

One Man's Victory

(The Story of Jehoiada)

(When quoting scriptures, from the Rotherham Emphasized Bible New Testament, I will substitute the Hebrew words Yahshua for Jesus, Yahweh and Elohim for God and the LORD and ruah for pneuma (spirit).)

The story of Yahowyada¹ (*yeh-ho-yaw-daw'* Jehoiada) is a story about the stand of one man against spiritual wickedness; a story of success against great odds; a story to pattern our lives with in order to be holy and acceptable unto our Father. Our individual lives influence other lives either positively or negatively. When we go to sleep, if Christ has not returned, our life leaves with it a legacy to mankind. Yahowyada, the priest of Yahweh, single-handedly transformed the nation of Judah. Judah was sacrificing to Yahweh offerings that had the foul stink of death. Yahowyada returned Judah into the way of righteousness; to offer up to Yahweh the sweet smelling fragrance of holiness. We have been called to walk in love—even as, the Christ also, loved us, and delivered himself up in our behalf, an offering and sacrifice unto Yahweh, for a fragrance of sweet smell (Eph. 5:2). Yahowyada is our example of what one man can do.

Yahowyada lived to be 130 years old.² His story unfolds in the reign of the King of Judah, Joash but the story of Yahowyada the priest actually begins in the age of the King of Judah, whose name is Asa, over 90 years earlier. King Asa walked in the ways of David most of his life.³ King Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, walked in the way of his father Asa doing that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh.⁴ This statement would be wonderful if that was the beginning and the end of King Jehoshaphat's life but that was not the case. King Jehoshaphat, as do many Christians, believe that they can fellowship with brethren who appear to be following Yahweh with their whole heart but when their actions are weighted according to the Word of Yahweh, they are found to be wanting. King Jehoshaphat, who had a good heart, made a costly mistake when he became friends with King Ahab, Queen Jezebel and their son Ahaziah; all of whom were Hebrews⁵ but all were lawless in their doings.⁶ This unholy union between righteousness and unrighteousness had consequences that King Jehoshaphat did not foresee, the result being that all his sons would die a premature and violent death.

¹ 03077 יְהוֹיָדָע Y@howyada' *yeh-ho-yaw-daw'* = Yahweh knows

² But Jehoiada waxed old and became satisfied with days, and died, —a hundred and thirty years old, when he died. 2 Ch. 24:15

³ 1Ki 15:11 And Asa did that which was right in the eyes of Yahweh,—like David his father;

⁴ And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and turned not from it,—doing that which was right, in the eyes of Yahweh. (2 Ch. 20:32)

⁵ Jezebel must have converted in part to the Hebrew religion to become Queen of Israel. Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; worshippers of Baal. 1 Kgs. 16:31

⁶ 2Ch 18:1 And it came to pass, when Jehoshaphat had riches and honour, in abundance, that he contracted, by marriage, affinity with Ahab. 2Ch 18:3 For Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go up with me to Ramoth-gilead? And he said unto him—So am I, even as thou, and, like thy people, are my people, and, with thee, in the war. 2 Ch 20:35 Yet, after this, did Jehoshaphat king of Judah join himself with Ahaziah king of Israel,—he, was lawless in his doings.

Second Chronicles 18:1 states, “And it came to pass, when Jehoshaphat had riches and honor, in abundance, that he contracted, by marriage, affinity with Ahab.” The phrase, “that he contracted, by marriage, affinity with Ahab,” apparently means that Jehoshaphat married his son Jehoram to Athaliah, a daughter of Ahab by Jezebel of Sidon. Athaliah would have a devastating effect upon the nation of Judah, drawing Yahowyada into action. Yahweh has warned us to, “Be not getting diversely yoked with unbelievers; for what partnership hath righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Beliar? Or what part hath a believer with an unbeliever” (2 Cor. 6:14-17)? Devastation is brought about when one is yoked to an unbeliever such as in the case of Samson and Delilah and Solomon and his wives.

