

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

HELP US, O LORD OUR GOD; FOR WE REST ON THEE

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 15, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **2 CHRONICLES 14:1-15 & 15:1-7**

2 Chronicles 14:11-12, And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. 12: So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the August 15, 2021 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. God tells us from time to time to examine the history of the nation Israel.
1 Corinthians 10:11, Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.
- b. Today we will preach from **2 Chronicles**, and it deals with a man named Asa who was the third king of Judah.
- c. If you recall the kingdom had been divided. Ten tribes went north; they were referred to as Israel, and two tribes stayed in the south and were referred to as Judah.
- d. We will see the first revival of Judah in their divided state.
- e. There was never a revival in the north because there was never a good king that reigned.
- f. In saying that, God gives us at least five things that are essential for revival.
- g. Many times, we think revival is bringing in an evangelist and have him preach to the people. There is nothing wrong with that but that is not where revival needs to start.
- h. The road to revival is rocky and can be a dirt road that is unpaved being difficult to travel.
- i. I believe the Bible gives us a road map for revival. If we follow these things revival is certain to come.
- j. The sweet Spirit that exists here at Chesswood Baptist Church puts us on the road to having revival.
- k. There are five elements that are essential for true revival.
 1. It starts with the individual. Asa's heart was right and perfect in the Lord. **2 Chronicles 14:2, And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God:** You must first receive the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and then you can add to your faith. **2 Peter 1:5-9, And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.** Self-examination is extremely important and is the first step toward revival. **1 Corinthians 11:28, But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.** **2 Corinthians 13:5, Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?**
 2. We must turn to the Preserved Word of God. We should hide it in our hearts. **Psalms 119:11, Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Proverbs 30:5, Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Psalms 12:6-7, The words of the LORD**

are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. 7: Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

3. There must be Scriptural separation. The ability to discern, through the Holy Spirit, what the Preserved Word of God is and embrace it. **2 Peter 1:20-21, Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21: 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 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.**
4. We must exercise our faith in God. There is a difference in saving faith and living by faith. We talk about living by faith but there are very few who actually do. **Romans 14:23, And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**
5. The fifth element of revival is unity. When the early church was on one accord, good things happened. **Acts 2:1, And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. Psalms 133:1, Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 1 Corinthians 1:10, Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. The first four elements apply to individuals; it starts with the pastor and moves through the entire congregation.**

- l. This means we should not have hidden agendas in the church, which allows us to focus on God's great commission. To win the lost and strengthen the saints. **Luke 22:32, But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.**
- m. Today we look and validate these things from **2 Chronicles**.
- o. Asa brought the first revival to Judah. Remember that Judah consists of the two tribes that stayed in the south.
- p. The ten tribes of Israel who were in the north never had a good king. This should say something to Chesswood Baptist Church; that it starts with the man of God.
- q. It is a road that is very tough to navigate. Few churches ever experience true revival, most just go through the motions.
- r. Even though the road is hard, long and sometimes uphill we must realize that there is a clear road map as to how we can have revival. **Ecclesiastes 12:13, Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.**
- s. Asa was one of the five kings who God used to bring revival to the southern kingdom. **Proverbs 29:2, When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**
- t. Of the nineteen kings in the northern kingdom none were considered good. They all did evil in the sight of the Lord. **Judges 10:6, And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the LORD, and served not him.**
- u. When we look at the twenty kings reigning over Judah, we find that five were outstanding. (The lists of those kings are mentioned in the background.)
- v. There were several other kings that were good but the reformation period under them did not take hold. They were missing some of the five elements required for true revival.
- w. With that introduction let's see what we can capture from God's Preserved Word today.

3. NINE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- a. **Asa his son reigned in his stead.**
 1. **2 Chronicles 14:1, So Abijah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the city of David: and Asa his son reigned in his stead. In his days the land was quiet ten years.**
 2. Asa was the third king in Judah.
 3. There was great revival under him.
 4. Solomon was his great-great grandfather.
 5. Reoboham was his grandfather and Abijah was his father.
 6. We know that neither Reoboham nor Abijah were men of God; they both did evil in the sight of the Lord.

b. Asa did that which was good.

