

## THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE

"Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab" (2 Chr. 18:1). Why in the world did Jehoshaphat, one of the most righteous kings of the Kingdom of Judah, decide to make peace with Ahab, the most evil king the Northern Kingdom ever had? It probably didn't happen overnight. Spurred on by a marriage between Jehoshaphat's son and Ahab's daughter, perhaps he just wanted peace between their two kingdoms. Maybe he wanted to "go along and get along." His reasoning may have been, "I know he's a bad hombre, but aren't we both Hebrews?"

But the Bible shows us that **one** compromise of faith produces another and then another. This was true in Jehoshaphat's case.

Ahab asked him to go into battle with him against the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead. Jehoshaphat's reply was "I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses" (1 Kin. 22:4). Then he got cold feet and said to Ahab, "Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the Lord to day" (v. 5). Ahab quickly produced 400 hirelings, pseudo-prophets who profusely blessed the military venture. Jehoshaphat was feeling the political pressure to **compromise**.

A few years ago the controversy over brother Dave Miller and Apologetics Press (AP) came to general brotherhood attention when he was appointed its director. AP, fearing for its survival because of the moral failure of its founding director (Bert Thompson), persuaded several brethren (some of them well known) to sign a document for its support. Soon thereafter AP announced that Dave Miller was its new director. His appointment meant that the signatories must either now support him or recant their support of AP. Compromising with error, they chose the former so they could continue to support AP. Many supposedly "sound" brethren who had previously publicly opposed Miller's false doctrines of elder reevaluation/reaffirmation and "marriage intent" now felt the need to "cave." Like Ahab's hirelings, the names/numbers of the signatories seemed to sway these "sound" brethren. They began falling like dead trees in a forest into the sweet smelling field of **compromise** that leads to the rottenness of apostasy.

Jehoshaphat again got cold feet. Perhaps remembering the example of his father Asa, he said to Ahab, "Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we may enquire of him?" (1 Kin. 18:7). Ahab squirmed, but reluctantly dragged the faithful prophet Micaiah out of his dungeon. This noble man gave these two kings "the word of the Lord" (v. 19) which warned of **catastrophe** for both kings if they went to Ramoth-gilead. Micaiah was attacked by one of Ahab's hirelings and thrown back into prison by Ahab. Jehoshaphat did not utter one word in Micaiah's defense. He went along with Ahab's plan. He **compromised** the faith of his fathers in order to not shake the apple cart of appeasement.

Likewise many "sound" brethren have succumbed to the charms of **compromise** regarding the issue of fellowshiping this marked false teacher, Dave Miller. They know the Truth of the Bible, but the siren call of "buddyship," influence, and a paycheck has been too much for their shallow integrity. They began to mutter things like "can't we just get along" or "that's an old issue" (as if there were a statute of limitations for sin and error). And when truly sound men appeared and pleaded with them from "the word of the Lord" they, like Jehoshaphat, turned aside because of their **compromise**. Like Micaiah, the only reward these brave men received for their faithfulness was the "bread of affliction" and "water of affliction" (v.27).

Jehoshaphat followed Ahab into battle, and Ahab was killed – "executed" by God (1 Kin. 22:34). Jehoshaphat barely escaped with his life and returned to Jerusalem in disgrace. This fate (and a worse one at the Judgment) awaits all who follow "the spirit of error" rather than "the spirit of truth" (1 John 4:6).

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