Jezebel, the mother of Athaliah, was a murderer.⁷ This murdering trait of Jezebel will be passed on to her daughter, Athaliah, who was introduced by Jehoshaphat unto his son, Jehoram, becoming Jehoram’s wife, Queen of Judah. Jehoram, upon the death of his father, Jehoshaphat, had his brothers murdered, which was probably advised by his wife.⁸ Why do I say this? Athaliah, upon the death of her son that she had with Jehoram, whose name is Ahaziah, had all the royal seed of the house of Judah murdered, which enabled her to reign over Judah.⁹ Now, the wickedness that was residing in Israel, which came from Ahab and Jezebel, now infested Judah, as a pestilence, through their daughter, Athaliah. Athaliah, before her reign as Queen, which occurred after the death of her son, corrupted her husband, Jehoram, in his reign and her son, Ahaziah, in his short reign, by being the counselor of both of them.¹⁰ This corruption entered Judah with the help of a good servant of Yahweh, Jehoshaphat, even though it was not his intention but because of his disobedience to the scriptures either through ignorance or obstinacy of heart the plague entered! Possibly, the result of his actions helped contribute to the murder of his own sons and his great grandsons even though Jehoram and Athaliah are ultimately responsible.¹¹ The worship of Baal now occurs in Judah because a righteous King named Jehoshaphat was partly seduced away from the Word of Yahweh by his fellow Hebrew brother and sister, Ahab and Jezebel. One man not adhering continually to the Word of Yahweh all of his life can have devastating consequences on following generations. The priest, Yahowyada, was serving Yahweh in this seducing and ever changing environment.

⁷ 1Ki 18:4 And so it came to pass, when Jezebel was cutting off the prophets of Yahweh,

⁸ But, when Jehoram had arisen over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren, with the sword,—moreover also some of the rulers of Israel. 2 Ch. 21:4

⁹ But, when, Athaliah mother of Ahaziah, saw that her son was dead, she rose up and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah. 2 Ch. 22:10

¹⁰ He [Ahaziah] too, walked in the ways of the house of Ahab,—for, his mother, became his counselor, to work lawlessness. (2 Ch. 22:3)

¹¹ Then came there unto him [Jehoram], a writing, from Elijah the prophet, saying,—Thus, saith Yahweh, Elohim of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa, king of Judah; but hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to be unchaste, after the unchastities of the house of Ahab,—moreover also, thine own brethren of the house of thy father who were better than thou, hast thou slain, 2 Ch. 21:12-13

When I said all of the royal seed of Ahaziah, son of Athaliah and Jehoram, was murdered, there was one exception. One of the royal seed of Ahaziah was rescued from his grandmother, Athaliah and hidden away for six years while she reigned. His name was Joash. This is where the priest, Yahowyada, who was over 90 years old at the time, comes into focus. He hid the child, who was the only seed of David left, from whom would come the Messiah, in the house of Elohim for six years. The immense spiritual significance of the actions of Jehoram and Athaliah was to stop the birth of the Redeemer of mankind, Yahshua the Christ! Yahowyada's actions of valor extinguished the deadly fire released by the dragon through Jehoram and Athaliah upon the seed of David. Revelations chapter twelve writes of a similar attack by the dragon, which also resulted in a victory for Yahweh.¹²

