Introduction

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Elijah was a man just like us.

So was Jehoshaphat. He was the king of Judah from 873-848 B.C.

He was a good king, but he was not a perfect king.

Jehoshaphat was a man of prayer and in his days, Judah experience a great revival.

What can we learn from Jehoshaphat’s life?

I. Teach the Word of God. II Chronicles 17:1-10

Jehoshaphat followed his father Asa as king. He ruled over Judah for 25 years.

- He built up the fortified cities and stationed troops there.
- He continued to remove the high places, Asherah poles and Baals.
- He also put together a “teaching team”. He sent them throughout Judah to teach the Word of God.
- The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms surrounding Judah.

The longest revivals are based on the Word of God.

An example of that is the Second Great Awakening which began in 1792 and lasted into the 1840s.

At Yale, the revival was led by Timothy Dwight, who served as President of Yale from 1795-1817.

Dwight asked the students this question, “Are the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament the Word of God?” He preached on that topic for six months.

Lyman Beecher said, “His preaching was a continual course of education and a continual feast…He was of noble form and had one of the sweetest smiles that ever you saw…Oh, how I loved him! He was universally revered and loved.”

II. Avoid compromising entanglements. II Chronicles 18:1-19:3
One of the sad chapters in Jehoshaphat’s life is his alliance with Ahab, the king of Israel.

Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to go into battle with him against Ramoth Gilead.

Micaiah prophecies death for Ahab and defeat at the hands of Ramoth Gilead. Yet in spite of that Jehoshaphat goes into battle with Ahab and it almost cost him his life.

After the battle, God.send a prophet, Jehu, to confront Jehoshaphat. 19:1-3

To his credit, Jehoshaphat seems to have listened and repented.

- He went out among the people and turned them back to the Lord.
- He appointed godly judges and instructed them to judge carefully without partiality.
- He instructs them to act with courage and may the Lord be with you.

There is a warning for us: Don’t be unequally yoked!

III. Humble ourselves and pray. II Chronicles 20:1-37

In the biggest challenge of his life, Jehoshaphat was a model of humility and prayer.

A vast army of Moabites, Ammonites and Meunites came up to attack Judah.

Jehoshaphat called the people to fast and pray.

Jehoshaphat led the nation in prayer. Verses 6-12

In the spirit of II Chronicles 7:14, he asked for God’s help and he admitted their weakness. “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

God heard their prayer and he answered. “Do not be afraid. The battle is not yours, but God’s.”

The people bowed and worshipped.

Jehoshaphat instructed the choir to lead them in praise as they marched out at the head of the army.

As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes and caused the enemy armies to fight one another and they were defeated.

They named the valley Beracah, the Valley of Praise.

The summary on Jehoshaphat’s life is good. “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.” Verse 32

Conclusion

The Second Great Awakening not only affected the Eastern United States, it also had a profound effect on the western frontier.
Logan County, Kentucky – in 1797 James McGready asked his church members to pray for revival. The scattered floods merged into a torrent in August 1801 with the camp meetings in Cane Ridge, Kentucky. Between 10,000 and 25,000 frontier people gathered to hear the gospel and revel in the joyous atmosphere.

Lives and communities were transformed in morals and spirit. College campuses were reclaimed from religious infidelity. Churches were revived in spirit and flooded with new converts.

Perhaps the greatest impact of God’s sovereign work was the launching of the modern missions movement. William Carey and the modern missionary movement began during these years.

By 1840 Alexander Toqueville noted that, “no country in the whole world exists in which the Christian religion retains a greater influence over the souls of men than in America.”

Do we want to see God’s spirit move in our nation once again?

It begins with us – with God’s people.

God is calling us to:

- Grow in our knowledge of his Word.
- Turn from sin and compromising relationships.
- Humble ourselves and pray.