1. 2 Chronicles 14:2-4, And Asa did that which was good and right in the eyes of the LORD his God: 3: For he took away the altars of the strange gods, and the high places, and brake down the images, and cut down the groves: 4: And commanded Judah to seek the LORD God of their fathers, and to do the law and the commandment.
2. It is very important that you notice this man did good and right in the sight of the Lord.
3. True revival starts with the pastor – the man of God if there is to be revival in the church.
4. The pastor must be willing to examine himself, to walk in the light, to live by faith, and not only be committed but be surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ. **James 1:22, But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**
5. This starts off on a beautiful course because when the leadership is right then things will flow throughout the congregation. It might take awhile for it to take affect as it has here at Chesswood, but God has allowed us to arrive at that point. God has truly blessed Chesswood Baptist Church.

c. Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images.

1. 2 Chronicles 14:5-6, Also he took away out of all the cities of Judah the high places and the images: and the kingdom was quiet before him. 6: And he built fenced cities in Judah: for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years; because the LORD had given him rest.
2. Asa was a man of peace. He was also a man of action. **Ecclesiastes 9:10, Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.**
3. He took the necessary steps to get rid of all the things that would be a hindrance to revival.
4. We must be willing to do this in our church if we are to experience true revival.
5. We cannot have every person doing what is right in their own eyes; it leads to chaos and confusion. **Proverbs 12:15, The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. Proverbs 21:2, Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts. Judges 17:6, In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.**
6. God is not the author of confusion. **1 Corinthians 14:33, For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**
7. When Asa took these steps, God gave them rest. **“for the land had rest, and he had no war in those years”** He had time to concentrate on what was going on within the kingdom he reigned over. **Joshua 1:8, This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**
8. There may not be smooth sailing in all cases, but when we are in the will of God, He will work out everything that will be a hindrance and He will go forth and prepare the way. **Psalms 37:23, The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Romans 8:28, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**
9. This is reflected in the next point.

d. Then Asa went out against him.

1. 2 Chronicles 14:9-10, And there came out against them Zerah the Ethiopian with an host of a thousand thousand, and three hundred chariots; and came unto Mareshah. 10: Then Asa went out against him, and they set the battle in array in the valley of Zephathah at Mareshah.
2. Although there is trauma in the kingdom, God will provide for them just as He will for us if we will stay with Him. **Hebrews 13:5, Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**
3. Everything at all times will not be smooth sailing.
4. The saints that expect good things all the time are not prepared for battle. **Ephesians 6:13-18, Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14: Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15: And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to**

quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17: And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

5. God will work out all the things that are necessary. **2 Timothy 3:12, Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.** There will be bumps in the road. **Romans 8:28, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**
6. Asa was not only a man of peace; he was a man of prayer. God was able to use him merely because he depended on Him to accomplish great things.
7. We will talk about an element later on of living by faith. Few of us live by faith. We talk about it a lot but most really don't do it. We live by sight and the minute there is trauma we start worrying and go off the deep end. **2 Corinthians 5:7, (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)**

e. Help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee,

1. **2 Chronicles 14:11-12, And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee. 12: So the LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled.**
2. Asa was a man of prayer.
3. He was also a man of faith.
4. **Once we have saving faith and we believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Saviour, we must trust Him in every single thing we do. Proverbs 3:5-6, Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**
5. **Psalms 37:23, The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.**
6. We have two offensive weapons working for us. The Preserved Word of God and prayer.
7. Asa exercises prayer. This might be one of the greatest prayers in the Bible prayed by a great man of faith.
8. Notice what he says... **LORD, it is nothing with thee to help... O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude.**
9. Asa did not care how many chariots there were, neither was he concerned with the number of people. He had his eyes focused on the Lord.
10. I have challenged the members of Chesswood many times, that we should not put our eyes on circumstances, but focus on the Lord Jesus Christ. When we do great things will happen. **2 Corinthians 4:18, While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. Romans 4:17, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations.) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.**
11. Asa did not reflect on his great generalship, the ability to devise great battle plans; he depended wholly on the Lord.
12. Sometime when we depend on the Lord it does not make sense, but God will take care of business. **Isaiah 55:7-9, Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9: For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

f. They smote also the tents of cattle.

