

GOD'S MAN AGAINST THE MAJORITY - PART 1

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The "Majority Rules" Tactic, A "You Versus Them" Situation, Error Of Presuming To Speak For The Majority, They Speak In Generalities With No Real Substance, Grievous Wolves On The Social Networks, The Erroneous Belief That The Majority Is Always Right, "A Way That Seemeth Right Unto A Man" Versus Matthew 7:13-14, "For Many Are Called, But Few Are Chosen", The Scriptures Are Our Final Authority Concerning Christian Doctrine, Be Fully Persuaded In Your Own Mind And Stand Fast, Firmly Anchored To God's Solid Word, Buffeted By Opinions Of Men And The Winds Of False Doctrines, The Rock Of God's Word, Jesus Is The Living Word And Our Foundation Stone, Biblical Examples Of God's Servants Who Had To Stand Alone, Moses And The Rebellious Israelites, Apostasy Of The Israelites, Isaiah Called Out The Rebellious Israelites Who Thought To Escape To Egypt, "Speak Unto Us Smooth Things Prophecy Deceits", They Wanted To Be Deceived, Jeremiah Stood Alone And Prophesied To Rebellious Israel, "My People Love To Have It So", Jeremiah Was False Accused And Thrown Into Prison For Daring To Speak The Truth To The Jews, My Poem And Song "Prophet Jeremiah"

As many of my friends will know, one of the tactics which some people will sometimes use in order to try to pressure you into accepting their particular point of view as the only legitimate perspective, is what we might refer to as the "majority rules" tactic. In other words, they will try to shame and embarrass you, and attempt to make it appear as if you are the only person to see something, and to believe something, a certain way. They will try to isolate you from everybody else, and make you appear like the oddball rebel who doesn't know what he is talking about.

In other words, what they will basically do is create a "you versus them" situation by saying something similar to "Well, nobody else believes like that. I have never ever heard that before. This is the first time I am ever hearing this. Are you saying that everyone else is wrong and that you are the only one who is right?" And on and on they go with that sly

method of attack. You see? They are trying to embarrass you. Such accusers will freely and frequently bandy about words such as "nobody", "everybody", and "no one" in order to make you feel like you are in the minority.

In short, such people presume to speak for the majority. Yet oddly enough, they constantly speak in generalities, and they NEVER provide any facts or figures to substantiate their own weak position. As far as the who, what, where, when and why are concerned, you can just forget it! Their entire argument rides on their misguided belief that because they are in the majority -- at least so they claim -- therefore they must be right, while you are clearly wrong. To such people, it is a constant game of psychological manipulation using a barrage of negative words in order to try to wear you down.

They will laugh at you, mock you, resort to name-calling and other such childish tactics and nonsense, but you will notice that rarely will they actually address the valid points which you have brought up during the discussion. That is, of course, if one can even refer to it as a two-way discussion occurring between two intelligent people. Now, how many times have you personally been confronted with that kind of situation before? I know that I have on multiple occasions over the years. As many of my readers will already know, such behavior is rampant on the social networks. The wolves abound everywhere, and they are just waiting to pounce on some unsuspecting sheep, so be on guard, my friends. I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul said in the Book of Acts, as well as a few other related verses:

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."
Acts 20:29, KJV

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."
Matthew 7:15, KJV

"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."
Matthew 10:16, KJV

"Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves."
Luke 10:3, KJV

So the wolves are indeed real, and the threat they can pose to us is real as well. However, here is the thing, folks. If you really stop and think about it, you come to realize that not only does this often used "you versus them" or "majority rules" tactic solve nothing, but it is in fact a misguided approach. So why do I say this? Because this tactic is based on the erroneous assumption that the majority is inexorably and always right, which is clearly and obviously not always the case whatsoever. Is it? Yet despite this plain truth, so many people resort to using it anyway if it helps them to win an argument.

My friends, this shouldn't really need to be said. After all, it should already be obvious to many of you that the simple fact of the matter is that just because one million people believe something to be true or right, does not necessarily make it so. They can still be dead wrong. If you doubt that this is so, simply look around this country and take stock of how many sickening and ungodly things are now being supported and promoted because a majority of folks have come to believe that there's nothing wrong with them. So a million people can believe something with all their hearts, souls and minds, and yet can still be so very wrong. In fact, unbeknownst to them, they could even very well be on their merry way to Hell. Now consider the following group of Bible verses and take heed:

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Proverbs 14:12, KJV

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Proverbs 16:25, KJV

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

In short, my friends, trying to play the numbers game, or the "majority is always right" card in order to try to prove that you are right while some other person is wrong, is not always going to work. It may work on certain weak people, but not on all of them. Let me remind you that all of the people who the Lord mentioned in Matthew 7:13-14 -- who were the majority --

also thought that they were right. They were quite convinced that they were on the right path. They thought that they had the truth. Nevertheless, look at where they eventually ended up. They went through the wrong door and met with their very own destruction. In that particular case, I am reminded of the following verse:

"For many are called, but few are chosen."

