For Revival:

1-**God** sets the prescription
2-Believers are to **meet** the **standards**
3-2 Chron. 7:14--**Summary** of conditions
--Quoted by Dwight D. Eisenhower at his first Inauguration
--**HEART** of God's plan for His people
--Finney--"Revival is not a miracle, but it is the appropriation of natural means."
No alternative prescription
--A SURE-FIRE FORMULA--Divine methodology
*--It has **worked** in the **past**
--It **will work** now, IF we meet God's conditions

"If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

4-Some 12 instances of Revival recorded in Scripture
5-**One** is yet future for **Israel** (Acts 3:19-21)
6-**Possible**--For a PERSON
--For a NATION
--For a CHURCH today
7-Ps. 33:12--"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance
8-"REVIVAL IS CONDITIONAL"
I.-Revival Formula:
II.-Revival Fountain:
III.-Revival Fruit:
May 1973
9-Philip R. Newell--"The spiritual state of the Church is such that it has become popular to pray publicly that

God will "send a great revival." Frequently this is accompanied by the seemingly pious plea "and let it begin in me." This approach seems to suggest that if the Lord should decide to undertake any special work of spiritual restoration, we have no objection to His using us as its starting point. The fact that He seldom takes us up on this ought to suggest that He may instead be waiting for us to comply with His own clearly stated conditions." (Great Commission Prayer League Bulletin, May, 1973)

10-Revival is related to "MY PEOPLE" in any age: — Read 2 Chron 7:12-16
- --Objects of God's love and concern
- --Receipients of God's grace
- --Ones on whom God has bestowed eternal life

I.-REVIVAL FORMULA---2 Chron. 7:14:

PROP: Since REVIVAL IS CONDITIONAL, we need to Know and then fulfill God's conditions

A-"If My People...Shall Humble Themselves:

1-FIRST of God's conditions for revival is not prayer

2-"Humble"--Not really related to humility
- --Heb. word means "TO SUBDUE"; "TO BRING UNDER CONTROL"—Jud. 8:28 — "Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel..."
- --Willing submission to God
- --O.T. terminology for becoming a disciple of our Lord
- -Mt. 16:24- "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me"

This humbling involves REPENTANCE!

3-This is something we are called upon TO DO!!
- --Family affair
- --Unbelievers aren't involved — Where do you stand in relation to Jesus Christ?
- --Though they will be touched if we become revived
- --Runs counter to the will of the flesh
- --Full of pride & a haughty spirit today
  - ** Self-sufficiency
  - ** Self-centeredness
- --Brought under CHRIST'S CONTROL

4-When we've humbled ourselves (REAL SUBJECTION TO CHRIST), then we can count on God doing the reviving

5-Involves REPENTANCE for sin--Ezra 9
--Daniel 9
WE
--1 Kings 21:27-29 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, & put sackcloth upon his flesh & fasted, & lay in sackcloth, & went softly. And the Word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days..."

6-ILLUS.-A short while before J. B. Chapman passed away, he was addressing a gathering of preachers, when he said: "We have reached the place where one man plays a handsaw and another gives a 'LIFE STORY', gathering a big crowd and we call that a revival.

"No! That is not a revival. That's a farce!! Tears, sweat and blood are the price of true revival, and most people today are not willing to pay the price."

7-Humbling ourselves = BRING UNDER CONTROL + Something we have to DO
1 Pet. 5:5-6

B.-"If My People...Shall...Pray":

1-Many words in the O.T. and N.T. for prayer

2-Key one used here is ONLY EVER used in the sense of "intercession on behalf of others"

3-ILLUS--1 Sam. 12:22-25

4-OBJECTIVE PRAYING--Not to change God's mind
--Not to change God's disposition
--Not to change God's character
--BUT producing a change in people, rendering it possible for God to answer our petitions
--Essential links in the chain of cause & effect
** PRAYER for people
** PREACHING of the truth
** Both are needed
** Twin ingredients in a Revival !

EARNEST PRAYER !

