

GOD'S CHURCH September 11, 2002

In light of what has happened to the Anglican Church in the New Westminster dioceses regarding the homosexual issue, the book of 2 Chronicles seems to be showing these individual churches as well as the Anglican Church at large, how to deal with this problem.

We must read all of the book of Chronicles, in fact the Bible has much information, from front to back that should be considered. And why not? If the Anglican Church, made up of individual churches, was founded on God's Word, the Bible, then why shouldn't this book be the authority the Anglican Church would turn to in time of crisis as well as all other times. Let's start with 2 Chron. 7:13, 14 "If I shut up Heaven so no rain falls, or if I command locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My People, If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave and require of necessity My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land".

The key words in these verses are humble and forgive.

V. 15, 16 – "now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer offered in this place. For I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be here forever, and My eyes and My heart will be here perpetually".

God is really saying if we will pray His Word back to Him, He will sanctify His churches.

Then God comes up with a promise and a warning that we need to take seriously today.

V. 17 - 22. As for you Solomon (Anglican Church) if you will walk before Me as David your Father walked, and do all I have commanded you and observe My statutes and ordinances, Then I will establish the throne of your kingdom as I covenanted with David your father, saying, there shall not fail you a man to be ruler in Israel. But if you people turn away, and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them;

Then will I pluck Israel up by the roots out of My land which I have given them; and this house which I have hallowed for My name, will I cast out of My sight, and will make it to be a proverb and a byword among nations.

And this house which was so high, shall be an astonishment to everyone passing it, and he will say, Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?

Then men will say, Because they forsook the Lord God of their fathers who brought them out of Egypt, and they laid hold of other gods, and worshiped and served them: Therefore has He brought all this evil on them".

Now let's go over to Chapter 11 where we find Rehoboam and Jeroboam in conflict. Rehoboam was king of Judah and Jeroboam king of Israel. 2 Chron 11:14 – 17

"For the Levites left their suburbs and their possessions and came to Judah and Jerusalem for Jeroboam and his sons had cast them out from executing the priests office to the Lord,

And he appointed his own priests for the high places and the idols of demon he-goats and calves he had made.

And after them out of all the tribes of Israel there came to Jerusalem those who set their hearts to seek the Lord God of Israel, to sacrifice to the Lord, the God of their fathers

So they strengthened the kingdom of Judah and upheld Rehoboam, son of Solomon for three years; for they walked in the way of David and Solomon three years".

It seems that the people had better sense than their leader (king), Jeroboam. They sought the Lord and His ways and in so doing strengthened Rehoboam.

Perhaps this is the same with the Anglican Church diocese of New Westminster rejecting God's instructions and accepting what God has called an abomination. Probably the majority of people will reject the decision of the leader of this diocese and turn to a closer personal relationship with God. Greater support of those individual churches that disagreed with this decision would naturally follow from the people as well as God himself. In Chapter 12 are some very key verses in light of this problem in the church.

2 Chron. 12:5 - 7

"...You have forsaken Me, so I have forsaken you to the hand of Shishak (overran all of Israel)

Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves, and said the Lord is righteous.

When the Lord saw they humbled themselves, the Word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves, so I will not destroy them, but will grant them some deliverance, and My wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

If the leaders in this conflict in the Anglican Church will do what the leaders of Israel did, humble themselves and seek God's righteousness in their lives, this church will be saved from the destruction the enemy has planned for it. 2 Chron. 12:12 "When Rehoboam humbled himself the wrath of the Lord turned from him, so as not to destroy him entirely...."

Could it be the leader of the diocese and those in leadership with him are in danger? Do they need to humble themselves? We have seen here that God honours humility, genuine humility. Verse 14 tells us that Rehoboam did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord with all his desire. He was continually at war till he died.

Now let's skip over to Chapter 14. We find Asa now king of Judah. He did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God (2 Chron. 14:2). So the kingdom had rest under his reign (v. 5) Then in Verse 7 they built and prospered.

In Verse 11 an army of a million men from Ethiopia, came against Asa's small army. So he cried out to God reminding Him of His Word (v.11). so God smote the army of Ethiopia and they fled (V. 12) leaving behind much booty. Notice how God watches over His Word to perform it. He protects His people.

Again Asa is told by Azariah, "The Lord is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found of you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

(2 Chron. 15:2, 4) When they got into trouble they desperately sought the Lord God and He was found by them. Now I believe this is for all the churches and people that stood firm on God's Word (v. 7) "Be strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak and slack, for your work shall be rewarded." Because Asa was a godly leader, all Judah was blessed and prospered by God so much so that they came over to Asa out of Israel in large numbers, when they saw that the Lord his God was with him. (V.9)

This will also be true of the Anglican Church. When this happens, verse 12 is applicable –And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers and to yearn for Him with all their hearts desire and with all their soul. The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself in behalf of those whose heart is blameless toward Him. (16:9)

Over now to Chapter 20 we find Jehoshaphat, now the king of Judah.