Matthew 22:14, KJV

In fact, back in August of 2012, I wrote an article with the very same title. You will find it listed at the end of this same series. So my point is this: As a wise, Bible-believing Christian, when someone tries to pull this same stunt on you by saying "You can't possibly be right, because all of these other people are saying so-and-so," please remember that it does not matter what I say, or what you say, but only what the Holy Scriptures say. They are our final authority when it comes to Christian doctrine. Again, here are a few verses to confirm this point:

"GOD IS NOT A MAN, THAT HE SHOULD LIE; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, MY COUNSEL SHALL STAND, AND I WILL DO ALL MY PLEASURE:"

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD ABOVE ALL THY NAME."

Psalms 138:2, KJV

". . . FOR EVER, O LORD, THY WORD IS SETTLED IN HEAVEN . . . Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word . . . Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever."

Psalms 119:89, 14, 160, KJV

"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, IT SHALL BE FOR EVER: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which

hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been;
and God requireth that which is past."

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15, KJV

"God forbid: yea, LET GOD BE TRUE, but every man a liar; as
it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy
sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."

Romans 3:4, KJV

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is
profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for
instruction in righteousness:"

2 Timothy 3:16, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, THAT CANNOT LIE,
promised before the world began;"

Titus 1:2, KJV

"We have also A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY; whereunto ye do
well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a
dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in
your hearts . . . For the prophecy came not in old time by
the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were
moved by the Holy Ghost."

2 Peter 1:19, 21, KJV

Thus, if as a wise Christian you have already conducted your
due diligence by carefully examining the Scriptures, and if
after doing so you have arrived at a certain conclusion, and
you're fully persuaded that it is true, sound and Biblically
correct, then strive to be humble about it, but do NOT allow
anyone to knock you from your perch, regardless of the silly
tactics they may try to use against you. As the Apostle Paul
admonished his readers in the fourteenth chapter of his
Epistle to the Romans:

"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth
every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own
mind."

Romans 14:5, KJV

As some of my longtime readers will know, I embrace certain
views -- particularly regarding the interpretation of Bible
prophecy -- which some Christians have a hard time accepting.
In fact, they don't accept them at all, because they've been
deceived by the doctrine known as Futurism, as I more amply
explain in other articles, such as "Fight Against Futurism".

Now, if I wanted to make friends and be politically correct, I could very easily soften my tone. However, I won't do that for the sake of being popular or well-accepted by my peers. That is just not me. I am more interested in the Scriptural truth than in bowing to peer pressure.

What about you, my friend? Are you likewise willing to stand your ground come hell or high water? Do you have conviction regarding what you believe? Do you stand fast in the faith? Are you able to resist the taunts and false accusations made by those who claim to be your brethren in the Lord, or will you buckle under pressure? Following are some Bible verses for your inspiration and encouragement:

"Therefore, brethren, STAND FAST, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."
2 Thessalonians 2:15, KJV

"Watch ye, STAND FAST in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."
1 Corinthians 16:13, KJV

"STAND FAST therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage [meaning Jewish legalism]."
Galatians 5:1, KJV

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye STAND FAST in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"
Philippians 1:27, KJV

"Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so STAND FAST in the Lord, my dearly beloved."
Philippians 4:1, KJV

"For now we live, if ye STAND FAST in the Lord."
1 Thessalonians 3:8, KJV

You know, the thing about standing fast is that in order to even do that, you need to make sure that you are standing on solid ground to begin with. In other words, you need to make certain that you are firmly anchored in God's Word, and NOT in the false, popular doctrines of men. Your house of beliefs

must be built upon the rock of the Scriptures, and NOT on the sand of the ever-changing doctrines of men. The Lord himself warned in the Gospels of what would happen to those who build on the wrong foundation. That house would be swept away by the rising water. In this case, the flood can symbolize all of the opinions of the people who oppose you, and the winds of false doctrines which buffet you. The Apostles Peter and Paul knew of such things. Thus, they wrote accordingly:

"That we henceforth be no more children, TOSSED TO AND FRO, AND CARRIED ABOUT WITH EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"
Ephesians 4:14-15, KJV

