

## 2 Chronicles 20:32-33

***And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD. Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.***

After the Children of Israel made it to the Promised Land that God told them that He would lead them to, they still wanted a king like the surrounding nations had. Yet God was their King, but they wanted to have a man rule over them instead of God. So God gave them just what they wanted. The result was the first king, king Saul, who was chosen by the people because he was taller than everyone else. Simply they chose him for his looks. But we know that he failed and God chose the next king, who was king David, and we all know how great of a king David was. He was a man who truly followed the Lord with all his heart in all that he did, except for the Bathsheba, Uriah incident.

After King David died, his son Solomon was the next king, and we all know about him as well. Then after Solomon was his son Rehoboam, who became king, and after him, the kingship just took a downward spiral as we read of king after king who did not follow the Lord. But we also read of kings who did follow the Lord, and there were actually a few really good ones that would reach close to the caliber of king David, as far as leading the people and following the Lord.

Like today's verse which speak of king Jehoshaphat were it says about him that he was "***doing what was right in the sight of the LORD***"

Another king was Jotham, which says about him that, "***he did what was right in the sight of the LORD***"

† ***2 Chronicles 27:1-2 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerushah the daughter of Zadok. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Uzziah had done (although he did not enter the temple of the LORD). But still the people acted corruptly.***

But even though the heart of the various kings were for the Lord, the peoples hearts were not always for the Lord, and we see that in both of the examples as it says about the people that during their reign:

† ***"for as yet the people had not directed their hearts to the God of their fathers."***

† ***"But still the people acted corruptly."***

Even here in the USA, we keep asking the Lord to bring us a godly man to run the country. Yet we have had godly men who ran the country, but it's the people who choose to rebel against God and His word. To lay that burden on one man is not right. Should everyone go to heaven and the ungodly leader go to hell because he didn't lead the country in a godly way? No, because everyone is responsible for their own salvation, Paul even tells us that.

† **Philippians 2:12** *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*

For some reason we seem to think that it's a godly man who will turn the country around and back to God. But, even if a godly man did rule, he can not control the hearts of the people. Each one is responsible for their own hearts and walk with the Lord.

Look at the early Church, they did not live under the rule of godly men leading the country. No, in fact it was way worse than anything we have experienced in the USA, with Christians being thrown into stadiums with hungry lions, and it was entertainment for people to watch them being mauled and ripped apart and eaten by the lions. Or the evil ruler who hung Christians alive on poles, covered them with oil and tar and set them on fire in his massive garden as he roared around on his chariot at night mocking them by saying, "Light of the world, you are the light of the world".

You see, it was never the ruler who determined if the nation would be godly or not, it was the people. It's the same here in the USA, or even other countries. Believers need to repent and turn back to the Lord, not the leaders (but it would be great if they did too). We even quote and post this next verse, but are we living it. Note: when you read this that it is written to Christians "**My people**", "**My people who are called by My name**" not the non-believers.

† **2 Chronicles 7:14** *if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Yes, we need revival here in the USA. Not a revival of a godly man to lead the country, but revival of the Church to lead the country back to God. A godly man will one day come and rule over all the earth for a thousand years, and His name is JESUS. Let's prepare now for our King JESUS to rule over our hearts here and now, and as He does, may He rule over others hearts well.

† **Revelation 19:15-16 (KJV)** *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written,*

***KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.***