1. **2 Chronicles 14:15, They smote also the tents of cattle, and carried away sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.**
2. I would say that God gave them a great military victory.
3. **However, sometimes when we take spoil it might serve as a hindrance to us. Many times, in the church when things tend to be flourishing, the finances are there to accomplish things; we take our eyes off Jesus. We must keep in focus the King of the Universe. We have to stay close**

to Him. **Hebrews 12:2, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

4. Individual Bible study is very important. God's people need to understand that we need to be in church on a consistent basis, listening to the preached Word and we also need to instruct our children in the Preserved Word of God. They need to see in lives of adults, examples that they can follow. **2 Timothy 2:15, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 1 Timothy 3:15, But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**
5. Let's not be guilty of giving our children mixed signals. When we do it causes a tremendous problem not only in the body of Christ but also in the lives of our young people.
6. We need to love them unconditionally, but we also need to make sure they are disciplined and kept under control.
7. God gave these people the ability to smite the Ethiopians and a great amount of spoil was taken.

g. The LORD is with you, while ye be with him.

1. **2 Chronicles 15:1-3, And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded: 2: And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you. 3: Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.**
2. This is very interesting. I believe the death trap of the hour is that there is not enough Bible teaching.
3. There are churches being built on every corner. Bible teaching in churches is a rarity.
4. We do not need more preacher because they are out there a dime a dozen. We need men who will concentrate on God's Preserved Word. **Psalms 119:11, Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Psalm 119:9-10, Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. 10: With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.**
5. True Bible teachers are few and far between. **Ephesians 4:11-12, And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12: For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**
6. They go through persecutions and many times there are only a few who flock to their teaching.
7. **Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.** – If the Preserved Word of God is not being preached and taught, we are void of true revival.
8. I can tell you my friend that commentaries will not do the job.
9. Israel was having problems. We are speaking of the total kingdom when we say Israel. This is because they left their first love. **Revelation 2:4, Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.**
10. **The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.** – When we run into quicksand in our lives we wonder where is God.
11. He is at the same place we left Him. He will never leave us nor forsake us. **Hebrews 13:5, Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

h. He was found of them.

1. **2 Chronicles 15:4, But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.**
2. On the surface this seems to be a very simple matter.
3. On the other hand, it is complicated.
4. There are so many people who say they are depressed, I try to study the Bible, I try to pray; I try to do this or that.

5. My Friend, Bible study is a habit and attending church is a habit. When you get out of that routine the devil will give you other alternatives. **Hebrews 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
6. If we seek the Lord, He will stay close to us. If we search our heart, spend time in His Word, and if we are consistent in our efforts, He will stay close to us.
7. If we are not consistent good things will not happen.
8. **But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.** – Sometimes trouble will cause us to be driven to the Lord.
9. There are two things that happen when people get in trouble. We will run from the Preserved Word of God and withdraw ourselves from the house of God and God's people. This is the formula for disaster.
10. The thing we need to do **when troubles come** is **get closer to the Lord**. We need to realize that He is God and He will fight our battles for us.
11. Remember the Ethiopians came with many chariots and Asa did not have the force to match them? He did however have the Lord on his side.

12. With God we always have a majority. **Romans 8:31, What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?**

i. **Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak for your work shall be rewarded.**

1. **2 Chronicles 15:5-7, And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries. 6: And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity. 7: Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.**
2. God says we are on the winning side.
3. Asa is beginning to turn to God.
4. The prophet encourages himself through the Preserved Word of God. He explains that there were troubles and many problems.
5. There will always be troubles and problems when we are on the right path. **Matthew 7:13-14, 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: 14: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**
6. When we are on the straight path the Preserved Word of God will get into our heart and we will draw closer to Him.
7. We should not leave God out when times are difficult and hard. Instead of withdrawing our self we need to draw closer to the Lord.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. My friend do you know the Saviour?
- b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today needs to be your day of salvation.
- c. We praise God for the opportunity to find out that there are elements that are necessary for revival.
- d. If you do not know the Saviour revival needs to start with saving faith.
- e. **Romans 3:23, For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
- f. **Romans 3:10, As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:**
- g. **Romans 10:9-10, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- h. Please stand.

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