"BE NOT CARRIED ABOUT WITH DIVERS AND STRANGE DOCTRINES. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."
Hebrews 13:9, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to SEDUCING SPIRITS, AND DOCTRINES OF DEVILS;"
1 Timothy 4:1, KJV

So as I just explained to you, in order for us to effectively stand strong against the winds of adversity and the misguided opinions of those people who resist you -- sometimes including even our very own Christian brethren -- we need to be firmly anchored in, and stand upon, the solid truth of God's Word. If we fail to do this, we may be swept away. Furthermore, we know that Jesus is the Rock and the Living Word of God, as we see by the following group of Bible verses:

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST."
1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 3:11, KJV

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in

our eyes."

Psalms 118:22-23, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Matthew 21:42, KJV

"And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Mark 12:10-11, KJV

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

Acts 4:11, KJV

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed [that is disapproved, rejected, repudiated] indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

1 Peter 2:4-8, KJV

As I have mentioned on previous occasions, upon examining the Bible, we discover that many of the Lord's servants had no choice but to stand alone in the face of adversity. Sadly, in many instances, the resistance came from the very people they were trying to save. Just look at the stubborn and rebellious people that Moses had to lead who were constantly whining and complaining, until that older generation died in the desert. In fact, the day eventually arrived when Moses was so sick of their constant rebellion that he complained before the Lord. Consider the following group of Bible verses:

"Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this

place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD. Also in Horeb ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you . . . Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you."
Deuteronomy 9:7-8, 24, KJV

"Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?"
Deuteronomy 31:26-27, KJV

"And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?"
Numbers 11:11-12, KJV

This very same stubborn and rebellious attitude likewise had to be confronted and dealt with by many of God's servants in the future who prophesied of coming chastisement and terrible destruction, unless the people chose to repent. Whether we are talking about Isaiah, Jeremiah, Elijah, John the Baptist, the Apostle Peter or Jesus, to name a few, in the end, they were all forced to stand alone against the sinful majority, as God's lone voice of truth to the backslidden people of Israel.

Thus, tragically, many centuries after the time of Moses, the Israelites STILL continued in their rebellion against God. As I amply explain in a number of other BBB articles, their apostasy grew so great that they even worshipped the false gods of the pagan nations that surrounded them, and sacrificed their very own children to them. Thus, as I fully explain in the series "The Fruits of Disobedience", time and time again, God used those very foreign nations and their armies as His tools of punishment against the Israelites.

Well, as you may know, the threat of war between the Syrians and the Israelites was on the horizon once again. In fact, cross-border skirmishes had been the case since the days of King David and his son, Solomon. However, the coming war was

going to be a major invasion by Assyria. Thus, just as they would again try to do some one hundred and fifty years later during the time of Prophet Jeremiah, some of those rebellious Israelites thought that they could escape the Lord's judgment against them by seeking refuge down in Egypt. Of course, the Lord was privy to their evil intentions, and He called out their rebellion through the Prophet Isaiah, as we see here:

"Woe to the REBELLIOUS CHILDREN, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion . . . Now go, write it before them in a table, and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: That THIS IS A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the LORD: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, PROPHECY NOT UNTO US RIGHT THINGS, SPEAK UNTO US SMOOTH THINGS, PROPHECY DECEITS:"
Isaiah 30:1-3, 8-10, KJV

"I have spread out my hands all the day unto A REBELLIOUS PEOPLE, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;"
Isaiah 65:2, KJV

Do you see that? They were so deceived, and so rebellious, that they basically told the Prophets to keep quiet, and to not even prophesy to them, if all they were going to do was to speak gloom and doom and coming judgement against them. In their foolish deception, they only wanted to hear nice, kind, smooth things. They wanted to be deceived. Wow! Does that sound familiar? Does it kind of sound like the modern false prosperity preachers who promise abundance, wealth and the blessings of God on America?

Sadly, despite that Syrian invasion which resulted in many thousands of Israelites being deported to other provinces of the Assyrian Empire -- and the Israelite bloodline also being polluted with foreign blood in northern Israel -- as I mentioned a moment ago, over a century later, those Jews were STILL in rebellion against the Lord. Thus, God raised up a young Prophet by the name of Jeremiah, who prophesied and warned them for about forty years, until the Babylonians

under King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem three times. It was during the final siege that Jerusalem and the temple met their destruction in about 587 BC.

