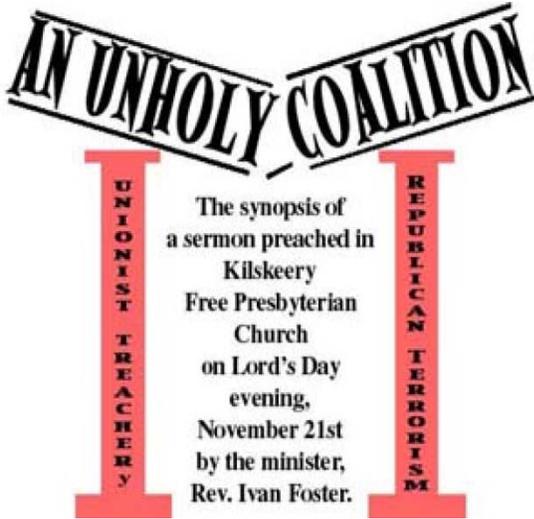




# The Burning Bush—Online article archive

## AN UNHOLY COALITION - Unionist Treachery & Republican Terrorism



*The synopsis of a sermon preached in Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church on Lord's Day evening, November 21st by the minister, Rev. Ivan Foster.*

*Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab, 2 Chronicles 18:1.*

There is but one light by which we may view the present political events in our land, with any hope of understanding what is happening and what will be the outcome of it all. I refer to the light of God's Holy Word.

One word has been repeated again and again by all those who would have us support what Trimble and Adams are engaged in. That word is PEACE.

To a people who have endured terrorism for over 30 years, peace is a word of great power and persuasion. That which promises peace will be wistfully considered by Ulster people and that without any real examination.

The most influential institutions here in Northern Ireland have been using this word in conjunction with the present political initiatives. The ecumenical denominations, the main political parties, the business associations and, of course, the government of the United Kingdom have all spoken appealingly to the Ulster people to side with peace and go with the present political initiatives. Very powerful influences are being brought to bear upon the minds and hearts of the Ulster Protestants, for they are the people who harbour doubts and who must be persuaded to back this present "peace plan", if it is to work, since they are still the majority community.

There really is no new stratagem that cunning men can employ in order to effect their evil plans. They have all been employed and tried before and the Bible gives us clear examples of their workings. That is why it can and does cast light upon our circumstances tonight. The Bible is ever relevant for this very reason. I believe we could turn to a number of portions of God's Word and find warnings against taking the path that is being set before us by Trimble and Adams. The portion we have selected will provide us with very befitting instruction. It features the alliance that was formed between ungodly Ahab, king of the northern kingdom of Israel, and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. Out of that coalition, there arose the joint venture to recover Ramoth-gilead from under the rule of Syria.



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## I. THE UNHOLY COALITION PROPOSED

*Ahab said to Jehoshaphat: Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramoth-gilead? Verse 4.*

**1. The objective of the coalition** . The restoration of territory that Ahab claimed, verse 3, was what lay behind Ahab's requested alliance. There is a parallel in today's political activities.

The whole objective of Sinn Fein/IRA and the SDLP and the Irish Government is territorial. They wish to gain control of Northern Ireland. The terrorist campaign was to bring that about; the so-called peace process, which has replaced terrorism as the chief tactic of Irish nationalists, is aimed at this target also. Once Trimble crosses the line and agrees to a coalition with Sinn Fein there will be no way back or out, irrespective of the safeguards he has been given. The political territory that Irish republicans get their hands on, they will not give up voluntarily.

**2. The basis of the coalition.** *And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramoth-gilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war , verse 3.* This statement by Jehoshaphat is most strange. There was a world of difference between Ahab and Jehoshaphat and their respective peoples. Ahab was an idolater and his people given over to paganism. Jehoshaphat, on the other hand, was a good man who loved the Lord. In this matter he was most foolish and paid for it. His view was so wrong he suffered judgment for it. *And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD , 2 Chronicles 19:2.* That wrath should come upon this good man indicates how great was the mistake that he made on this occasion.

What affinity can we have with Adams and the IRA? It is staggering that such an affinity can be agreed to and that the unionist community can be brought into a coalition, designed to promote the cause of our tormentors and enemies, whom our fathers have resisted even unto death for centuries!

There can be no common cause between Protestants and Roman Catholics in the realm of religion or politics. That is a truth based upon God's Word and the testimony of history. The campaign to conceal this truth from the Protestant people has been operating for decades, through the ecumenical churches, and is now bearing fruit. Having lost sight of what true Protestantism is, and having forgotten what popery is, Protestants have swallowed the notion that a coalition with Rome may be formed to pursue peace. But it is a peace that will totally benefit popery, even as the plan of the two kings benefited Ahab only.

**3. The endorsement of the coalition.** *Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand , verse 5.* Where is the chief source of support for the Adams/Trimble proposals? It is the spiritual descendants of these false prophets -- the ecumenical ministers of today. These latter-day false prophets have supported these moves.



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### II. THE WARNINGS THAT JEHOShAPHAT RECEIVED

An alliance with evil does not rest easily on the shoulders of a good man such as Jehoshaphat. He seems full of doubts. Like Jehoshaphat, Ulster has had its doubts about the whole process. In all the numerous news reports on this subject, we have heard men and women mention their doubts and fears. God's warnings, issued by many faithful witnesses, on the ecumenical/republican programme that is being foisted on Ulster, have troubled the hearts of the people on many occasions. There are few enthusiastic believers in ecumenism. Instead, men and women from the Protestant denominations have followed their false prophets with varying degrees of hesitation and doubts. These doubts show the merciful dealing of God with this land, for it is He alone Who can trouble the hearts and minds of the people with regards the path they are following.

The warnings, like those that Jehoshaphat received are many and varied.