5-INTERCESSION is the moving of God to move men

6-The truth preached is used to influence men for God

7-Participation in spiritual conflict:
--Giving of time & effort selflessly
--Concern for the glory of God
--Spiritual ministry
--EXHAUSTING, but rewarding
--ILLUS--When God's people beseech Him as John Knox did when he prayed for Scotland, "LORD, GIVE ME SCOTLAND, OR I DIE!", then God opens the windows of heaven and pours out upon us refreshing showers of His grace.
--CAN be done alone
--But often DONE BETTER by gathering with others
--Example--Ex. 33:7--"And Moses took the tabernacle and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp."
--This is what MOVES God's omnipotence--UNITED PRAYER FOR OTHERS

Prayer is the FORCE that moves OMNIPOTENCE !

* When a sinner repents, God can forgive him.
* When a christian PRAYS, God can answer + bless.

8-Why such praying?? Because God ordains the MEANS as well as THE END!

9-ILLUS--I heard of a series of evangelistic services in Amarillo a few years ago. A contractor got converted. He was building 2 houses and had 2 crews of men. They were having 10AM meetings as well as evening services.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID? He went around to these houses & said to those carpenters, electricians, plumbers & painters, "Boys we are having a meeting down at the Church." Then he made some good comment about the preacher, & said: "I WANT YOU TO HEAR HIM. I'll tell you what we'll do. Nobody will work on my job here from 9:30 til 11:30. WE ARE ALL GOING DOWN TO THE CHURCH ON MY TIME."

One of the men said: "I don't want to go. I'll stay here & work."

"No", said the newly converted contractor, "nobody is going to work on my jobs while that preacher is down at my church seeking to see souls saved. WE ARE ALL GOING DOWN TO HEAR HIM." So they came in their overalls....

....and some of them got saved. You know if you really brake up a business....or a roof people will know you're really interested in them.....

.....and GOD WILL GIVE RESULTS.

C.-"If My People...Shall...Seek My Face":

ABIDING FELLOWSHIP

1-God is desiring intimate communion

--James 4:8--"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you...

--Ps. 15:1-3--"LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor."

--1 John 1:9-10--"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

2-Seek God EARLY--Not by proxy

--Not cringingly as a slave to a master

--But boldly as a child to his own father

--And personally & intimately—DAILY!!

--Heb. 4:16--"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

--Because there's NO OTHER HELP!!!

3-Remember--It's UNTO GOD that we come

--The vail is rent open

--The way is clear now

--And we've been bidden to "COME!"

--God wants FIRST PLACE

--Ex. 20:3--"Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."

--Blessedness of His face & fellowship

--1 John 1:3--"...and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

4-How easily that fellowship is interrupted

--Turn from walking in the light

--Find ourselves in DARKNESS

--Daily "GRIND" without reference to the will of God

--Living by worldly standards

--TOO BUSY ** For Bible reading
** For a prayer time
** For gathering to intercede

Pressures of life push these OUT!

5-WE MUST COME BACK!!!

--James 4:8--"Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you"

--Rev. 2:5--"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

--Need to "Seek God's Face" as in the blush of our FIRST LOVE FOR CHRIST

D.-"If My People...Shall Turn From Their Wicked Ways:

1-Many christians **shrug this off** — MOST OF US
--Not guilty of the "grosser sins"
--**GROSS** ONES are the sins that **OTHER PEOPLE** commit
** Immorality
** Drunkenness
** Drug addiction
** Dishonesty, etc.
--But these **aren't** any longer **a major problem** to the growing christian
--**However**, we can very easily become "**hardened** through the **deceitfulness of sin**." ← Let LITTLE things creep in

2-What does God say?
--Ps. 66:18--"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."
--Isa. 59:2--"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." INFINTE OUTRAGE
--Prov. 24:9--"The thought of foolishness is sin: & the scorner is an abomination to men."
--Rom. 14:23c--"...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."
--James 4:17--"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
--1 John 3:4--"Whosoever commiteth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

We must FORSAKE sin if we're to have revival!