But aside from their outright rebellion and apostasy -- which Jeremiah duly pointed out to them -- what really amazes me is the fact that just as their brethren had done over a century earlier, those people wanted to be deceived. They already knew that their prophets were prophesying falsely to them when they spoke of peace. They already knew that the Babylonians would eventually launch an assault against Israel and Jerusalem, but they simply did NOT want to hear that. They wanted to hear all the lies from their false prophets. They wanted to hear those very same, smooth, lying words. As the verses below state, "My people love to have it so." Wow!:

"But this people hath A REVOLTING AND A REBELLIOUS HEART; they are revolted and gone . . . The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and MY PEOPLE LOVE TO HAVE IT SO: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

Jeremiah 5:23, 31, KJV

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry . . . "

1 Samuel 15:23, KJV

Considering the stiff warning message that Jeremiah preached, it is no wonder that he was hated by the people, or that all of the false prophets ganged up against him and accused him of being both a false prophet, and a traitor to his very own nation. As I explain in other BBB articles, and likewise in my poem below, eventually, dear Jeremiah was cast into prison and even thrown into a mud pit after that. Thankfully, he was eventually rescued by the Ethiopian slave named Ebedmelech:

PROPHET JEREMIAH

by Bill Kochman

01-09-2017

Once there was a Prophet named Jeremiah,
That boy loved his people so very deep,
But when that young lad began to prophesy,
They told him "Don't you dare make a peep!"

You see, Jeremiah was the Lord's true seer,
Not like false prophets politicians love,
So once that poor boy gave the Lord's Word,
The people's push soon turned into shove.

Those fools accused him of being a traitor,
"How unpatriotic!" they all cried out loud,
From there the situation only grew worse,
As angry murmurs spread throughout the crowd.

They were so happy with their false priests,
Thus they claimed Jer's words were not true,
Next, they shoved God's Prophet into prison,
Now what was dear Jeremiah supposed to do?

But the ire of nonbelievers was yet kindled,
The prison court simply would not suffice,
So full of rage they threw him in a mud pit,
By now poor Jeremiah wasn't feeling too nice.

But one eunuch believed in God's true Prophet,
Ebedmelech the Ethiopian was that man's name,
He approached the king and pleaded for mercy,
And thus thirty helpful men to Jeremiah came.

You may already know the end of this story,
Prophet Jeremiah was vindicated by the Lord,
About forty years after he began prophesying,
Nebuchadnezzar arrived with a terrible sword.

If you are interested in hearing my song version of this
same poem, please proceed to the URL below. Thanks!:

<https://www.billkochman.com/Poetry/prophet-jeremiah.html>

So as you can see, similar to all of the other Prophets who
came before him -- and who would come after him -- which the
Lord sent to Israel over literally centuries to warn them to
repent of their rebellion -- Jeremiah stood alone. He was
one righteous man, one lonely voice against the much greater
sinful majority. And yet, just like the other Prophets, he
stood his ground, even when it brought him nothing but a lot
of hatred, persecution and personal inconvenience.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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GOD'S MAN AGAINST THE MAJORITY - PART 2

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Prophet Elijah Challenges And Slays 450 False Prophets Of Baal On Mount Carmel, Evil Queen Jezebel Swore Her Revenge Against Elijah, Elijah Flees To Mount Horeb Seeking Refuge In A Cave, Desperate And Left All Alone, Elijah And Elisha Prophesy The Deaths of Both Ahab and Jezebel, The Prophecy Is Fulfilled When Jezebel Is Slain And Eaten By Dogs, Mark Of A True Prophet Is When Their Words Are Fulfilled, Ahab Determines To Wage War Against The King Of Syria, His False Prophets Promise Victory In Battle While Micaiah Prophesies That Ahab Will Die, Micaiah Was Not Politically Correct And Went Against The Majority Opinion, Modern Attitudes Are No Different, Peace Peace When There Is No Peace, The Parallel Histories Of Jerusalem's Destruction, General Titus And The First Jewish-Roman War, Same Level Of Deception In 587 BC And 70 AD, Ahab's False Prophets Deceived By A Lying Spirit, "I Also Will Choose Their Delusions", "God Shall Send Them Strong Delusion", Prophecy Is Fulfilled When Ahab Is Slain In Battle And His Blood Lapped Up By Dogs, "Touch Not Mine Anointed And Do My Prophets No Harm", Requirements For Being A True Messenger Of God, More New Testament Examples Of Men Who Stood Against Popular Opinion: John The Baptist Stephen Apostles Peter, "We Ought To Obey God Rather Than Men", The Lord's Prophecy Concerning The Apostle Peter's Future Death

Continuing our discussion from part one, and going back many decades before Jeremiah arrived on the scene, another bold Prophet of God who eventually found himself standing alone was the Prophet Elijah. After embarrassing the four hundred and fifty false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel -- Elijah challenged them to make a sacrifice to their false god Baal, and then killed them on top of it all -- Elijah was a very

wanted man. As you may possibly know, wicked King Ahab and his equally evil and vile queen, Jezebel, were on quite the killing spree. In fact, Jezebel's hands were covered in the blood of many of the Lord's Prophets who she had slain. It seems that that pair just did not want God's Word heard in Israel.

Well, as was to be expected, after Elijah slew the prophets of Baal following their failed attempt to even attract the attention of their false god, murderous Queen Jezebel was on a rampage. In fact, she swore to herself that she would not rest until she had taken her vengeance and the Prophet Elijah was killed. You can read the full story in 1 Kings 18 for all of the details. But due to the threat against his life, the Scriptures inform us that Elijah was forced to flee for his life. Eventually, the Prophet found refuge in a cave on Mount Horeb, which is also known as Mount Sinai. Following is part of the story where Elijah complains to the Lord that he is the only one left of all of the Prophets of Israel:

"And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a days journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God. And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, EVEN I ONLY, AM LEFT; and they seek my life, to take it away."

1 Kings 19:1-10, KJV

As if dear Prophet Elijah's life wasn't already tough enough, only two chapters later God commanded him to prophesy against both King Ahab and his bloodthirsty queen Jezebel. Oh my! Can you just imagine if God commanded you to go to the president, king, prime minister or sheik of your country, and prophesy against them to their very face? Would you be able to do it? Or would you cower in fear and say, "Nope! Sorry, Lord, but that is not for me to do."? Such was not the case with Elijah. He did exactly as he was commanded to do, as we can determine by the following group of Bible verses:

"And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin. And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

1 Kings 21:17-24, KJV

As we read in 2 Kings chapter nine, Jezebel was eventually -- and intentionally -- pushed from a tower, and her body was consumed by the dogs, even before it could be recovered so that she might receive a proper burial, being as she was the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Zidonians. Furthermore, after Elijah's special prophetic anointing was transferred to his successor -- Elisha -- at the time when Elijah was taken up to Heaven in a fiery chariot being drawn by a team of heavenly horses, we are informed that Elisha sent one of the younger Prophets to prophesy again against the house of Ahab, and against Queen Jezebel, as we see by the following

group of verses:

"And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead: And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber; Then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not. So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead. And when he came, behold, the captains of the host were sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain. And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel. And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel: And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah: And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. And he opened the door, and fled."

2 Kings 9:1-10, KJV

In the closing verses of that very same chapter, we find the actual fulfillment of the Lord's words, as had been spoken by both Elijah and Elisha, as we see here:

"And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the

palms of her hands. Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.

2 Kings 9:30-37, KJV

As I point out in articles such as "The Office of Prophets and Teachers", the mark of a true Prophet of God is clearly when their prophetic words are fulfilled to the very letter, as occurred in this particular case. Consider the following related Bible verses:

"And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."

Ezekiel 33:33, KJV

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."

Deuteronomy 18:20-22, KJV

Regarding the two prophecies which were spoken against Ahab, this leads us directly into the story of yet another one of God's true and faithful Prophets who dared to speak contrary to the politically correct, majority opinion of the day. His name was Micaiah, and similar to the Prophet Jeremiah years later, he too was maligned by the false prophets who served under King Ahab. As the account is related in the Scriptures, Ahab had determined to fight against Ben-hadad, who was the king of Syria, and whom Ahab had defeated in battle on a few previous occasions.

Well, for this purpose, King Ahab decided to form a military alliance with Jehoshaphat, who was the king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. This was, of course, during the time of the Divided Kingdom, after ten tribes had already been taken from the house of King David as a chastisement from the Lord, due to the terrible sins which had been committed by King Solomon.

I explain this issue in more detail in other BBB articles. At any rate, being as he was a very cautious and righteous king who feared the Lord, Jehoshaphat suggested to Ahab that they inquire of the Lord first regarding the matter. Upon seeking counsel from four hundred of King Ahab's politically-correct, false prophets, consider what those deceivers said to the king:

"Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king."

