

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 5

Solomon's temple construction was a sort of visual depiction of our relationship with God – even our pilgrimage to true sanctification. The outer court represented the generality of God's people – this was where the daily sacrifices would occur providing atonement for sin, etc. The main structure contained the inner sanctuary & the Most Holy Place (v7). There the Ark of God would rest beneath the two cherubim's four wings – symbolising the presence of God Himself!

What was inside the Ark? We're told in v10: the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments. These Laws were not issued arbitrarily. They issued from God's own heart. They should be perceived as essential instruction to us, His covenant people, concerning the nature & character of our God. We should love God's Law because, as St Paul explained in Romans,

'... the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. (7v12)

The best theologians of antiquity recognised all of this and therefore defined sin as "any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God." (Shorter Catechism Q14)

It was the contemplation of God's Law (Decalogue) which brought us into proximity with God Himself. Why? Because:

1. God is our exclusive sovereign; He is our ultimate authority.
2. He is distinct from all creation. He is our Creator.
3. He is to be acknowledged & revered in all things.
4. Creation is HIS handiwork; we did not evolve; we are to live in time divided into weekly cycles to avoid forgetting 1,2 & 3!
5. He has established hierarchies in society which remind us of His priority over all. We are to honour Him by honouring them.
6. He is the giver & Sustainer of life; that life is sacred for it expresses His image.
7. God is FAITHFUL; marital faithfulness models the covenant love of Christ for His People.
8. Contractual obligations depict God's covenantal promises to us and our covenantal obligation to Him.
9. God is Truth; our words must reflect God's truthful character. God cannot and does not lie.
10. God is our ultimate (primary) source of comfort, joy and contentment.

No wonder then that

...it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: "For He is good, for His mercy endures forever," (2Chron 5:13-14)

Questions:

- ***How did God reveal His character to the OT 'Church'?***
- ***What is true holiness and righteousness? Are WE to be holy even as God is holy? What would that look like?***
- ***How prone are we to idolatry – submission to false authority? John Owen saw the possibility of the Church itself becoming an idol. Has that ever happened?***

- *Solomon's worship of God was constrained by Scripture? Have we devised ways of worshipping God by whim?*