3-**What** do these wickednesses **do**?
--**Hide** God's face from us
--**Break** our fellowship with Him
--**Disrupt** our usefulness
--**Derail** our lives from blessing
--Ps. 139:23-24--"Search me O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
--SIN **SEPARATES** our fellowship with God

4-**What** are we **to do**??--Gen. 35:1-4 — Deal w/ sin — "PUT AWAY" IDOLS CAST OUT
--**REPENTANCE** for our sins
** ==Change of mind that issues in a change of actions
** This is God's COMMAND!
** SENSE of sin
** SORROW for sin
** SEVERENCE from sin

--ILLUS--At first **weeds** are very small & seem insignificant. In fact, they often blend in with the tender young plants. But **if left** unattended they begin to **choke** the plants & halt their growth.

When you begin to root out deep-rooted weeds, perhaps you'll think of the parallel in our Christian life. ARE NOT **WEEDS** LIKE **SIN** in our experience? They at first appear as something small, but left in our lives they begin to **grow** and **take over** the life, **choking out** the plants.

As with the weed, the **sin** is **full-rooted** & easy to identify when it has grown to maturity. In order **to save a garden**, weeds must be **rooted out**...

...and much the same procedure is essential if we are to have our spiritual lives exhibiting the **unchoked communion** with the Lord and **bearing fruit** pleasing to Him.

5-How really do we WANT A REVIVING WORK???
- --in our lives??
- --in our church??
- --in our community??
- --in our nation??

6-What's THE REVIVAL FORMULA?
1. --Humble ourselves==Come under **God's control**
2. --Pray==**Intercede** for others
3. --Seek God's face==Enter into **fellowship**
4. --Turn from wicked ways==**Root out** known **sin**

** MAKE A CLEAN BREAK !

7-Then we'll discover...

II.-REVIVAL'S FOUNTAINHEAD:

A.-Three Direct Promises:

1-"I will **hear** from heaven"--**ANSWERED PRAYER**
2-"And will **forgive** their sin"--RESTORED **FELLOWSHIP**
3-"And will **heal** their land"--MULTIPLIED **BLESSINGS**
4-**Source** of these promises
- --Not gimmicks
- --But **GOD** !!!
- --It is **He** that is the fountain "from Whom all blessings flow"

ABUNDANT LIFE
How our Land needs His Healing!

5-This would do more for our land than anything and everything we could all do apart from such a working of God.

B.-Three Distinct Spheres:

1-Habakuk 3:2--"REVIVE **THY WORK**"
2-Ps. 85:6-----"REVIVE US" — "Wilt Thou not revive us again: that Thy people may rejoice in Thee?"
3-Ps. 138:7----"REVIVE **ME**" — "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, Thou wilt revive me..."

III.-REVIVAL'S FRUIT:

A.-"Normal Christian Life":

1-Many think of the revived saint as "**ABNORMAL**"
2-Abnormal only in the sense that one doesn't see too many of that variety around
3-But this is **GOD'S NORM!!!**
4-**Exhibiting** the Fruit of the Spirit
5-Living with that "**spiritual heartburn**" of a fresh walk with Christ
6-Subject to the LORDSHIP of Christ--Daily
--Moment by moment

B.-Revival Will "SHOW":

1-Show in your life
2-ILLUS--During the revival which some years ago swept thru the land of **Wales** and whose power is still felt there today, a

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London man went down to take part in some of its services. He got off the train at a country station, and asked a policman standing in the village square, (7)

"WHERE IS THE WELSH REVIVAL?"

The man in blue drew himself up to his full height, patted his chest, and said:

"THE WELSH REVIVAL, SIR, IS UNDER THESE BUTTONS."

3-Also show in your actions:

4-ILLUS--During that same revival in Wales, a village Doctor remarked to a friend, "Well, the Revival is doing me some good anyway."

"Do you mean you're having more patients?" his friend inquired.

"NOT AT ALL," the Doctor answered; "BUT OVER A THOUSAND DOLLARS DUE ME WHICH I HAD WRITTEN OFF MY BOOKS AS HOPELESSLY BAD DEBTS, HAVE BEEN PAID UP SINCE THIS REVIVAL BEGAN.

5-Think how the effectiveness of such Christian's lives & testimonies were changed to those who saw and heard them.

