

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 15

In this chapter we take a closer look at some of the reforms Asa implemented. The passage divides naturally into three parts:

(i) ***Oded's Charge***

Oded, God's prophet, addressed Asa and his people with directions. Specifically, we again notice that (a) God blesses covenantally those who seek Him & (b) God forsakes (i.e. covenantally) those who forsake Him. NB. Something other than 'personal salvation' is in view here. Rather, it is God's determination to bless/prosper His covenantal flock HERE IN THIS WORLD. Peace or turmoil, war or adversity came upon by God's providential hand (vs 5-6); the same is summarised by Oded in v7:

But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for (and) your work shall be rewarded!

(ii) ***Asa's Covenantal Reforms***

Embracing God's message (through Oded), Asa (a) removed idols in the land and thereby, (b) reformed the worship of God (v8); (c) rallied together God's people from every tribe of Israel & Judah (v9) and (d) dealt conscientiously with his own (queen) mother on account of her obscene idolatry (v16) [How often do we allow ourselves to wink at the foibles of close family?] and (e) restored the Temple treasures.

Slightly tricky for us are verses 12&13! We are unaccustomed to reckon passivity (neutrality) towards God as sin. But it most certainly is! Here, under the theocratic rule of Christ 'laid bare' it was transparent that '*He who is not for Me is against Me*' (Matt 12:30). Neither Atheism nor Agnosticism are honourable positions to take. Don't be fooled. God has so written-large evidence for His existence that we either (a) give thanks to Him and glorify Him or else (b) we suppress the truth in unrighteousness (Rom 1). On this truth is built the doctrine of everlasting punishment in Hell.

(iii) ***Judah's Cause for Rejoicing***

Notice the enthusiasm of the Israelites to come over to Asa (& to Judah). Why? They could see that God was with Asa!! (v9b). This brought them all great joy. Authentic spirituality is an attractive & joyful entity. But theirs wasn't a superficial state of euphoria; rather it was marked also with solemnity. Notice this balance in verses 14-15:

Then they took an oath before the Lord with a loud voice, with shouting and trumpets and rams' horns. And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the Lord gave them rest all around.

Finally, notice that when the religious disposition of the heart is upright, God does indeed reveal Himself to His covenant people and moreover, He blesses them with rest & political peace! May we who yearn to stand fast in our service of Jesus Christ through this Covid Crisis know that same solemn joy & peace as we stand united together as His loyal subjects – covenant keepers! The future weeks and months may yet be uncertain, but God is with us to bless.

He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, (Ps 105:7-8)

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 15:

- *Does God still maintain a 'covenantal' relationship with His people? Might we expect to comprehend His providence towards us by/through it?*
- *What might we have done to warrant His frown? [See Isaiah 2:5-22]*
- *God's true saints gathered together with Asa. Historically, this has generally always happened in times of revival. Might we expect it to occur again? How will we know?*
- *Why is 'spiritual neutrality' objectionable?*
- *Which verses in Isaiah 2 eloquently anticipate God's victory over His enemies in history?*