“In the seventh year Yahowyada strengthened [chazaq] himself...” and brought out the seed of David, Joash, making war with Athaliah, who would be slain. Chazaq means “to strengthen, prevail, harden, be courageous, be firm, be resolute,” which is what Yahowyada did; “And Yahowyada solemnised a covenant, between himself and all the people, and the king,—that they should become a people unto Yahweh” (2 Ch. 23:16). Yahowyada gathered the Levites together to protect the king from his grandmother as he was about to be revealed unto the people of Judah.¹³ (The Levites being used as Yahweh's enforcers goes back to Moses dealing with the Israelites after they had worshipped a golden calf.)¹⁴ Then all the people entered into the house of Baal and brake it down, and, his altars and his images, brake they in pieces,—and, Mattan the priest of Baal, they slew, before the altars” (2 Ch. 23:17). “Seven years old, was Joash when he began to reign, and, forty years, reigned he, in Jerusalem,—and, the name of his mother, was Zibiah, of Beersheba. And Joash did that which was right, in the eyes of Yahweh,—all the days of Yahowyada the priest” (2 Ch. 24:1-2). “...Then were they offering ascending—sacrifices in the house of Yahweh, continually, all the days of Yahowyada. But Yahowyada waxed old and became satisfied with days, and died,—a hundred and thirty years old, when he died.” (2 Ch. 24:14-15).

“Now, after the death of Yahowyada, came the rulers of Judah, and bowed themselves down unto the king,—then, hearkened the king unto them. And they forsook the house of Yahweh, Elohim of their fathers, and served the Sacred Stems, and the images,—so there

¹² So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of Yahweh and have the testimony of Yahshua Christ. Rev. 12:15-17

¹³ So shall the Levites encompass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand, and, he that entereth into the house, shall be put to death. Thus be ye with the king, when he cometh in and when he goeth out. (2 Ch. 23:7)

¹⁴ “So Moses took his stand in the gate of the camp, and said—Who is for Yahweh? ...To me! Then gathered unto him all the sons of Levi. And he said to them—Thus, saith Yahweh, Elohim of Israel, Put ye every man his sword upon his thigh,—pass through and return, from gate to gate, in the camp, and slay ye every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbour. So the sons of Levi did, according to the word of Moses,—and there fell, from among the people, on that day, about three thousand men. And Moses said—Install yourselves, today, unto Yahweh, yea every man for his son, and for his brother,—so will he bestow upon you, today, a blessing” (Ex. 32:26-29).

was wrath against Judah and Jerusalem, for this their guilt. And he sent among them prophets, to bring them back unto Yahweh,—and they testified against them, but they would not give ear. And, the spirit of Elohim, clothed Zechariah son of Yahowyada the priest, and he took his stand above the people,—and said unto them, Thus, saith Elohim, Wherefore are, ye, transgressing the commandments of Yahweh, so that ye cannot prosper, because ye have forsaken Yahweh, therefore hath he forsaken you. So they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones, by the commandment of the king,—in the court of the house of Yahweh. Thus Joash the king, remembered not, the lovingkindness which Yahowyada his father had done for him, but slew his son,—and, as he died, he said, Yahweh see and require!” (2 Ch. 24:17-22). Judah chose darkness after the death of Yahowyada resulting in them being conquered by a few men from Syria because Yahweh was no longer protecting them. Syria spoiled Jerusalem and destroyed all of its rulers, leaving Joash with a sore disease, to be murdered in his own bed at the age of forty-seven.

How important was the life of Yahowyada, a ninety year old priest, in the life of Joash and in the holiness and prosperity of Judah? Priceless! His obedience to Yahweh saved the seed of David allowing us to be redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. He also held Judah together for many years because of his uncompromising stand upon the Word of Yahweh. Other men’s lives reflect this same lesson of leadership.

Moses kept Israel in holiness throughout his days but in order for this to be accomplished, many thousands of Hebrews had to die because of their rebellion against Yahweh; 3,000,¹⁵ 14,700¹⁶ and 24,000.¹⁷ Yahshua (Joshua) as did Yahowyada kept Israel serving Yahweh in righteousness all of his days.¹⁸ Gideon’s leadership delivered Israel from bondage and kept them in peace for forty years but upon his death Israel returned to wickedness, as also did Judah upon the death of Yahowyada.¹⁹ The Apostle Paul kept the Body of the Christ in holiness but warned them by saying, “I, know, that there will enter, after my departure, grievous wolves into your midst, not sparing the little flock; and, from among your own selves, will arise men speaking distorted things, to draw away the disciples after themselves” (Acts 20:29).