In Verse 3 it says Jehoshaphat

1. Feared the Lord
2. Set out to seek the Lord
3. Proclaimed a fast

And Judah gathered together to ask help of the Lord; even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord yearning for Him with all their desire (V. 4). Jehoshaphat then prays a powerful prayer in front of all the assembly of Judah (V. 6-12) All the men, women and children of Judah stood before the Lord waiting for God to answer. Could it be that we need to do more waiting for God's answer to our dilemma or problem?

This time God uses Jahaziel, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph to tell them the Lord said, be not afraid, or dismayed at this great multitude for the battle is not yours but God's (12:15)2 Chron. 20:14 – Fausset's Bible Dictionary Benaiah – Whom Jehovah builds up Mattaniah – Gift of Jehovah Jahaziel - under the Spirit – Jehovah Asaph - Assembler of Jehovah You shall not need to fight in this battle; take your position, stand still, and see the deliverance of the Lord Who is with you. Fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them for the Lord is with you. (V. 17). They all humbled themselves, bowed down and worshiped Him. (V. 18).

In Verse 20 "—Believe in the Lord your God and you shall be established; believe and remain steadfast to His prophets and you shall prosper." When they praised and worshiped God, the Lord set ambushments against their enemies so they were self-slaughtered. (V. 22) And again they took great spoils (prosperous). (V. 25).

By using all these Verses in 2 Chronicles, I believe there is much for the people of the Anglican Church to learn from or be encouraged by. Those of us in the body of Christ need to be continually reminded of what God demands, reminded of His goodness, of His love, of our need to embrace humility and of our need to take Him at His Word and then let Him do what He promises.

This split in the New Westminster Diocese is probably a good thing. People in the church are being forced to face an issue that has always been with us. They now must decide whether the Bible is the inerrant Word of God or just a book of good writings and myths. They are being forced to decide whether they believe what the bible says about Homosexuality. They must even examine themselves to see how they shape up according to God's Word.

Many of us need a new revelation of who God is and who we really are and where we are going in the days ahead. We must understand that our real enemy is not the other Anglican Churches, the bishops, or the homosexuals. Satan is our enemy and is in his last round of destruction on earth before he is put away. He is out to discredit, confuse, deceive, kill, destroy and take to Hell everyone he can. We must love the homosexual as Jesus does, but hate their lifestyle. We must love our fellow Anglican no matter what he thinks and we must pray for him. The Anglican Church worldwide has a powerful enemy, but if he is not given any legal entry point from which to operate, the church need not fear. Satan would love to help the church self-destruct.

But I know there are many Godly men and women that are determined to do what King Asa and his people did. These people can be found in the Anglican Church worldwide. Greater is He that is in these people than He that is the World.

This is just the beginning of more difficulties to come. We must be vigilant and committed in our walk with God and in obedience to His Word. We must support and pray for our leadership.

We have just seen in 2 Chronicles that when the people have an ungodly leader, all the people suffer, but if we have a Godly leader the people live in prosperity and peace and are a Godly people.

Let's love the homosexual back into a right relationship with God and with man. Having said all of this, I must say first of all that there will be a parting of the ways for some people. For too long some have played the religious game of attending church because of the need to impress friends. Some have continued a religious ritual. Some have attended church because it makes them feel good. Others know there is something to attending Church, but refrain from really allowing God to become involved in their lives because of what

someone might think, or because they have their own agenda and getting involved with God at arms length, once a week is enough. There are many scenarios but the bottom line is, if an issue comes along that bends their religious thinking out of shape, they don't have enough grounding of God's Word in their personal lives to take them through these difficult problems. Now we are beginning to see a parting of the people, those really serious about a closer walk with God, just as King Asa did and those who are willing to compromise and do evil as King Rehoboam did in 2 Chron. 12:14. When Rehoboam was a young King he prayed a prayer that we should all pray – (2Chron. 13:10-12)

"But as for us the Lord is our God, and we have not forsaken Him. We have priests ministering to the Lord who are sons of Aaron, and Levites for their service. They offer to the Lord every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and incense of sweet spices; they set in order the show bread on the table of pure gold, and attend to the golden lampstand that its lamps might be lighted every evening; for we keep the charge of the Lord, but you have forsaken Him.

Behold, God Himself is with us at our head, and His priests with their battle trumpets to sound an alarm against you. O Israelites, fight not against the Lord, the God of your fathers, for you can not prosper".

Be encouraged. God is still at the head of His church. He will take us to victory.

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