FAITHFULNESS In The DAY OF PROVIDENCE

Follow God’s Unbroken Promises even to swim with broken pieces of the ship

(Acts 27:22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. 23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. 25 Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. 44 And the rest, some on boards, and some on broken pieces of the ship. And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land.)

Follow God’s Unbroken Promises even to restore unwanted land.

1Ki 9:11 (Now Hiram the king of Tyre had furnished Solomon with cedar trees and fir trees, and with gold, according to all his desire,) that then king Solomon gave Hiram twenty cities in the land of Galilee.

12 And Hiram came out from Tyre to see the cities which Solomon had given him; and they pleased him not. {pleased him not...: Heb. were not right in his eyes}

13 And he said, What cities are these which thou hast given me, my brother? And he called them the land of Cabul unto this day. {Cabul: that is, displeasing, or, dirty}

14 And Hiram sent to the king sixscore talents of gold.

These twenty cities lay in the northwest of Galilee. Though included within the limits of the promised land, they had never been conquered.

Solomon granted to Huram The right of occupying these twenty cities who, after consideration, refused them as unsuitable to the commercial habits of his subjects. {Cabul: that is, displeasing, or, dirty}

Solomon, having wrested them from the possession of the Canaanite inhabitants, repaired them and filled them with a colony of Hebrews.

2Ch 8:2 That the cities which Huram had restored to Solomon, Solomon built them, and caused the children of Israel to dwell there.

Le 25:39 ¶ And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:

2Ch 8:7 As for all the people that were left of the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which were not of Israel,

8 But of their children, who were left after them in the land, whom the children of Israel consumed not, them did Solomon make to pay tribute until this day. 9 But of the children of Israel did Solomon make no servants for his work; but they were men of war, and chief of his captains, and captains of his chariots and horsemen.

1Ki 9:22 But of the children of Israel **did Solomon make** no bondmen: **but they were** (I Kings 9:20-21**)** men of war, and his servants, and his princes, and his captains, and rulers of his chariots, and his horsemen.

23 These were the chief of the officers that were over Solomon's work, five hundred and fifty, which bare rule over the people that wrought in the work.

24 But Pharaoh's daughter came up out of the city of David unto her house which Solomon had built for her: then did he build Millo.

25 And three times in a year did Solomon offer burnt offerings and peace offerings upon the altar which he built unto the LORD, and he burnt incense upon the altar that was before the LORD. So he finished the house.

26 And king Solomon made a navy of ships in Eziongeber, which is beside Eloth, on the shore of the Red sea, in the land of Edom.

27 And Hiram sent in the navy his servants, shipmen that had knowledge of the sea, with the servants of Solomon.

28 And they came to Ophir, and fetched from thence gold, four hundred and twenty talents, and brought it to king Solomon.

1Ch 29:3 Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house, 4 Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal:

Look at the heart David had for the House of God.

Look what David had of his own for the Lord's house.

2Ch 9:21 For the king's ships went to Tarshish with the servants of Huram: every three years once came the ships of Tarshish bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

22 And king Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. 23 And all the kings of the earth sought the presence of Solomon, to hear his wisdom, that God had put in his heart.

24 And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, harness, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate year by year.

27 And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycomore trees that are in the low plains in abundance.

1Ki 22:48 Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for **the ships were broken** at Eziongeber.

Solomon's ships returned in safety, but Jehoshaphat's vessels never reached the land of gold.

Providence prospers one, and frustrates the desires of another, in the same business and at the same spot, yet the Great Ruler is as good and wise at one time as another.

Bless the Lord for ships broken at Ezion-geber, as well as for vessels freighted with temporal blessings; let us not envy the more successful, nor murmur at our losses as though we were singularly and specially tried. Like Jehoshaphat, we may be precious in the Lord's sight, although our schemes end in disappointment.

1. The Secret Cause of Solomon’s Gain.
   1. Is there a Cause for Solomon’s Gain?
      1. Solomon and His men had a desire to worship the name of the Lord in the Temple.

1Ki 9:3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

* + 1. Wisdom and understanding giving by God

1Ki 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

2Ch 1:10 Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

Job 28:12 But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? 16 It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. 20 ¶ Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? 23 God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. 28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

* + - * 1. A wise Master builder II Chron. 8:2 (I Cor. 3:10)
        2. Solomon was willing to pay the price to pray.