C.-Revival Is Personal:

1-Review Of FORMULA--Humble yourself
--Pray
--Seek God's face
--Turn from sin

FOUR ELEMENTS
① Brot under control
② INTERCESSION
③ Fellowship
④ REAL REPENTANCE

2-Review of Spheres
--Revive THY WORK
--Revive US
--Revive ME

Isa. 57:15

3-Can't talk about crowds, but about INDIVIDUALS: !
--Are you willing???
--Are you ready to pay God's price?
--OR...Are you determined to reject God's call to your heart & life?
--ILLUS--Because he was mightily used of God in many places, a certain preacher approached Gipsey Smith to ascertain the secret of his success. He asked Smith to explain the best method to begin a revival.

Smith said: "The answer is--Brother, go back home & lock yourself in a private room. Take a piece of chalk and mark a circle on the floor. Then get down on your knees inside that circle, and pray, asking God TO START A REVIVAL INSIDE THAT CIRCLE. When God answers that prayer, the revival will be on.

4-We need reviving today----desperately!!

5-But it will only come as we meet God's conditions.

6-HOW ABOUT YOU ??

① Under God's control
② Intercessory prayer
③ Abiding fellowship
④ Forsake all known sin.

7-1 Pet. 4:17-19
(Read in UNISON)

Westbrae--1/10/65--#282--"Old Time Power"
#300--"Ring The Bells Of Heaven"
#315--"Rock Of Ages" (2)
4/28/74--#407--"O Worship The King" (1)
#366--"Revive Us Again"
#60--"Cleanse Me"

Calvary Columbus 2/2/76
OKBC - 4/5/87

#330 These Shall Be Showers Of Blessing (3)
#438 Have Thine Own Way, Lord (3)

BOORUM & PEASE

"JEHOSHAPHAT---SHOULDEST THOU HELP THE UNGODLY?"
1 Kings 22; 2 Kings 3; 2 Chron. 17-21

INTRO: A.-This Study:
- 1-Case study of a King of Judah
- 2-Personal integrity before the Lord
- 3-Repeated compromises & cooperations with the UNGODLY
- 4-Covers quite an area of Scripture
  - --7 whole chapters & a few isolated verses
  - --Considerable importance
  - --Not just a passing reference to Jehosh.
  - --But an extensive CASE STUDY in the "COST OF COMPROMISE"
- 5-Why included in the Old Testament ??
  - --Make a complete record, yes
  - --But why is this record SO DETAILED ??
  - --1 Cor. 10:11-15
  - --Written FOR US

B.-This Sermon:
- 1-Outline: The COMMENDABILITY Of Jehoshaphat
  The COMPROMISES Of Jehoshaphat
  The COSTS OF COMPROMISES To Jehosh.
- 2-PROP: --To see
  - --To sympathize with his plight
  - --To seriously consider---and profit
  - --To SEPARATE OURSELVES from compromises

I.-THE COMMENDABILITY OF JEHOSHAPHAT:

A.-Jehoshaphat, The Man:
- 1-Father was King ASA
  - --One of 19 Kings in Judah
  - --One of 5 who led spiritual revivals (2 Chr.14:2+
  - --BUT, he relied on the King of Syria (2 Chr.16:7
- 2-Mother was AZUBAH
- 3-Morality seen in that he removed the sodomites from the land, whom his father had not removed (1 Kings 22:46)
- 4-Spiritually --Man of prayer
  - --Man of a consistent walk
  - --Good testimony; especially at the FIRST of his reign
  - --Name == "JEHOVAH JUDGED"

B.-Jehoshaphat, The King:
- 1-Accession--At age 35
  - --On the throne 25 years (875-850 B.C.)
- 2-Military preparedness
  - --2 Chron. 17:2 (Garrisons established)
  - --2 Chron. 17:14-19 (Organization instituted)
  - --PREPARED for whatever might come
  - --Yet, free from war (2 Chr. 17:10) being made against him successfully
  - --Tribute from neighboring countries (2Chr.17:11)

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3-National development--2 Chron. 17:12
--Building program (Palaces & Storehouses)
--2 Chron. 17:13
--Commerce
--"RICHES & HONOUR in abundance"(17:5)

C.-Jehoshaphat, The Revival Leader:
1-Jehovah had set the pattern for KINGS
2-Deut. 17:18-20
3-Jehoshaphat's own example followed this
--2 Chron. 17:3-4, 20:32
--Set the pattern for the nation
--Eager for the people to worship the true God
4-Took away some of the "high places"(2 Chr.17:6; 20:33) and so stood against idolatry
5-INSTRUCTION SYSTEM--Princes & Levites commissioned
--Itinerant ministry
--2 Chron. 17:7-9
--TEACHING "the book of the law of the LORD"
6-JUDICIAL SYSTEM--2 Chron. 19:5-9
--City by city court system
--Judging for God, & not for man
--JUSTICE was the goal
7-Personally led in bringing Judah "back unto the LORD" (2 Chron. 19:4)

D.-Jehoshaphat; The Commander: (2 Chron. 20:1-35)
1-Moab, Ammon & others plan an attack
2-Jehoshaphat's reaction--2 Chron. 20:3
--Took his fears to the LORD
--Involved the people thru a fast
3-Jehoshaphat's prayer
--2 Chron. 20:4-13
--With Judah asking God's help also
--STOOD IN God's House to pray
--Recounts God's mercies past (20:6-9)
--Refers to the present danger (20:10-11)
--Pleads the promises & faithfulness of God (20:12-13)
4-God's answer--2 Chron. 20:15-17
--KEY TO VICTORY (20:17)
--Trust in God for their needed victory
5-Worship & praise (2 Chron. 20:18-19)
6-Great VICTORY: Divine deliverance (20:20-24)
7-Spoil taken (20:25)
8-Triumphant return to Jerusalem (20:27-29)

E.-SUMMARY Of Jehoshaphat's Commendability:
1-LOCKYER--"Because he carried out the reforms of his father, history gives Jehoshaphat a good name....Because of his godly bent, 'The LORD was with Jehoshaphat'. Negatively, 'he sought not after Baalim.'

Here is a man who in every point was equally strong, a man of foresight, a man of reverence, a man of an honest heart, a man who felt that idolatry & true worship could not co-exist in the same breast..." (ALL THE MEN OF THE BIBLE, P.179)

II.-THE COMPROMISES OF JEHOSHAPHAT:

A.-Alliances With Ahab, King of Israel:

1-MARITAL ALLIANCE (2 Kings 8:16-19)

--Daughter of Ahab & Jezebel named Athiliah
--Married to Jehoram, Jehoshaphat's eldest son & ultimate successor to Judah's throne
--"Walked in the way of the Kings of Israel"
--"Did evil"
--W H Y ??
--
** Inconsistency of his father, Jehoshaphat
** Unequal yoke with his unbelieving wife

2-MILITARY ALLIANCE (1 Kings 22 & 2 Chron. 18)

--Ahab is host to Jehoshaphat in Samaria after 70 yrs division of the 2 kingdoms
--Huge feast set for Jehoshaphat
--One wonders how 2 so very different men can get along so well together
--Discussion turns to RAMOTH-GILEAD (1 Kings 22:3-4a)
** Formerly part of kingdom of Israel
** EAST of Jordon river
** Taken by Syria & not returned as promised
** Ahab solicits Jehoshaphat's military support: "WILT THOU GO WITH ME TO BATTLE?"
--Jehoshaphat's response (1 Kings 22:4b-5)
** Immediate response; Agreed BEFORE consulting God about it
** "I AM AS THOU ART"--Personal identification
** "My people as thy people"--National identific.
** " My horses as thy horses"--Military identific.
** AFTERTHOUGHT---1 Kings 22:5

3-Exhortation by Micaiah (1 Kings 22:6-28)

--400 Satanic prophets with a "SMOOTH MESSAGE" of easy victory
--Jehoshaphat asks for a "prophet of the LORD"
** He knew the difference between a true & a false prophet
** Recognized a use of "SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE" without a spiritual message
--"YET ONE MAN, MICAIAH"
** Prophet of the LORD in Israel
** "But I hate him" said Ahab
** Prophesies only evil concerning Ahab
** See here that Ahab, also, knew the difference between true & false prophets
** Micaiah is IN PRISON for his testimony
** Pressure applied to make his message CONFORM (1 Kings 22:13)
--Micaiah's ironic message to Ahab (22:15)
--TRUE PROPHETIC FOREVISION (1 Kings 22:17-19)
** Israel scattered==Miliatry defeat
** Not a shepherd==Loss of a leader
** No master==Death of the King
** GREAT DISASTER forseen
** Ahab objects (22:18)
** AUTHORITATIVE MESSAGE from God (22:19)

