

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 17

In this chapter Jehoshaphat – Asa’s son – assumes the throne of Judah in the south. Antagonism with the northern tribes persists but Jehoshaphat we are told strengthened himself against Israel. It’s bad enough when we encounter enmity from afar but here, as is often the case, it sneaks upon us from those who are supposed to be nearest/dearest. Notice in verse 3

Now the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the former ways of his father David;

The lesson could not be clearer – this is the central tenet of covenant theology: there is the prospect of God blessing & prospering that man, that family, that nation, etc that determines humbly to walk with integrity before the Lord. There are just too many similar examples of this principle played out in Scripture. God wants us to covenant with Him, to walk humbly before Him and thereby to enjoy His rich blessing on our lives. What precisely did Jehoshaphat do?

...he did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father, and walked in His commandments and not according to the acts of Israel (v4)

i.e. (a) He rejected spurious (illegitimate) worship & (b) he postured his heart to keep God’s commandments. Alas, I have noticed a profound silence from within the evangelical Churches concerning God’s laws; I’ve even heard preachers say, relatively recently, “Christianity is not about rules; it’s about a relationship.” They forget Jesus’ words,

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (Jn 14:21)

Notice how Jehoshaphat was blessed on account of his covenant faithfulness to God further encouraging Jehoshaphat to maintain his zeal & constancy with the Lord:

Therefore, the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah gave presents to Jehoshaphat, and he had riches and honour in abundance. And his heart took delight in the ways of the Lord; moreover, he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah (vs 5-6).

Finally, notice what great thing Jehoshaphat did. He instructed the priests & Levites to ...teach in Judah, and with the Book of the Law of the Lord ... to go throughout all the cities of Judah and teach the people (v9). Candidly, that is what WE need to be doing. It’s really that simple. God has supplied us with everything we could possibly need – His Word (The Bible) in our own native tongue, in multiple good versions with innumerable online commentaries & lexicons to drill into the grammatical/historical details, great expository teachers (from 2000 years of Church history), access to online fellowship & study groups where we can pursue our learning together with fellow travellers, etc, etc. We are richly blessed with great resources ‘out there.’ In due course, God will provide for us physical camaraderie through local/regional gatherings comprising similarly minded souls; but we may need to run (relatively) solo for a short while if necessary.

What was the result?

Three things: (a) universal respect for God & His kingdom on all the surrounding nations (v10a) (b) the prevalence of peace throughout the realm (v10b) (c) the accumulation of material wealth & prosperity wherewith to prosecute further expansion of God’s kingdom (v11a) (d) the provision of

animals for ritual sacrifice – token indications that these outlying Gentile regions were acknowledging that Jehoshaphat’s God was the One True Living God, etc.

“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law.” (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 17:

- ***What is the Biblical basis for our fellowship with one another?***
- ***What GENERAL pattern do we find in Scripture between God’s blessing and our covenantal obedience? How do we account for Job’s experience?***
- ***What resources do we lack in our pursuit of God’s kingdom (Matt 6:33)?***
- ***Given the dereliction we see in (i) the national culture & (ii) our Churches what conclusions should we draw? Have we broken covenant with God? What’s the remedy?***