

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE HEART OF ASA WAS PERFECT ALL HIS DAYS

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING, AUGUST 15, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING:

2 CHRONICLES 15:8-17 & 2 Chronicles 16:1-14

2 Chronicles 15:17, But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. The **Book of 2 Chronicles** was possibly written by Ezra between B.C. 450 to 400.
- b. It was primarily written to the remnant of Judah returning from Babylonian captivity.
- c. As we open this marvelous book, we find that King David has assembled all the materials to build the temple.
- d. He arranged for the manpower; gave encouragement to the leadership in Israel, provided the money to build the temple, and told Solomon to build it. **1 Chronicles 22:5-7, And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death. 6: Then he called for Solomon his son, and charged him to build an house for the Lord God of Israel. 7: And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God.**
- e. David was not permitted to build the temple because of all the blood he caused to be shed; so Solomon built the temple.
1 Chronicles 22:8, But the word of the Lord came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.
- f. When we studied **First Chronicles** earlier, we found it was all about David.
- g. There are long genealogies from Adam to David. The genealogies lead to David because David leads to Christ.
- h. The **Book of Matthew** opens with the generations of Jesus Christ, son of David.
- i. When we look and analyze the **Books of Samuel** and **Kings**, we will find it was written from man's viewpoint.
- j. This does not mean these books are not inspired. They are inspired as much as any other portion of the Bible, but they were written from a human perspective, not a divine perspective.
- k. David put emphasis upon building the temple of God.
- l. In **Second Chronicles** we will find two major themes.
 1. Building of the temple
 - a. Building the temple was Solomon's greatest accomplishment. **2 Chronicles 8:16, Now all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the LORD, and until it was finished. So the house of the LORD was perfected.**
 - b. Most people are familiar with Solomon because of his many wives, and his willful disobedience to God. He disobeyed God in three areas: much gold and silver, he owned thousands of horses, and gathered hundreds of wives and concubines. **Deuteronomy 17:16-17, But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the Lord hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way. 17: Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that**

his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.

- c. Violation of the aforementioned verses are largely the reason why Israel was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms.
- 2. Revival
 - a. There were excellent kings in the southern kingdom that obeyed God and provided revival for the people. **Proverbs 29:2, When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**
 - b. I will list those kings for your information.
 - 1. King Asa
 - 2. King Jehoshaphat
 - 3. King Jehoash
 - 4. King Hezekiah
 - 5. King Josiah
 - c. These five kings were the means of bringing revival back to Judah. **2 Kings 12:2, And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.**
 - d. God is sovereign and we must not expect Him to change his will to accommodate us. We must get in step with God's will and bring about revival in our nation. **John 6:29, Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**
 - e. Let not those who have paid the supreme sacrifice for America have died in vain. **Proverbs 14:34, Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.**
 - f. The Bible says in **Zachariah 4:6, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord.**
 - g. When we remove self, get into God's will and take orders from Him, he will cause a mighty revival at Chesswood Baptist Church and in America as well. **Acts 2:47, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**
 - h. The kind of revival I am speaking of is going into the highways and hedges and compelling people to come to Christ, to see lost souls saved and saints strengthened in the Preserved Word of God.
- 3. As we go through this message, keep in mind that this record is from God's point of view.
- m. The **Book of Second Chronicles** was written from God's perspective.
 - 1. The first nine chapters give us the reign of Solomon.
 - 2. Six of those chapters deal primarily with the building of the temple and we can see where God is putting His emphasis.
 - 3. From **1 Chronicles 10:1** to the end of the book, the kingdom is divided.
 - 4. From a Godly perspective, we find no emphasis on the northern kingdom.
 - 5. There was not one good king in the northern kingdom; all 19 kings did evil in the sight of the Lord.
- n. There are other themes in **Second Chronicles** and let's highlight those.
 - 1. Obedience is victory. Disobedience is defeat.
 - 2. God desires to forgive those who humbly pray, repent and turn to Christ.
 - 3. A nation's leaders are a reflection of its people.
 - 4. **No worthy project can be completed correctly without the help of Almighty God.**
 - 5. God hates sin and will not tolerate it.
 - 6. Our personal efforts are worthless if done outside the will of God. **Deuteronomy 8:18, But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.**

2. INTRODUCTION

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

3. FOURTEEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- j. **When Asa heard these words ... he took courage.**
 - 1. **2 Chronicles 15:8-9, And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the**

altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD. 9: And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

2. Isn't it amazing this latter part says even the people in the northern kingdom who had no direction and no God in their presence because the king was not doing his job; they were flocking in abundance to the south.
3. The reason they came to the south was because they saw the Lord God was with Asa.
4. We think that people do not want to hear God's Preserved Word. I can tell you they will flock in abundance to hear the Word of God.
5. People are tired of popular psychology in the pulpit; they want to know "what thus saith the Lord."
6. It might not be a big number all the time, but God always has a remnant that stays true to His Word.

k. So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem.

1. **2 Chronicles 15:10-12, So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of Asa. 11: And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep. 12: And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;**
2. They are no longer depending on the spoil they had taken.
3. They are turning to God and seeking Him with all their heart and soul.
4. **Matthew 6:33, But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**
5. We must not get our eyes on things or methods; we must remain firm and stay with the Preserved Word of God. When we do, He is faithful to accomplish those things He has promised. **1 John 1:9, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

l. That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death.

1. **2 Chronicles 15:13-14, That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. 14: And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.**
2. It is necessary that **every single member** of the family of God in Chesswood Baptist Church **get their own heart right with the Lord. 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?**
3. We need to get our eyes off of mess, on what people are doing and not doing, and we need to turn our eyes upon the Lord Jesus Christ and depend on Him and He will sustain us and see us through.
4. This covenant that they are about to enter into was a death covenant.
5. When we love not our lives; Jesus will take care of business for us. **1 John 2:15, Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Revelation 12:11, And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

m. And all Judah rejoiced at the oath.

1. **2 Chronicles 15:15, And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.**
2. This is the only peace that we have: peace within the heart. **Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:**
3. Having looked at several things that cause revival, we need to turn to another interesting thing: Scriptural separation.
4. We can see that in this passage. There is only one true God and they were turning to Him.
5. There are 150 different copyrighted versions of the Bible. They say they are the Word of God. I can tell you that if you seek the Holy Spirit, He will point you in the right direction on what the

Preserved Word of God is. **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.**

n. Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it.

1. **2 Chronicles 15:16, And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.**
2. His mother was practicing idolatry.
3. She had been married to a man who was an idolater and did not what was right in the sight of the Lord.
4. Mom now occupies a position and in that position, she is practicing idolatry.
5. Asa did not hesitate to deal with that.
6. When we have people who are not following leadership, they are sowing discord among the brethren; we have to make them accountable for their actions. **Proverbs 6:16-19, These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18: An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19: A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

o. The heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

1. **2 Chronicles 15:17, But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.**
2. I do not believe we need to start a fight with individuals.
3. If we learn to wait on God, He will make things right in the church in His own time not ours. **Isaiah 40:31, But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**
4. The Bible says in **Galatians 6:1, Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.**
5. It needs to start with those who are spiritual.
6. When we are spiritual, we will handle things in a spiritual way.
7. **1 Corinthians 14:33, For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.**
8. God will bring revival, but it needs to start with us.
9. Although things are going well, I need to comment on the high places that were not taken out of Israel.
10. Asa had some influence on the ten tribes that were in the north; but sometimes we only go part of the way with God.
11. It is necessary to go the entire distance and all the way.

p. Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah.

1. **2 Chronicles 16:1, In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.**
2. When the people found out that Asa was having revival in the south; people from the north begin to come south.
3. Baasha was the third king of Israel. He was a bad king.
4. He wants to stop the action of all his people going south.
5. He attempted to build a structure that would prohibit them from coming south.
6. **Notice Asa, the man of God, steps outside the will of God.**

q. Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD.

1. **2 Chronicles 16:2-3, Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, 3: There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.**

2. Instead of Asa depending on God he comes to the last element; faith is not exercised in God.
 3. He is depending on something else. It would be helpful if he reviewed for a moment what God has done for him.
 4. Now he is depending on friendship which he attempts to buy with gold and silver, and it causes problems.
 5. **If your friends are wrong, you need to be prepared to stay with the Lord and sever that relationship if necessary. 2 Corinthians 6:17, Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,**
- r. **And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa.**
1. **2 Chronicles 16:4, And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali.**
 2. This friend does respond. Asa depends on him, but he is not God.
 3. Although desired results were achieved God was left out of the equation resulting in disaster.
- s. **When Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah.**
1. **2 Chronicles 16:5-6, And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. 6: Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.**
 2. What he did was successful.
 3. It was not God's way of handling the matter.
 4. We must be very careful in our methods and techniques because if it is not God's way it might work but we miss God's best.
- t. **For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth.**
1. **2 Chronicles 16:7-9, And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. 8: Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. 9: For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.**
 2. Here is the rebuke of this man of God.
 3. Exercising faith in God is necessary. We must be saved by faith and live by faith.
 4. God had preformed a miracle concerning the Ethiopians.
 5. We must continue to stay in the will of God or else the blessing will stop. **Romans 1:16-17, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**
 6. We are not only saved by faith but we are to live by faith as well.
 7. **Hebrews 11:6, But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
 8. **Hebrews 12:1, Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, - That sin is the sin of unbelief.**
 9. Notice what this man does instead of repenting.
- u. **Then Asa was wroth with the seer.**
1. **2 Chronicles 16:10, Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.**
 2. Instead of the man of God staying in the will of God when he is rebuked, he turns sour.
 3. He leaves the faith and depends on something else. **1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**

v. **And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet.**

1. **2 Chronicles 16:12, And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.**
2. When we get away from God it is sad what happens; we continue on that slippery slope.
3. You cannot fix it my friend. Only God has that power.
4. Instead of Asa returning to the Lord and repenting and getting right, he continued to get further and further away from God.
5. God caused a disease to come upon him. Instead of seeking the Lord about it he turns to the physicians.
6. Let me say there is nothing wrong with going to the doctor if we are sick, but we must always take our cares to the Great Physician, which is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 5:7, Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**
7. We must always call upon Him if there is something that is going array.
8. We must be willing to give it to the Lord. If we do, God will take care of us.

w. **And Asa slept with his fathers.**

1. **2 Chronicles 16:13-14, And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign. 14: And they buried him in his own sepulchres, which he had made for himself in the city of David, and laid him in the bed which was filled with sweet odours and divers kinds of spices prepared by the apothecaries' art: and they made a very great burning for him.**
2. Asa refused to repent resulting in the sin unto death which is committed by believers. **1 John 5:16, If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.**

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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