** ILLUS --Council concerned with the Deity of Christ. "Athenasius, you are outnumbered." REPLY: "Then it will be Athenasius against the world"

--Micaiah's explanation of the source of the 400 false prophets' message (1 Kings 22:20-23)

--INTIMIDATION of Micaiah (22:24-25)

--INCARCERATION of Micaiah (22:26-27)

--Micaiah's final words ** 1 Kings 22:28
** Absolute confidence in his message
** NO COMPROMISE at all
** Rebuke to Jehoshaphat's cooperation with Ahab.

4-ENIGMA here--Jehoshaphat insisted on hearing the prophet of God
--Jehoshaphat loved the truth of God
--BUT HE SIDED with wicked Ahab
--And....he raised no word of objection to the brutal treatment of the prophet of God
--ONLY DIVINE INTERVENTION spared Jehoshaphat in the battle in which Ahab died & Ramoth-Gilead was not regained (1 Kings 22:29-39)

5-Rebuke by Jehu (2 Chron. 19:1-3)
--Jehoshaphat returns to Jerusalem in peace
--Met by prophet JEHU whose father (Hanani) had suffered imprisonment for his rebuke of Asa (2 Chron. 16:7-10) when Asa made an alliance with Benhadad of Syria
--STRONG AND STRAIGHTFORWARD
** 2 Chron. 19:2.....read it
** "Ungodly"....."Them that hate the LORD"
--Ungodly alliance is rebuked
--"Therefore is there WRATH upon thee"
--DOUBLE rebuke of this SIN OF COOPERATION with the ungodly
** Before by Micaiah (2 Kings 22)
** After by Jehu (2 Chron. 19:1-3
--Grace, even in this, for Jehoshaphat & his family (19:3)

6-OUTCOME--There are some "good people" who will never learn that the end does not justify the means
--They seem to look right past the unholy methods and means to their desired goals
--To them THEIR GOALS are so important that they are BLIND TO THE SIN of employing wrong & unscriptural means to accomplish those goals
--Jehoshaphat was like that
--Apparently Jehoshaphat wanted to extend his influence & friendships beyond the bounds of propriety for the purpose of enlarging his kingdom to embrace the 10 estranged tribes
--L O F T Y G O A L !!!
--Devilish methods used to attain it
--ILLUS--Evangelism at any price ** World Vision in Tokyo
** Evangelism in Depth in Guat.

B.-Alliances With Ahaziah (2 Chron. 20:35-37):

1-One would expect Jehoshaphat to have "learned his lesson" on separation

2-But, not so

3-2 Chron. 20:35-36--Second alliance of Judah & Israel
- --With AHAZIAH: Ahab's wicked son & successor to the throne
- --Naval vessel agreement
- --Being built at Ezion-Geber

4-Eliezer prophesies against Jehoshaphat
- --2 Chron. 20:37
- --"Joined with Ahaziah"
- --ALLIANCES OF COOPERATION are not to be with the wicked
- --Divine intervention in judgment
- --"The LORD hath broken thy works"

5-Ahaziah suggests a new alliance (1 Kings 22:49)

6-BELATEDLY, Jehoshaphat rejects the compromise of a second alliance: "But Jehoshaphat would not"

C.-Alliance With Jehoram (2Kings 3:1-27):

1-One would expect after 3 unwise & unscriptrual alliances and one being refused, that Jehoshaphat would finally have been settled in his opposition to such compromises.