1Ki 9:3 And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

* + - * 1. Would not build on greed but wisdom.

1. The Secret Cause of Jehoshaphat's loss?

IS THERE NOT A CAUSE!!!

1Sa 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

There is a Cause to Win

There is a cause to expose.

* 1. Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahaziah
  2. God stops some from joining company with idolaters and wicked men.
     1. It was an alliance with a sinful family.
     2. It was fellowship with sinners.
  3. This was a Godly -(Fatherly) Chastisement.
  4. A warning to the rest of the Lord's people.
     1. To avoid being unequally yoked together with unbelievers!
        1. In Marriage or a lifelong misery.
        2. In Career or a lifelong brokenness.
        3. In Friendship or a lifelong chastening.

2Ch 20:18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

2Ch 20:20 ¶ And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

2Ch 20:25 And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found **among them** in abundance both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

2Ch 20:37 Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because thou hast joined thyself with Ahaziah, the LORD hath broken thy works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish.

The root of very much of the suffering of the Lord's people; is alliance with a sinful family or fellowship with sinners.

This was a fatherly chastisement, which appears to have been blest to him; we find him refusing to allow his servants to sail in the same vessels with those of the wicked king. Would to God that Jehoshaphat's experience might be a warning to the rest of the Lord's people, to avoid being unequally yoked together with unbelievers!

A life of misery is usually the lot of those who are united in marriage, or in any other way of their own choosing, with the men of the world. O for such love to Jesus that, like Him, we may be holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners; for if it be not so with us, we may expect to hear it often said, "The Lord hath broken thy works."

Heb 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Isa 23:1 ¶ The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tarshish; for it is laid waste, so that there is no house, no entering in: from the land of Chittim it is revealed to them.

14 Howl, ye ships of Tarshish: for your strength is laid waste.

Isa 60:9 Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.

Isa 55:5 Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

1Ti 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Setting an evil example before our children is a terrible legacy to leave them. For if we walk in sin and wickedness, most likely our children will follow our example and live sinful and wicked lives. This is a terrible indictment against many of us, for it means that…

•  if we live immoral lives, our children will be more prone to commit fornication and adultery

•  if we pop pills, take drugs, and drink alcoholic beverages, our children will most likely pop pills, take drugs, and drink alcoholic beverages

•  if we lie, steal, and cheat, our children will probably lie, steal, and cheat

•  if we live lives of greed and covetousness, ever grasping after more and more, our children will be inclined to live lives of greed and covetousness

•  if we complain, grumble, and gossip, undoubtedly our children will complain, grumble, and gossip

•  if we curse and use profane, off-colored, and vulgar language, our children will no doubt curse and use profane, off-colored, and vulgar language

•  if we overeat and commit the sin of gluttony, in all probability our children will overeat and commit the sin of gluttony

No matter what sin or wickedness we commit, if we had continued the pattern of that sin or wickedness, most likely our children would follow our example or effected by our wrong. This is one of the reasons God constantly warns us against living lives of ungodliness and unrighteousness.

1)  Look at the examples given by Holy Scripture of evil parents who influenced their children to do evil:

 And she [Salome], being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger (Matthew 14:8).

And he [Ahaziah] did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin (1 Kings 22:52).

And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned. Forty and two years old *was* Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also *was* Athaliah the daughter of Omri. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the Lord like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction (2 Chron. 22:1-4).

And the Lord saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, *even* this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them (Jeremiah 9:13-16).

Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away *the punishment* thereof; because they have despised the law of the Lord, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked (Amos 2:4).

2)  Listen to what the Word of God says about the duties of parents:

And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephes. 6:4).

Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger,* lest they be discouraged (Col. 3:21).

One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity (1 Tim. 3:4).

Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well (1 Tim. 3:12).

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children (Titus 2:4)

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up (Deut. 6:6-7).

Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also *was a* very goodly *man;* and *his mother* bare him after Absalom (1 Kings 1:5-6).

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6).

For the grave cannot praise thee, death can *not* celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I *do* this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth" (Isaiah 38:18-19).