1 Kings 22:6, KJV

My friends, consider for a moment the position those prophets were in, and the person they were serving. Perhaps they really wanted to speak the truth, but they also realized that given what kind of king Ahab was, they might possibly lose their own heads if they spoke something negative which the king did not want to hear. Well, not being satisfied with their response, King Jehoshaphat wisely made further inquiry. King Ahab then informed King Jehoshaphat that there was another Prophet by the name of Micaiah. However, Ahab did not particularly care for Micaiah, because he never prophesied anything positive for the king, as we see by the following two Bible verses:

"And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so."

1 Kings 22:7-8, KJV

In other words, my friends, similar to Elijah, Jeremiah and other true Prophets of God, Micaiah went against the grain, and he was NOT politically correct. As such, he was simply not willing to compromise God's truth by speaking the false, smooth, deceptive words that we discussed earlier. He wasn't willing to candy coat the truth just to please and appease the king by telling him what he obviously wanted to hear. In short, Micaiah went against majority opinion, which in this case was represented by Ahab's four hundred false prophets.

The fact that Micaiah was a true Prophet of God was not the least bit important to King Ahab. He preferred to be lied to

by his politically-correct false prophets. Do you remember what I shared with you in part one? In the Book of Jeremiah, God plainly said "My people love to have it so." Ahab was no different either. He had absolutely no interest whatsoever in the truth. Why not? Because his mind was already made up. In other words, my friends, regardless of what the Lord may have thought regarding the matter, King Ahab was quite determined to foolishly go up and fight against King Ben-hadad, under the false assumption that he would be able to defeat him yet again, as he had done on previous occasions.

At first, Micaiah was somewhat hesitant to reveal the truth. Thus, initially, he chose to lie to the two kings. However, after being prodded by King Jehoshaphat, the Prophet finally informed them that Ahab would in fact be defeated and killed by the Syrian army. King Ahab's response to this unnerving prophecy was -- as was to be expected -- the following:

"And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?"

1 Kings 22:18, KJV

Sadly, Ahab's reaction is typical of some people today who likewise hate God's true messengers, and who accuse them of being false prophets of doom and destruction. These people also prefer to be lied to by their phony psychics and their New Age false prophets and gurus, who continue to promote their lies regarding peace and safety and human enhancement to a feel-good, politically correct, materialistic society. In contrast, because they dare to speak the truth and defy majority opinion, God's true messengers of today also face persecution and ridicule, just like Jeremiah, Micaiah and many other true Prophets of old.

However, as if time had somehow stood still for almost seven hundred years after the Prophet Jeremiah had boldly exposed the lie of the false prophets who prophesied "peace, please" to the deceived Jerusalemites, consider now what the Apostle Paul wrote regarding the false prophets of his own time who likewise preferred to lull people to sleep with their smooth and deceptive words of peace, comfort and well-being. Not only does Paul sound just like the Prophet Jeremiah, but the aftermath was exactly the same as well, as I will explain to you in a minute:

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden

destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

1 Thessalonians 5:3, KJV

"For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, PEACE, PEACE; WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE."

Jeremiah 6:13-14, KJV

"Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, PEACE, PEACE; WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE."

Jeremiah 8:10-11, KJV

In other words, my friends, as had occurred in Jeremiah's day, Jerusalem and the temple compound were again destroyed in 70 AD. This tragic event resulted from the commencement of what historians now refer to as the First Jewish-Roman War, or the Great Jewish Revolt. This terrible war began in 66 AD, and ended seven years later in 73 AD. It was exactly in the middle of that terrible war in 70 AD, that prophecy was fulfilled to the letter when Jerusalem and the temple were utterly destroyed a second time by the Roman legions, under the leadership of General Titus. Titus was the son of Emperor Vespasian, and a future emperor himself. You will find these historical events discussed in considerably more detail in other BBB articles.

In particular, I urge you to please consider reading both my 25-part series entitled "Vespasian, Titus and the Fall of Jerusalem", as well as the series "The Great Tribulation and the Rapture". I invested a huge amount of time and energy in writing them, and I think you will learn so much if you take the time to read them. You will find them both listed at the end of this same series with clickable links.

As we previously discussed in part one of this series, prior to the total destruction of Jerusalem and the temple compound by the forces of Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, the people purposely wanted to be deceived by both their political and their religious leaders. They did NOT want to hear the truth.

When I took months to study the works of Flavius Josephus and wrote the aforementioned series, I discovered that the very same misguided attitude existed in Jerusalem centuries later during the First Jewish-Roman War. The Zealots, Sicarii and other riffraff who controlled the city were totally convinced that they could not only hold off the Romans, but even defeat them as well. Such was the depth of their personal deception.

