




JEHOSHAPHAT'S FOLLY & HEZEKIAH'S WISDOM

Both Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah took Solomon as their hero and model for emulation. One strove to repeat his great exploits, the other learned to reflect his spiritual achievements.

 Jehoshaphat received presents from those under him Cp **2 Chronicles 17:11** and **1 Kings 4:21**, built store cities Cp **2 Chronicles 17:12** and **2 Chronicles 8:4,6**, and sought to duplicate Solomon's shipping expeditions Cp **2 Chronicles 20:36** and **1 Kings 10:22**, **2 Chronicles 8:17-18**.


 In Hezekiah's great Passover, his prayer, the fellowship offerings and seven days plus seven days were all modelled on Solomons great feast for all Israel. Cp **2 Chronicles 30:13, 22-23** and **1 Kings 8:62-66**. Its power to unify also matched the fervency of Solomon's gathering. **2 Chronicles 30:26-27**.

JEHOSHAPHAT'S FOLLY



His endeavours for union were undertaken unilaterally, driven by his own vision and objectives, but without the consent or approval of the brethren in his fellowship community.


2 Chronicles 18:1, 19:2, 20:35-37



His willingness for alliance repeatedly overlooked major doctrinal and practical differences, which should have been resolved before mutual participation, yet were not.

2 Kings 3:11-

14



His eagerness for affinity showed more commitment to the idea of demonstrating friendship and to engaging in activities together, than to resolving real matters of division.

1 Kings 22:4-7,28, 2 Kings 3:7

JEHOSHAPHAT'S FOLLY

The consequences of Jehoshaphat's efforts for reunion were both futile and damaging.

His thrice attempted alliance never did bring spiritual reconciliation, but instead, through both son and grandson introduced wrong doctrine into his own fellowship community.

2 Chronicles 21:1-6, 22:1-4

The result of this affinity without clarity inaugurated a period when the offspring of Jezebel ruled both Israel and Judah, and the royal line of Messiah was almost extinguished.

2 Chronicles 22:10-


12

The effect of his efforts towards union are recorded as a blot on his otherwise good reign, since they destroyed his family and damaged his fellowship community.

1 Kings 22:43-

44

HEZEKIAH'S WISDOM




His initiative for unity only came after careful and widespread counsel, so that his entire fellowship community were wholehearted in their support of the proposal.

2

Chronicles

30:2,4,12




His call to fellowship was firmly based on upholding the Mosaic 'Statement of Faith' concerning Passover, without permitting the compromise of either its spirit or substance.

2

Chronicles

30:5,8



His appeal for oneness required that those in Israel who responded, should be prepared to 'yield' and 'return' to the original standard in a spirit of genuine humility.

2

Chronicles

30:8,9,11

HEZEKIAH'S WISDOM

The consequences of Hezekiah's endeavours for unity were both positive and beneficial.

His appeal only attracted those whose commitment was so genuine that Yahweh graciously overlooked their breach of preparation, and gave divine sanction to the gathering.

2 Chronicles 30:18-20, 26-27

The result was an experience of fellowship so deep, so joyous and so strong that the whole assembly decided as one to prolong their mutual association together.

2 Chronicles 30:21-

23


The effect of the episode was to bring about dramatic personal change in those who had attended, and a continued commitment to their new fellowship community.

2 Chronicles 31:1, 5-6

JEHOSHAPHAT'S FOLLY & HEZEKIAH'S WISDOM

There is a vital difference between union and unity, between alliance and fellowship, between affinity and oneness.

 Union is the careful pact of compromise for perceived common good, unity is the joyful acceptance and mutual admiration of divine standards.

 Alliance is the tacit accommodation of differences for supposed joint benefit, fellowship is the kinship of fervent mutual assent to divine principles.

 Affinity is the strategic joining of resources for apparent combined advantage, oneness is the inseparable bond of mutual love for divine truth.

JEHOSHAPHAT'S FOLLY & HEZEKIAH'S WISDOM

There is an inevitable consequence that follows from pursuing either course. Spiritual discernment is needed to recognise the difference, for we will be held accountable not just for our intentions but for the results of our actions.

 Union leads to corruption, but true unity purifies.

Alliance leads to feebleness, but true fellowship invigorates.

Affinity leads to mediocrity, but true oneness inspires.