

# Avoid The Wrong Company

*“<sup>1</sup> Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage. <sup>2</sup> Some years later he went down to see Ahab in Samaria. Ahab slaughtered many sheep and cattle for him and the people with him and urged him to attack Ramoth Gilead. <sup>3</sup> 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.’” (2 Chronicles 18:1-3)*

King Jehoshaphat he is a righteous king but he did the mistake of being yoked with non-believers in marriage; he gave his son to a daughter of the wicked king Ahab. So he yoked himself with wrong people and he was forced to go with them in order to help them. Being overwhelmed with what king Ahab offered to him he said without much thinking *“I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will join you in the war.”*

Aware of his mistake and the danger of the situation in going to do something against God’s will, King Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel *“First seek the counsel of the LORD.”<sup>5</sup> 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 not?’ ‘Go,’ they answered, ‘for God will give it into the king’s hand.’” (2 Chronicles 18:4-5)* The four hundreds prophets who were around the King of Israel were false prophets and they would not say anything true to the king but only what is pleases him and go along with his desires but not necessarily the truth. The same for you when you decide to do something knowing that it is not much with God’s will, then you will go and ask advice and counsel from people who will agree with you even you know they are compromising and not telling the truth.

*“<sup>6</sup> But Jehoshaphat asked, ‘Is there no longer a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?’<sup>7</sup> The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, ‘There is still one prophet 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 such a thing,’ Jehoshaphat replied.” (2 Chronicles 18:6-7)* Here we found that there is the right person who can tell the will of God and what God wants them to do. But that person the king of Israel is not happy with because he is

not agreeing with him and will not tell what he likes. The true people whom we can receive the correct advice are those who know God, who obey His word and who live in holiness; they are the people who persevere in doing the will of God. Their lives witness that; they are the safe people whom we can go along, trust and ask advice. Listen and obey the advice of such people and it will go well with you even if their advice it does not agree with what you like.

*“<sup>8</sup> So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, ‘Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once.’<sup>9</sup> Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them. <sup>10</sup> Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made iron horns, and he declared, ‘This is what the LORD says: ‘With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.’” <sup>11</sup> All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing. ‘Attack Ramoth Gilead and be victorious,’ they said, ‘for the LORD will give it into the king’s hand.’” <sup>12</sup> The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, ‘Look, the other prophets without exception are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably.’” <sup>13</sup> But Micaiah said, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, I can tell him only what my God says.’” <sup>14</sup> When he arrived, the king asked him, ‘Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I not?’ ‘Attack and be victorious,’ he answered, ‘for they will be given into your hand.’” <sup>15</sup> The king said to him, ‘How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?’” <sup>16</sup> 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.’” <sup>17</sup> The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, ‘Didn’t I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?’” <sup>18</sup> Micaiah continued, ‘Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing on his right and on his left. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, ‘I will entice him.’ ‘By what means?’ the LORD asked. <sup>21</sup> ‘I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said. ‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’” <sup>22</sup> ‘So now the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you.’” (2 Chronicles 18:8-22)* The right person told them the right council and the will

of God, and he explained to the king of Israel that God had allowed a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets so he will be deceived and destroyed. You may ask how God will allow that to happen. It is not the fault of God but your fault. If you are not willing to listen to the right advice and accept a rebuke, but instead you go to people who will condone with what you want them to do then you will only listen to the lies of Devil because that what you want to hear.

*“<sup>23</sup> Then Zedekiah son of Kenaanah went up and slapped Micaiah in the face. “Which way did the spirit from<sup>(a)</sup> the LORD go when he went from me to speak to you?” he asked. <sup>24</sup> Micaiah replied, “You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room.” <sup>25</sup> 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, <sup>26</sup> 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.’” <sup>27</sup> Micaiah declared, “If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me.” Then he added, “Mark my words, all you people!” (2 Chronicles 18:23-27) The right person who speaks and advice according to the word of God and His will he will be persecuted and treated in a bad way. You may act wrongly and in a bad way to the person or the people and the church that teaches you the truth. If you are doing that then this for your harm and you will receive the consequences of your wrong choices relying on people who will deceive you and agree with your sins.*

*“<sup>28</sup> So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Now the king of Aram had ordered his chariot commanders, “Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel.” <sup>31</sup> 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, <sup>32</sup> for when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they stopped pursuing him. <sup>33</sup> But someone drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between the breastplate and the scale armor. The king told the chariot driver, “Wheel around and get me out of the fighting. I’ve been wounded.” <sup>34</sup> 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 18:1-34) King Jehoshaphat he knew very well the will of God and he knew going in this direction for war with the king of Israel is a wrong decision for he heard very clearly the*

message of the Lord. But then why he still go along the wrong decision? Because he was among the wrong company and had yoked himself with the wrong people. In addition to that he had given them his word and he cannot go back from it when he said, ***“I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will join you in the war.”*** That is the effect of to be yoked with friends and people who does not know the Lord and His word. The time will come when you know you are heading in a wrong direction but you cannot say to them ‘No,’ because you had given them your word and you don’t like to lose their friendship. But there is danger in doing that. Those people they will use you and you might get harmed because you are yoked with them.

*My Dear and Beloved: “When Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> 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 on you.” (2 Chronicles 19:1-2) You don’t need to go to wrong places and spend your time with wrong people. Come to the place that you can be taught and nurture and cared of correctly according to the Word of God and His will. Come back to the right set up, to the church and the family of God that the Lord God had placed you, where you can be guided fully with the truth. Come back and accept correction and accept discipline so you will live and get blessed. The word of God tells us the following ***“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.” (Proverbs 13:20)*** If you keep going with the wrong people just be assured that you will always be given the wrong choice and the wrong advice. But if you continue to walk with the people of God and those who fear the Lord then you will have the wisdom of the Lord and the council of the Lord and you be in a safe situation and well protected. Our prayer for you that you will ***“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.” (Proverbs 19:20)*** as you agree to pray.*

*My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that gives me deep understanding and wisdom about life and where I will put myself. Lord I commit myself to cut off all my relationships and friendships with people who does not know you and those who does not walk in your ways and cause me to stumble and be away from you. I realize that I need to ask advice and counsel from those who fear you and walk in your ways. Help me Lord to accept instruction and receive the advice and the council from you and your honest people. This is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.*