2-Unfortunately, he never seems to "ARRIVE" at living by PRINCIPLES

3-Some folks have 25 years of experience, and some have one year of experience 25 times over----and so it was with Jehoshaphat

4-Ahab's second succeeding son, JEHORAM (3:2
- --Wrought evil, but not as bad as Ahab or Jezebell
- --Moab rebels against Jehoram (3:5)
- --Jehoram solicits Jehoshaphat's help against Moab
  - ** 2 Kings 3:7
  - ** "Wilt thou go up with me against Moab?"
  - ** "I will go up: I am as thou art, my people as thy people, and my horses as thy horses"
  - ** SAME SONG.....ANOTHER VERSE
  - ** Same mistake being made again by Jehoshaphat
- --Jehoshaphat asks again for a word from God thru a prophet (2 Kings 3:11)

5-REBUKE to Jehoshaphat from ELISHA
- --2 Kings 3:13-14
- --Unequal yoke is condemned
- --FOURTH prophet to so rebuke Jehoshaphat

III.-THE COSTS OF COMPROMISE TO JEHOSHAPHAT:

A.-Costs To Jehoshaphat's Son:

1-Aftermath of Jehoshaphat's repeated compromises by breaking down Divinely-ordained standards of separation--
- --Marriage of Jehoram to Athaliah
- --Alliance with Ahab of Israel
- --Alliance with Ahazariah of Israel
- --Alliance with Jehoram of Israel.

2-Jehoshaphat's son WENT ASTRAY
- --Married an UNSAVED WOMAN trained by Jezebel (2 Chr. 21:6)
- --"Walked in the way of the Kings of Israel", not in the ways of godliness of his own father
- --"Slew all his brethren with the sword (2 Chron. 21:4) when he came to the throne, so as to secure it for himself alone
- --"He did evil in the sight of the Lord" (2 Kings 8:18)

3-Why this "DOWNGRADE" ??
- --Saw his father's INCONSISTENCY
- --Made a number of wrong decisions himself
- --Sought friends in the "wrong crowd"

4-ILLUS--Lot and his daughters & family in their choosing to be near & then in Sodom

5-Only the grace and promise of God kept this man and his whole people from being destroyed

6-2 Kings 8:19--"Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servants' sake, as he promised him to give him always a light, and to his children"

B.-Costs To Jehoshaphat's Spiritual Life:

1-Began in revival, trust & blessings

2-DEGENERATED thru unscriptural alliances

3-Ran for a time on his past reputation

4-Repeatedly rebuked by God's prophets
- --Micaiah (1)
- --Jehu (2)
- --Eliezer (3)
- --Elisha (4)
- --Mt. 18:16--"...that in the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses every word may be established"

5-Does that really matter???
- --Prov. 29:1--"He, that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."
- --James 4:14--"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
- --Spiritual temperature of Jehoshaphat declines in his life as he goes deeper into compromise
- --That is a PRINCIPLE you'll note in everyday life

CONCLUSION:

A.-Our Lessons:

1-Stand firm and refuse to compromise--"Jehoshaphat made peace with the kings of Israel" (1 Kings 22:44)

2-Be careful about our children's rearing and their marriages

3-Hear the Word and obey it totally & instantly, walking in separation from known compromise

4-Be pure in both motive and methods

5-LANGE--"When we reflect that he, the faithful adherent of Jehovah, made an alliance between his son and heir and the daughter of the fanatical idolator, Jezebel; that he then went himself in great state to Samaria; that he entered into an expedition with Ahab in spite of the warning of a prophet

of Jehovah; that he afterwards entered into an alliance with Ahab's successor in spite of the warning of the prophet Jehu not to enter into fellowship with apostates (2 Chron. 19:1); then we cannot understand all this save on the supposition that he aimed to unite once more the two kingdoms under Judah's supremacy. HOWEVER GLORIOUS THE AIM WAS, IT COULD NEVER BE ATTAINED IN THE WAY UPON WHICH HE HAD ENTERED." (Commentary on 1 Kings, P. 255)

B. Our Heart:

1-Cut the Word cleanly and clearly in every way

2-YET, be able to reach out and FEEL FOR and FEEL WITH those who have failed

3-ILLUS --John Herr of Sudan Interior Mission, whose son is a heartbreak to him

4-

Let our Banner bear these three instriptions:

(1)--TRUTH to which we are absolutely committed and obedient

(2)--LOVE for the erring and the failing

(3)--SEPARATION from known error and compromise, so we don't "HELP THE UNGODLY"

Westbrae--5/24/70 — "Open Mine Eyes That I May See" 371

— "Count Me" 389

5/31/70 — Jehoshaphat — King of Compromise

Jon Rhoads

"Pride Goeth Before A Fall" 2 Chr. 26:1-5, 15-21

Intro:----ILLUS--Horse feeling oats & strength is o.k. when closely controlled by a bridle; but can become a real menace when UNBRIDLED.....So--Pride and confidence do have a place in a believer when rightly placed & governed, but when UNBRIDLED, p..."pride goeth before a fall."

