



FRANKLIN ROAD

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NEWSLETTER

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JEHOSHAPHAT'S BIBLE INSTITUTE



SINCE THE 1880'S THE BIBLE INSTITUTE MOVEMENT IN AMERICA HAS A LONG HISTORY OF SUCCESSFULLY TRAINING PEOPLE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD'S WORD AND SERVE HIM IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES. MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE WAS FOUNDED IN 1886 AND CONTINUES TO THIS DAY AS ONE OF THE BEST-KNOWN BIBLE TRAINING CENTERS. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE INSTITUTE IS NOT A MODERN INNOVATION.

JEHOSHAPHAT WAS JUDAH'S KING AND THE GREAT, GREAT, GREAT GRANDSON OF DAVID. HIS FATHER, ASA, "DID GOOD AND RIGHT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD HIS GOD." (II CHRONICLES 14:2). DURING HIS FATHER'S GODLY REIGN IDOLS WERE REMOVED, SACRIFICES WERE RESTORED AND JUDAH'S COVENANT WITH GOD WAS RENEWED (SEE II CHRONICLES 14:3-6 AND 15:10-15). ALL OF THOSE THINGS HAD BEEN DONE BEFORE AND GOD HONORED THOSE WHO LED IN THESE REFORMS. HOWEVER, JEHOSHAPHAT TOOK IT A STEP FURTHER.

YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF JEHOSHAPHAT'S BIBLE INSTITUTE BUT SURE ENOUGH ITS DELIGHTFUL HISTORY IS RECOUNTED IN II CHRONICLES 17:6-9. WE FIRST LEARN THAT THIS KING "TOOK GREAT PRIDE IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD." (V. 6). HIS DEVOTION TO GOD WAS STUNNING INDEED AND OUT OF THAT HE FORMULATED A PLAN TO TEACH THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH. IN THE VERSES THAT FOLLOW WE READ THAT HE COMMISSIONED FOUR OFFICIALS, NINE LEVITES AND TWO PRIESTS AS THE INSTITUTE'S INSTRUCTORS. VERSE NINE DESCRIBES THEIR MISSION. "THEY TAUGHT IN JUDAH, HAVING THE BOOK OF THE LAW OF THE LORD WITH THEM; AND THEY WENT THROUGHOUT ALL THE CITIES OF JUDAH AND TAUGHT AMONG THE PEOPLE." ISN'T THAT GREAT! THE PEOPLE OF JEHOSHAPHAT'S DAY HAD ACCESS TO GREAT BIBLE TEACHING, AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO LEAVE THEIR HOMETOWNS TO RECEIVE IT. THEIR KING KNEW THAT PEOPLE NEEDED TRAINING IN GOD'S WORD IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN A RIGHTEOUS KINGDOM. WHAT A BRILLIANT CONCEPT!

WE KNOW THAT ELIJAH AND ELISHA HAD A SEMINARY FOR THE SONS OF THE PROPHETS WHO WERE BEING TRAINED AS GOD'S SPOKESMEN (READ OF THIS IN II KINGS 2, 4, 6), BUT JEHOSHAPHAT BELIEVED THAT EVERYONE COULD BENEFIT FROM STUDYING GOD'S WORD, NOT JUST PROPHETS OR PREACHERS. THE SAME IS TRUE TODAY. IF WE SEEK TO BE A GODLY PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF GODLESSNESS, WE NEED BIBLE EDUCATION. RIGHT NOW, OUR CHURCH HAS SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND BIBLE STUDIES, I'D LIKE TO THINK THEY HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN JEHOSHAPHAT'S INITIATIVE. LET'S AVAIL OURSELVES OF THIS BIBLE INSTITUTE TRAINING.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE