

# The Old-Time Evangelistic News

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How Will You Be Remembered? (Part 7)

I Kings 14:16; II Kings 12:2; II Kings 18:5

We finished last month considering the slide of Joash that began with *His Listening*. The Bible does not give any details as to what these princes said to Joash, so we can only conjecture about what they said. As with most people who try to get their way, they probably flattered Joash and tried to make him feel that the decision was his. As with most worldly people, they probably commended Jehoiada and said that he did a great thing, but maybe went a little too far. It probably sounded like this—"You don't have to get rid of every false god." Or maybe they tried it another way—"A little image of God would be all right." I do not know exactly what they said, but it caused Joash to turn away from God and away from what he had been taught by Jehoiada. Listening to the wrong people caused Joash to end up in idolatry and destroyed his life and reputation.

As you read through the life of Joash, you cannot help but think that he was a weak man. He was very easily influenced—in the right way by Jehoiada and in the wrong way by the princes. But he was not much different than most any other person in the Bible nor any of us. We are all influenced by what we listen to and to whom we listen. I will not go into discussion about any of these, but just think about people who did wrong because they listened to someone else.

In Genesis 3:1-6, Eve listened to the serpent, gave the fruit to Adam, and mankind was plunged into sin. In Genesis 16:1-4, Abram listened to Sarai and had a child with Hagar, contrary to God's will. Many of the problems that Israel would face as a nation in Scripture, and the problems that the world still faces in the Middle East today, are because of Abram listening to Sarai. II Samuel 13 records that Amnon listened to his cousin, then raped Tamar, resulting in his

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death and the rebellion of Absalom. Solomon listened to his many wives and turned to idolatry as recorded in I Kings 11:1-8. These are just four of many examples of people who did wrong after listening to what others said. This does not excuse their wrongdoing, but shows us how important it is to listen to the right things and the right people. Countless examples could be given of young people who listened to friends and ended up sinning against God. It does matter who you are listening to! They had better be teaching you what the Bible says and not something contrary to the Bible. If you listen to the wrong person long enough, you will eventually be involved in doing wrong.

This idea of listening to the wrong people is evident in Fundamental, Independent Baptist churches today. I had not given it much thought until just a few years ago. I never listened to any preachers except Fundamental preachers whether they were still living or had died years ago. I was reared in the Fundamentalist movement and had come to accept Fundamentalism as the right way to go. I thought everyone who had grown up like me would listen to the same preaching that I had listened to. But after reading a book by R. L. Hymers, my eyes were opened to what many Fundamental preachers my age were doing. Bro. Hymers said that many young fundamentalists were listening to men like John MacArthur. There are others that are prevalent today, but I do not have time to mention them, and since I do not listen to them, their names are easily forgotten. The names do not matter, but what they are teaching does. All of them are prominent New Evangelicals. What does that mean?

To go into great detail would involve a whole sermon by itself, but I will try to summarize. New Evangelicalism began in the late 1940's. They believed for the most part in Biblical salvation, but repudiated separation. Some early New Evangelicals would drift far enough away that they would no longer teach Biblical salvation (Billy Graham and Fuller Theological Seminary are just two examples.) How do they repudiate separation? They say that the type of music that one listens to in church or at home does not matter. This leads

to the acceptance of so-called Christian rock and other forms of unscriptural music. They reject any form of separation from unscriptural preachers and preaching. They try to work together with everybody and exclude no one. That is wrong! I, as a Bible-believing preacher, cannot work together in any way with a Catholic or a liberal Protestant. One who teaches another way of salvation is damning souls to Hell, and I cannot work with them. It is contrary to II Corinthians 6:14-18 and many other verses.

There is much more that could be said, but I must go on to my next point. Before I do, let me say it as clear as I can one more time—BE CAREFUL WHO YOU ARE LISTENING TO! If the preacher on the radio or TV is not a Fundamentalist who preaches and practices Biblical separation, then do not listen to him. He may sound all right for a while, but eventually his compromise will come out and you will begin to find more and more reasons to go the way of compromise instead of the way of the Bible. We are influenced by what we hear, and if we hear the wrong thing enough, we will eventually begin accepting and doing wrong. (If you cannot find good, separated, Bible preaching on the radio, then go on-line to [www.ifbsermons.com](http://www.ifbsermons.com), or [www.baptistradionetwork.com](http://www.baptistradionetwork.com). These sites list Bible-believing, Bible-practicing men of yesteryear and today. They will be far better than the compromising New Evangelicals of today.)

Joash's slide began with his listening to the wrong people. If we are not careful about whom we listen to, we will begin to slide as well. But Scripture does not stop with his listening. II Kings 24:18 records *His Leaving*. It says, "*And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.*" Throughout the discussion of Joash's listening, I kept saying that his actions would change because of who he was listening to. You knew something was going to happen, but certainly not this. He left the worship of the true God for idolatry. How could Joash do such a thing? Listening to the wrong people will lead to the leaving of the truth of God's

Word.

Joash followed God for many years when Jehoiada was alive. There was a time when Joash had to reprimand Jehoiada concerning the repairing of the temple. Everything seemed to be going well. Here was a king that meant business with God. He was turning the nation away from idolatry and to the worship of the true God. Surely it would continue even after Jehoiada's death. But it does not. Joash turns away from God and to idols. Verse 18 is so disappointing—"They left the house of the LORD God of their fathers." It echoes in my mind—They left! They left! They left!

Whom did they leave? They left the true God for a bunch of worthless junk. Notice the words used for God in this verse. You see the word LORD in all capital letters. This is the personal name of God, sometimes translated Jehovah; this is the name that was revealed to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3. This is the I AM THAT I AM—the God who had no beginning but has always been. This is the covenantal name of God—the name whereby He seals all of His covenants. It indicates that He is the God who keeps His word. He has never lied or gone back on what He has promised. He always comes through.

The other term is God, from the Hebrew word Elohim. This term refers to power and authority. So here is the full statement about God in this verse—"They left the house of the God Who has always been and Who always keeps His Word and Who has all authority and power." Add to that the phrase "*of their fathers.*" This makes me think of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, and many more. Whose God are you serving? The God of Bob Jones Sr., Harold Sightler, Oliver Greene, B. R. Lakin, and a host of others, or are you serving the god of New Evangelicalism and compromise? As for me, I will follow the God of Bible holiness and separation—the God of those men that I have mentioned. I have no other desire. I do not want the god of compromise. I want the God of my fathers—the God of holiness and separation.

Notice what they traded God for—groves and idols. Groves were often places among the trees set up for worship. They traded the God Who made the trees for the trees themselves. Idols refer to things made of stone, wood, or metal. They traded the God that made them for things they had made. It was a foolish and despicable switch. They left the God Who could do anything for gods that could do nothing.

The third part of Joash's slide was *His Loathing*. II Chronicles 24:19-22 records how God sent prophets to try to turn Joash and the people back to Him, "*but they would not give ear.*" They loved their idolatry so much that when Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, preached against it, Joash commanded the people to stone Zechariah. Joash and the people should have been stoned for idolatry. Instead, they killed Zechariah because he preached the truth. People react the same way today. They may not pick up stones, but when confronted with compromise, they get angry and turn against the preacher. How pitiful is the story of the change of Joash! He went from loving the preaching of God to loathing it. May we not change like Joash did. May we remain faithful to the Lord all of our lives.