In the case of King Ahab, Micaiah then went on to reveal how the Lord had purposely sent a lying spirit to speak through the mouths of the four hundred false prophets. Why would the Lord do such a thing? Well, as the old saying goes, a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. The Lord knew that it was useless to try to change Ahab's mind. I am sure He could have if He had really wanted to, but that would have interfered with King Ahab's freedom of personal choice. Thus, just as the Lord had spoken through the mouth of the Prophet Isaiah many years before, He purposely chose Ahab's delusion for him. Consider this rather enlightening verse. Likewise consider what the Apostle Paul also wrote concerning the very same deception which plagued the people of Jerusalem as the First Jewish-Roman War drew near:

"I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."
Isaiah 66:4, KJV

". . . because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"
2 Thessalonians 2:10-11, KJV

After being further abused for daring to speak the truth, just like the Prophet Jeremiah, Micaiah was also thrown into prison. However, guess what? In complete fulfillment of the words which had been spoken by Elijah, Elisha and Micaiah as well, this tragic story concludes with King Ahab being slain in battle. Thus, all three men were vindicated, and verified and confirmed as true Prophets of God. Not only was Ahab's blood in fact lapped up by the dogs as it was being washed from his chariot, but as we learned earlier, his evil wife, Queen Jezebel, was also eaten up by dogs a short time later. Consider the following verses which describe Ahab's fate:

"And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the

king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake.

1 Kings 22:34-38, KJV

You know, my friends, in thinking about this, it occurs to me that if those wicked leaders had any sense at all, they would have known that resisting, fighting against, and even killing the Lord's Prophets was simply NOT a very smart move. As King David said and wrote many years earlier:

"Then on that day David delivered first this psalm to thank the LORD into the hand of Asaph [David's chief musician] and his brethren . . . Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."

1 Chronicles 16:7, 22, KJV

"Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."
Psalm 105:15, KJV

Clearly then, when a person touches or tries to harm one of God's Prophets, they are really asking for trouble from the Lord, and they just might get it if they are not careful. I advise anyone who is considering engaging in such behavior to stop before you find yourself in the hot seat with God. You have been duly warned.

Thus we see from the examples I have shared in this series -- meaning Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Micaiah and Jeremiah -- that being a true and effective servant and messenger of the Lord often -- and in fact, usually -- requires that a person must firmly stand contrary to majority opinion, be willing to go against the grain, and resist political correctness at all cost. A true messenger of God cannot be weak in faith, lack personal conviction, doubt their mission in this life, or be fearful of personal retribution. He must be willing to put everything on the line, come what may, for the glory of

God.

While I have shared just a few Biblical examples of men who stood resolute against the popular opinions of their day, I hope you realize that I could just as easily go into detail regarding so many other spiritual revolutionaries who dared to challenge the majority opinions of their day. Take John the Baptist, who at the instigation of wicked Herodias and her daughter, lost his head for boldly daring to expose King Herod's sin of adultery, as we see by the following group of verses:

"For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her. And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod. Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask. And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger. And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her. And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus."

Matthew 14:3-12, KJV

Or consider the deacon Stephen who became an early Christian martyr when he was stoned to death because he dared to defy and challenge the Jewish religionists of his day by boldly declaring that God did not dwell in their precious temple in Jerusalem. Consider the following set of Bible verses which reveal the conclusion of that tragic matter:

"Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things? Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law

by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."

Acts 7:48-60, KJV

Then, of course, there is the Apostle Peter. When those same Jewish religionists ordered the Apostles to stop preaching in the name of Jesus Christ, Peter boldly defied them, stood up with the other Apostles, and said the following to them:

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN."

Acts 5:29, KJV

It was not long after that that Peter found himself thrown into prison, only to be miraculously released by an Angel of the Lord. According to church tradition -- this point is NOT specifically mention in the Bible, other than what the Lord says in John 21:18-19 -- Peter was crucified upside-down because he did not feel worthy to be crucified right-side-up as Jesus had been. Consider the following Bible verses:

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me."