**1. The consulting of the false prophets was a warning.** Verse 6. Clearly Jehoshaphat was unhappy with their views. In his own kingdom, their views were rejected as false and he had forcefully overthrown them and their idolatrous groves. We are told that Jehoshaphat *sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. . . . And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah* , 2 Chronicles 17:4, 6. To be involved with a venture that has the blessing of false prophets must have troubled Jehoshaphat even as having the blessing of the priests of Rome and the ecumenists must surely trouble many Protestants in the Ulster Unionist party.

**2. Ahab's hatred of God's servant was a warning.** Because of his doubts, Jehoshaphat asked for the opinion of a servant of Jehovah. *And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD today* , verse 4. Ahab brought the prophet Micaiah from prison to speak, and this, coupled with his own words, clearly indicated his hatred of the man of God.

What good can come of making common cause with those who hate the servants of God and the message they proclaim? Just such unity is what lies at the heart of the Adams/Trimble coalition.

**3. The warning of God's servant was clear.** His final words, before being cast into jail again, sum up God's Word to Jehoshaphat and Ahab. *And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people* , verse 27. Without fear of contradiction, I can reiterate what has been said often over the last 30 years -- the politics of compromise and appeasement of IRA terrorism will not, cannot produce peace. Let Ulster be warned from God's Word. *They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace* , Jeremiah 6:14. Jeremiah's words should be taken as God's pronouncement on the present peace initiatives. The alternative path is also given by Jeremiah. *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls*, Jeremiah 6:16. May Ulster not answer as did the people of Jeremiah's day. But they said, We will not walk therein.



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### III. THE UTTER FOLLY OF JEHOSEPHAT

Despite the clear warnings and the doubts he felt, he went ahead with the scheme. Why was he so foolish? We must turn the clock of Jehoshaphat's life back a little for the answer. He, like Ulster, did not become a fool overnight! The deception had been long at work.

**1. Increased prosperity played a part.** Verse 1. There can be no doubt that affluence causes men to forget God. When we are cast upon the Lord for our daily bread it is no bad thing. When we begin to feel independent of the Lord, then we begin to act independent of Him as well. *And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage,* Deuteronomy 6:10-12.

**2. Closer social ties with Ahab played a part.** Verse 1. In Northern Ireland, millions have been spent on establishing clubs, groups, associations etc., which are geared to promote inter-communal activities. These invariably lead to mixed marriages, where the Protestant partner converts to Rome or, at the least, ceases to have any links with their former church. The children of course, grow up as Roman Catholics. The word *affinity* in verse 1, means *marriage*. Jehoshaphat's son married Ahab's daughter. What a curse that proved to be, as 2 Chron 21:4-6 records! It resulted in wickedness of every kind and ended in the murder of Jehoshaphat's offspring.

**3. Disobedience of God played a part.** Jehoshaphat was challenged by the prophet Jehu: *Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD?* 2 Chronicles 19:2. He loved that which he was forbidden to love and acted accordingly. Ulster has declared a love for that forbidden by God in its continued dalliance with Rome.

**4. He was bereft of all wit or wisdom.** How could this man not see the folly of complying with the wishes of Ahab? The incident in verse 29, when Ahab disguised himself and Jehoshaphat went to the battle in his royal robes and thus drew the enemies' fire, is indicative of the madness that grips the mind of the rebel against God.

How can Ulster Protestants enter an alliance with the IRA to bring it into government, after it has used every invention of hell to destroy us and while it remains totally unrepentant of its foul deeds and remains in possession of the weapons of terror it used against us? It is madness of the highest order that David Trimble and his unionist colleagues are proposing!

There has been no secret made of just what Sinn Fein/IRA desires here in Ulster.

***It is a united Ireland by murder and deceit, making any promise or giving any undertaking in order to bring it about, since, as Rome teaches, a promise given to a Protestant heretic need not be honoured!***



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### IV. THE MERCIFUL PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Jehoshaphat was not dealt with by God, as he deserved to be, though he came close to death. *And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him*, 2 Chronicles 18:31.

That incident provides us with instruction, regarding the only way of escape from the impasse into which our folly and disobedience have brought us.

**1. Jehoshaphat cried upon God for help** . The Trimbleites have been mockingly calling for an alternative to their plan. Here is the alternative. It will not stop their mocking for they do not believe in prayer. However, it ought ever to have been our first resort rather than our last resort. Let every child of God now begin to pray, systematically and faithfully for God's intervention in revival in Ulster. Encourage others to join with you to that end. Do not ask God to save political parties or political institutions but to save the witness of the gospel in this land. An outpouring of the Holy Spirit will bring about such changes in men's hearts that the political thinking that will follow will be God- honouring.

**2. The Lord helped him** . Verse 31. The Lord came to his support as soon as he cried out. Never say it is too late! The sword was lifted over Jehoshaphat's head, the arrow was pointed straight at his heart, but his cry brought instant deliverance.

**3. The Lord persuaded the Syrians to leave Jehoshaphat alone.** Verse 31. That is what the word moved means. The Almighty God is almighty to persuade men to act in accordance with His sovereign will.

**4. God's purpose in judgment came to pass** . The evil of Ahab was judged by God, verses 33-34. The pronouncements against him in I Kings 21:19, 22:37-38, were fulfilled to the letter. Irish Republicanism has a slogan, *Tiocfaidh ar La*, "Our Day Will Come." Nothing could be truer! Those who have espoused murder and terror and lies as the weapons by which they will gain their way in Northern Ireland, have a day coming that is appointed of God. It is far removed from the day of triumph they boastfully anticipate!

Christian, God is still on the throne. He still answers prayer. He will accomplish His will amongst the nations of men. Bend your knee and yield your heart to Him and stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD.