

~ If you have never prayed and asked the Holy Spirit for wisdom, judgment and discernment, now is the time to do so. If you have your Bible open and turned to this section of Scripture, and have read it first, then this study will be much more meaningful to you. In our last several reports from our Spiritual Safari, we saw David make all the preparations for the building of the temple; he gathered the materials, bought the real estate, hired the labor, drew up the blueprints, wrote the job descriptions for the Levites that were to serve in it and encouraged Solomon the sissy to get busy building it. Then, with David “*old and full of days*,” we said good-bye to him in our previous report. Well, Solomon is certainly going to get busy in second Chronicles.

Although we do not outline the books of the Bible on this expedition as a normal Bible study would, the outline for Chronicles overall is quite interesting. In first Chronicles, it was all about David. The first nine chapters was the dreadfully long genealogy; nine chapters of so and so begat so and so. There was certainly a whole lot of begetting to begin this double historical book. Well, that family led to King David. God wrote it that way because David leads to Christ! The New Testament opens with the genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ, the son of David. That’s very, very important. Remember, we had just one chapter concerning King Saul and, even in that brief chapter, Saul was dead by verse four! After that – it was all about the reign of King David.

We are getting *God’s viewpoint* here in Chronicles, not man’s viewpoint. We considered man’s viewpoint of this same historical period of the nation Israel in the two double-historical books of Samuel and Kings. Of course, it’s all equally as inspired by the Holy Spirit; but, here, God is giving us the *divine perspective*. The emphasis in Kings and Samuel was on war, intrigue

and sensational humanistic stuff. Here, in Chronicles, God places the emphasis on the temple. In first Chronicles, we had the preparation for the building; and here we have the actual construction of it. The first nine chapters in second Chronicles is all about the reign of Solomon. Six of those nine chapters detail the building of the temple.

Most people think of Solomon in terms of his thousand wives; which was spectacular - but Solomon wasn't in the will of God with those women; so God ignores that record altogether here. His direct disobedience with all those women is what will later bring about the division of the kingdom. God did not approve of those wives and Solomon didn't get by in his sin, either. Irrespective of who commits sin, the sin *ALWAYS* brings about the judgment of God. The only way we can ever get to Heaven is to have a Savior — because we're sinners. That Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ – the Son of God. Friends, the greatest thing Solomon ever did was construct the temple; and, as far as I can tell, it's the *ONLY* thing worthwhile Solomon ever did for the Lord.

In this book of *second* Chronicles, we will see the division of Israel into the northern and southern kingdoms; and the kings within those two kingdoms just don't happen to be attractive people. In the northern kingdom of Israel, there wasn't one single good king. We find no emphasis on Israel in this book, either. What we do find is an emphasis on the southern kingdom of Judah and David's lineage. Even in Judah, there weren't many good kings, either. We have five that were considered outstanding: Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Hezekiah and Josiah. These kings were the means by which revival was brought to Israel; and we're going to talk a whole lot about revival later in this book of second Chronicles. We hear a lot about revival today, but most Christians have *NO IDEA* what it means or how it happens. Quite frankly, I see more complete nonsense in Christian circles about the spiritual movement we are experiencing than *ANYTHING* else – including secular matters. So, we're going to learn *ALL* about revival before we're finished in this book.

Many people erroneously feel that if we pray hard enough, God will be obligated to send revival. I have even seen people lay out a laughable step-by-step plan to bring revival! Well, most of you know I am cynical and skeptical to begin with; and I don't think prayer and a checklist of doing good will bring revival. First of all, that isn't God's method, according to His Word; but, there's something else: God is sovereign — and we aren't going to make God do anything. God has a plan, purpose and program for His world and universe; and He isn't going to change His program for you or me.

I know most people disagree with God — and they have a right to be wrong — but the important thing for us is to get into *HIS* will and into *HIS* program for *HIS* purpose according to *HIS* Word — not ours. The will of God comes out of eternity and down through the thousands of years — and right up to today — and, friends, it isn't going to change. In fact, I pity the super-duper saints who get in front of His spiritual steam roller; because God is going to run right over them.

Most people are trying to motivate God to do something for them while God is trying to teach them that He has already done everything they need — He sent His Son to die on the cross. See, Christianity isn't about what we can do for God — and it isn't about what blessings He may or may not bestow on us — it's about what He *has already done* for us. This truth is a paradox. All I know is: both sides of a prism have light; and both are true. Maybe you can't receive or accept this; if not, my suggestion is to stop reading and go play golf — or go fishing — whatever. If you hang around this so-called safari, you *MUST — MUST — MUST* pray for wisdom and understanding at this point, or this book called the Bible will simply slam shut in your face.

I find it extremely interesting that the current chaotic spiritual movement we see today did *NOT* come about through some perspicacious theologian

who placed conditions on the church. In fact, this spiritual movement isn't even *in* the church today! Most churches are as spiritually dead as dinosaurs – and, friends, I just happen to have a *WHOLE BUNCH* of experience in the church. The brainiac theologian makes me yawn and stretch in disinterest with their boring production of authoritative material that speaks *ex cathedra* and purports to have all the answers. Well, they may have *some* answers, but they have no *action*! The so-called spiritual movement is spiritually dead. See, friends, we need to learn how to bow to the will of God and lean in very close to Him. We need to learn how to cast ourselves upon Him. In this section of Scripture, we're going to see how God uses men who are willing to *take* orders — not *give* orders.

So, that brings us to second Chronicles in our safari; and we almost went off on an introductory tangent. I'll admit, I get wrought-up on this topic of people demanding healing and demanding success and demanding blessings by "*claiming it in Jesus Name*" – may I say this kindly? – they're fools and hypocrites. See, the *BIGGEST* hindrance to a revival is actually church leaders, and those super-duper saints that ain't. If you're one of them, then *YOU* are the problem holding revival back. Now, don't bother writing me and trying to straighten me out, because I already know I sound like a revolutionary to most people. Quite candidly, I've been a revolutionary ever since I began this so-called safari. The problem is: no one listens to me; and I know that. Very, very few people read these reports – and sometimes *no one* reads them *at all*! Either way – it's not my problem.

Most so-called Christians are intolerant of the Word of God being taught properly, correctly and completely because they have developed preconceived notions of purely absurd theological hypocrisy rendering them *UNTEACHABLE* – completely ignorant and *UNLEARNABLE* – and that makes me all the more determined give the entire Word of God to the entire world in *SOUND* doctrine! Most people will find sound doctrine to sound hateful and uncaring, too, by the way. I have a few ideas myself, but I have found out that my genius intelligence quotient and my superb

programs just aren't going to be used by God. Actually, I don't think He can use them now – even if He wanted to – which I also doubt. It's time to get real and right with God, my beloved. *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,”* saith the Lord! Brain and brawn gets us nothing but a strong-arm robbery conviction; only by the Holy Spirit will we ever learn anything; and that is very, very difficult to learn....

I

¹ And Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him, and magnified him exceedingly.

² Then Solomon spake unto all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and to the judges, and to every governor in all Israel, the chief of the fathers.

³ So Solomon, and all the congregation with him, went to the high place that was at Gibeon; for there was the tabernacle of the congregation of God, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness.

⁴ But the ark of God had David brought up from Kirjathjearim to the place which David had prepared for it: for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem.

⁵ Moreover the brasen altar, that Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, he put before the tabernacle of the LORD: and Solomon and the congregation sought unto it.

~ The Brasen Altar speaks of the cross of Christ. These people, at this time, could not approach God directly. They had to go to the altar; and, my friends, you and I have to go there, too. I know most people think God is just listening to anyone and everyone who prays to Him at any time, but

that is as wrong as wrong can get. The Lord has made it very clear that He doesn't hear everyone's prayer; but let's be sure, shall we?:

1 Peter 3:12 *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil*
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Psalms 66:¹⁸ *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me ~*

God's ear is open to those who come to Him *HIS* way and *HIS WAY* only! The only prayer any sinner will have acknowledged by God is the one where they accept His mercy through the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. God is *ONLY* prepared to meet us at the cross, my beloved. If you have never done that, then your prayers aren't being heard – and you can just write that down. Until you go up to Gibeon where the tabernacle is, you aren't going anywhere with God. See, we don't come to God through the Ark, and we don't come immediately to God in that sense. Only the way of the cross leads us home. There is absolutely no other way, according to Scripture. Again, I know many of you disagree with me; but instead of spending so much time sending me hate mail, why don't you get to the altar in prayer today? It will do you good to stop playing Christianity....

⁶ And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it.

⁷ In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee.

⁸ And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast shewed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead.

⁹ Now, O LORD God, let thy promise unto David my father be established: for thou hast made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude.

¹⁰ Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?

~ Most Christians associate Solomon with being smart because he was aware enough to ask for wisdom - and, granted, God gave him credit for his request – but where did Solomon get that lofty idea? Well, for that answer, let's revisit first Chronicles chapter twenty-two verse twelve where David told Solomon, ".... *only the LORD give thee wisdom and understanding, and give thee charge concerning Israel, that thou mayest keep the law of the LORD thy God.*" At least we can give Solomon credit for listening to his father. However, we need to understand that the "wisdom" God gave Solomon was *NOT* spiritual discernment. It was wisdom to rule His chosen people as their king in a political connection. The lineage to Christ does not proceed through Solomon. It completes through Nathan....

¹¹ And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:

¹² Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

¹³ Then Solomon came from his journey to the high place that was at Gibeon to Jerusalem, from before the tabernacle of the congregation, and reigned over Israel.

14 And Solomon gathered chariots and horsemen: and he had a thousand and four hundred chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen, which he placed in the chariot cities, and with the king at Jerusalem.

15 And the king made silver and gold at Jerusalem as plenteous as stones, and cedar trees made he as the sycamore trees that are in the vale for abundance.

~ It's difficult to understand everything David had done for the nation Israel. If you've ever been to or seen pictures of that land, you'll know the one thing they have plenty of are stones. Sycamore trees still grow there, but Cedar trees are hard to find. Well, they weren't hard to find in Solomon's day. The materials that were gathered simply cannot be properly imagined. Interestingly, immediately after this blessing of wisdom and notation of wealth, we have a passage connected with it regarding an area Solomon shouldn't have been indulging in. Remember, they were told explicitly *NOT* to multiply horses; but, here is Solomon doing just that in direct disobedience to God. That doesn't seem too smart for such a supposedly super wise man....

16 And Solomon had horses brought out of Egypt, and linen yarn: the king's merchants received the linen yarn at a price.

17 And they fetched up, and brought forth out of Egypt a chariot for six hundred shekels of silver, and an horse for an hundred and fifty: and so brought they out horses for all the kings of the Hittites, and for the kings of Syria, by their means.

II

1 And Solomon determined to build an house for the name of the LORD, and an house for his kingdom.

² And Solomon told out threescore and ten thousand men to bear burdens, and fourscore thousand to hew in the mountain, and three thousand and six hundred to oversee them.

³ And Solomon sent to Hiram the king of Tyre, saying, As thou didst deal with David my father, and didst send him cedars to build him an house to dwell therein, even so deal with me.

⁴ Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

⁵ And the house which I build is great: for great is our God above all gods.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes this report with Solomon in disobedience by multiplying horses as construction of the temple commences. Even in direct disobedience, Solomon is determined to build the house for the Name of the Lord and for the kingdom. I find it very interesting that the building of the temple receives chapter after chapter of emphasis; but Solomon's disobedience in the horse matter only took two verses. What a spiritual lesson we have from God's perspective, friends. I hope *YOU* have prayed for wisdom and understanding so this report can speak to your heart.

Verse four reveals the ordinance to Israel is forever. There has been some criticism of the statement that animal sacrifice will be restored in the millennium temple. Well, you can argue that point all day long, but we're told God ordained it forever – so, you may want to write that down as well. Of course, they will be very meaningful at that time as they point back to the sacrifice that the Lord Jesus made on the cross.

What makes a man great? What makes a nation great? What makes a church great? The answer is: God. I'm afraid we have totally lost sight of that today. Seeking greatness and success is the path most men take today to make a name for themselves. When the disciples debated amongst themselves who would be the greatest in the kingdom, Jesus said, *"if anyone desires to be first he shall be last to all and servant to all!"* So, by that, we can know the path to greatness is humility and service to others. I think we all better learn how to serve Him properly correctly and completely today – and we better learn fast; because we might not be here tomorrow ~

<<< >>>

Wisdom and Knowledge >>>
<<< 2 Chronicles 1:1 – 2:5