John 21:18-19, KJV

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

GOD'S MAN AGAINST THE MAJORITY - PART 3

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The Apostle Paul's Many Afflictions, Paul's Approaching Death,
Jesus' Example As The Ultimate Revolutionary Of Love, My Poem
And Song "Constant Companion", A Challenge, BBB Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part two, and our list of a few of the New Testament figures who also dared to defy the popular majority opinion of their day, let us also remember the Apostle Paul who almost single-handedly turned the Roman world totally upside-down with his constant preaching about Jesus Christ throughout the Roman empire. After seriously persecuting the young Christian Church before encountering Jesus on the road to Damascus, Paul suffered greatly for the cause of Christ, as it had been foretold concerning him. Consider the following group of Bible verses which confirm this point:

"But the Lord said unto him [unto Ananias], Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my names sake."
Acts 9:15-16, KJV

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and

painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands." 2 Corinthians 11:23-33, KJV

Aside from everything else the Apostle Paul had to suffer as he faithfully preached the Gospel of Salvation to many people around the Mediterranean region, after being forced to appear before Emperor Nero on two separate occasions, according to church tradition, that Paul was eventually beheaded, being as he was a Roman citizen. In speaking about his approaching death, Paul wrote the following:

"For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again." Philippians 1:19-26, KJV

"Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all." Philippians 2:16-17, KJV

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there

is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:6-8, KJV

Of course, there is no greater example of a true spiritual revolutionary who dared to challenge the norms and order of his day than Jesus himself who was mocked, ridiculed, spit upon, verbally attacked, beaten, punched, whipped, and as all Christians know, ultimately crucified for the sins of the whole world, so that we might be forgiven, and obtain Redemption and Eternal Life, if we will simply turn to Him in faith. As Jesus himself stated, there is no greater love than for one to give his life for his friends. Thus, as the Apostle Paul wrote, Jesus "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Consider the following group of Bible verses which demonstrate that Jesus was the ultimate revolutionary of love:

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep . . . As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."

John 10:11, 15-18, KJV

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Philippians 2:7-8, KJV

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he [Jesus] laid

down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

1 John 3:16, KJV

In September of 2024, as I pondered how the aforementioned men chose to stand firm against the majority opinion, and how they each faithfully executed their given mission from the Lord, giving their all without reservation, even when doing so meant having to live a solitary life as outcasts, ostracized from the rest of normal society, with only the Lord at their backs as their one constant companion, I was inspired to compose the following poem. I hope you enjoy reading it.

CONSTANT COMPANION

by Bill Kochman

09-02-2024

Throughout the Bible's long history,
Alone holy Prophets seemed to be,
Yet they had a constant companion,
Which the world simply couldn't see.

Wandering over mountains and hills,
Preaching in cities against deep sin,
They'd often encounter the darkness,
Yet God's light burned bright within.

They were known as solitary figures,
Sometimes there was a need to hide,
Though people turned against them,
The Lord remained a continual guide.

Well today it really is not so different,
For God's folks who spread the Word,
Even if you've never really met them,
Their message you have surely heard.

Often they work alone in their rooms,
Writing out a truth God has revealed,
Beyond the loud noises of this world,
By God's Spirit they've been sealed.

So if you count yourself among them,
May God bless you in all that you do,

If you remain faithful for all your days,
He'll reward you when your life is thru.

If you would like to listen to the two song versions of my poem, please proceed to the URL below. I hope you enjoy them:

<https://www.billkochman.com/Poetry/constant-companion.html>

Let me conclude this series with some of my favorite Bible verses regarding the topic of persecution against Christians:

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."
2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"
2 Timothy 2:12, KJV

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."
John 15:18-21, KJV

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."
Matthew 24:9-10, KJV

"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be

hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:12-19, KJV

"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service."

John 16:2, KJV

"And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

Hebrews 11:32-40, KJV

What about you, my friend? Are you willing to give your all for Jesus Christ? Are you willing to forsake whatever may be holding you back, so that you can truly serve Him with all of your heart without distraction? Believe me when I say that there is not a more rewarding, meaningful and fruitful life than serving the Lord. Everything else pales by comparison.

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that

is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?
Are You Clean Every Whit?
Are You Crucified With Christ?
Are You Deceived and Don't Even Know It?
Are You Flexible?
Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution
Do You Seek the Truth or Short-Change Yourself?
Do You Stand Up for Your Faith?
Elijah: Where Are the True Prophets of God?
Exposing the Tactics of the Enemy!
Facebook False Prophets and Misguided Teachers
Fight Against Futurism!
He Who Fights and Runs Away: Choose Your Battles Wisely
Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word
It Is Time to Wake Up!
My Evolving Theology
Please Stop Misinterpreting the Scriptures
Preterist or Futurist? It's All by Faith
Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?
So, You Have Got It All Figured Out, Do You?
The Battle is Not Yours Alone!
The Fruits of Disobedience
The Great Tribulation and the Rapture
The Lord Will Lift You Up
The Office of Prophets and Teachers
The Only Credentials You Need!
The Theologian War and Man Worship
The Wisdom of God Versus the Philosophy of Men
Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?
Understanding the Bible in Context
Vespasian, Titus and the Fall of Jerusalem

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