I.-ACCESSION & BEGINNINGS OF UZZIAH--26:1-8
- A.-Accession:
  - 1-Democratic enthronement--26:1
  - 2-Family note--26:3
- B.-Beginnings:
  - 1-Rebuilt seaport Eloth--26:2
  - 2-Pious walk--26:4-5
  - 3-Retributive wars (in light of his father's difficulties in these areas) 26:6-7
  - 4-His renown--26:8

II.-REIGN OF UZZIAH 26:9-15
- A.-National Defense Program--26:9
- B.-Agricultural Program--26:10 "One reason why agriculture lags behind the rest of the economy is that other types of enterprise haven't suffered so much from govt help!"
- C.-Military Program--26:11-15a
  - 1-Well regulated army--11-13
  - 2-Well equiped with machinery of war--14-15a
- D.-Prosperity-15b
  - 1-in name
  - 2-in wealth
  - 3-in help from God
  - 4-"TIL"---the beginning of the end.
  - 5-ILLUS---Car coming over continental divide. Because it has reached such dizzy heights it no longer feels the need of either power or control, but will just coast down with no need of restraint--------how wrong-----how soon in the ditch.

III.-APOSTASY OF UZZIAH 26:16-21
- A.-Cause of Profane deed:---16
  - 1-"BUT"---here the story definitely changes
  - 2-Relying on own strength
  - 3-"Lifted up"---with what????---WITH PRIDE
    - ---pride goeth before destruction
    - ---transgressed--this is SIN
  - 4-Ambition to be both Political & Religious leader
  - 5-ILLUS--Isa. 14:13-14---Satan ..."I will..."
    - --Gen. 11--Tower of Babel...independence of God
    - --1 Chr. 21--David numbering Israel
    - --Dan. 4---Nebuchadnezzar--Pride in empire & self
    - --Acts 12:20-23---Herod
    - --Poem "The tower which rears its head so high,
      And bids defiance to the sky,
      Invites the hostile winds;
      The branching tree, extending wide,
      Provokes destruction by its pride,
      And courts the fall it finds." Hannah More.
- B.-Opposition By Priests--26:17-18
  - 1-Led by the High Priest
  - 2-Backed up by VALIANT men of God
  - 3-"Withstood" Uzziah---job of all men of God to stand against sin as well as for the truth.

C.-Judgment of God---26:19-21

1-Uzziah was not REPENTANT.....but WRCTH

2-"Rage & threats were the only answers he deigned to return; but God took care to vindicate the sacredness of the priestly office, & , at the moment of the king's lifting the censer, struck him with leprosy. At this moment, according to Josephus, the shock of the earthquake (Amos 1:1) broke upon the city. Its more distant effects were evident long afterwards. A huge mass of the mountain on the south-east of Jerusalem rolled down to the spring of Enrogel, & blocked up the approaches of the valley of the Kedron & the royal gardens. Its immediate effect, if rightly reported, was still more striking. As happened in like calamities, even in Jerusalem itself, the solid building of the temple rocked, its roof opened, & the darkness of its inner recess was suddenly lighted up by the full blaze of the sun; and, as the king looked up towards it, a leprous disfigurement mounted into his face, & rendered necessary that exclusion which, on the ground of his royal descent, had been doubtful. He retired at once from the temple, never again to enter it; and for the remainder of his life, as one of the accursed race, remained secluded within the public infirmiry.

3-Leprosy was dreaded--pain & suffering
--disqualified religiously--"cut off"
--disqualified socially--"several house"
--disqualified politically--"son was over"

4-No repentance...& death took him soon.

Conclusion-----Walk with God is pleasing to Him when in Dependence and not in PRIDE