How important is one righteous man or woman’s stand upon the Word of Yahweh and not upon religion? Whole societies have remained pure and safe while these individuals live. Wolves are present and are circling the flock but because of a single individual’s

¹⁵ Ex 32:28 So the sons of Levi did, according to the word of Moses,—and there fell, from among the people, on that day, about three thousand men.

¹⁶ Nu 16:49 And so it was, that they who died in the plague were fourteen thousand, and seven hundred,—besides them who died over the matter of Korah.

¹⁷ Nu 25:9 Then was it found that they who had died by the plague were four and twenty thousand.

¹⁸ So then Israel served Yahweh all the days of Joshua,—and all the days of the elders who prolonged their days after Joshua, and who had known all the work of Yahweh, which he had wrought for Israel. Jos. 24:31

¹⁹ Thus was Midian subdued, before the sons of Israel, neither did they again lift up their head,—and the land had rest forty years, in the days of Gideon... And it came to pass that, as soon as Gideon was dead, the sons of Israel turned back, and went unchastely astray after the Baals,—and appointed them Baal—berith, to be god: (Ju. 8:28, 33).

leadership they must wait for the person's death to ravage the flock. These individuals, as did Moses, will protect Yahweh's people at all cost even if other people have to die, which can be a purge of wickedness. Moses said "...Who is for Yahweh? ...To me! Then gathered unto him all the sons of Levi. And he said to them—Thus, saith Yahweh, Elohim of Israel, Put ye every man his sword upon his thigh,—pass through and return, from gate to gate, in the camp, and slay ye every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbour" (Ex. 32:26-27). Yahowyada acted in a similar manner as Moses; "And Yahowyada the priest gave unto the captains of hundreds, the spears and the bucklers and the shields, which belonged to King David,—which were in the house of Elohim. And he caused all the people to stand, even every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right corner of the house as far as the left corner of the house, by the altar and the house,—near the king round about" (2 Ch. 23:9-10). The Apostle Paul, when he saw that people were not walking with straightforwardness as regardeth the truth of the glad-message, reproveth the Apostle Peter to the face before the brethren as did Moses to Aaron.²⁰ Many good and righteous individuals, such as Aaron, are loved and liked but they are not feared. These individuals can be manipulated by the masses, even though they are righteous, such as was Aaron.²¹ On the other hand Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Yahowyada and Paul were men who were loved and feared but probably were not liked by the masses because of their unmovable stand on the Word of Yahweh! How many leaders today would tell their congregation to deliver one of their members "...unto Satan, for the destruction of the flesh,—that, the spirit, may be saved in the day of the Lord," as did the Apostle Paul by revelation. The two witnesses in the book of Revelations will be men of such caliber, who will take on the wickedness of the world.²² Elijah was also such an individual who stood uncompromising upon the Word of Yahweh, who had the prophets of Baal killed. We need more of such men, who like Yahowyada, will probably not be liked but they will be greatly feared by those who are workers of unrighteousness. Workers of unrighteousness will say, as did Athaliah, "...Conspiracy! Conspiracy" (2 Ch. 23:13) but Yahweh tells us, as he did his servant, Yahshua (Joshua), to be "Firm and Bold!"²³

²⁰ But, when I saw that they were not walking with straightforwardness as regardeth the truth of the glad-message, I said unto Cephas, before all: If, thou, although, a Jew, like them of the nations, and not like the Jews, dost live, how dost thou compel, them of the nations, to live like Jews? (Gal. 2:14)

²¹ And, when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him—Up, make for us gods, who shall go before us, for, as for this Moses—the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we know not what hath befallen him. And Aaron said unto them, Break off the rings of gold, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters,—and bring them unto me. (Ex. 32:1-2)

²² And, if any one, upon them, chooseth to inflict injury, fire, cometh forth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies; and, if anyone shall choose, upon them, to inflict injury, thus, must he be slain. (Rev. 11:5)

²³ Jos 1:6, 7, 9, 18