

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 8

In this chapter we read of the establishment of God's kingdom under Solomon. There were other good kings (see later) and although Solomon ended his days with a measure of disgrace, he seems to represent a sort of zenith in the manifestation of national righteousness under the blessing of God. He certainly made an impressive start! [Perhaps we'll reflect on what went wrong in due course]

It's common to suppose that OT religion was 'spiritually inferior' to NT religion. Such a thought is not without some justification, but it would be a mistake to imagine the INHERENT nature of faith & piety within OT saints were somehow sub-standard. I've always liked Augustine's dictum: *"The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed."* Notice how full the NT is with OT citations; notice too, by implication, that the OT rings out with the same evangelical gospel – i.e. OT Scripture is not 'Jewish' but rather 'Christian!' We, NT Christians are called 'saints' by Paul (see Rom 1:7) and that the recipients of James letter are described as 'the twelve tribes scattered abroad.'

Accordingly, we should recognise something of Christ's kingdom here as (i) shadows & (ii) types in the narrative. Perhaps they are:

- Solomon, as a type of Christ, subdues all his remaining enemies (v3-8)
- The servants of Solomon (Christ), being brave warriors, enjoyed rest & dominion (v9-10)
- Pharaoh's daughter (representing Gentile converts) came up to Zion (v11)
- OT priestly (ceremonial) rituals signified the progressive advancement of God's reign & rule in the Earth →
 - (a) daily shedding of blood pointed forwards to 'the Lamb of God who takes away sin' (Jn 1:29)
 - (b) Feast of unleavened bread anticipated the cleansing / sanctification of ALL things
 - (c) Feast of weeks anticipated the climactic season of earth's jubilee – millennial glory (Is 65)
 - (d) Feast of tabernacles represents an acknowledgement by God's people throughout history that they are pilgrims on a temporal journey to eternal glory – i.e. resurrection
- Finally, depicting Earth's glorious future when ...

'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!' (Heb 11:13-16)

...we find the kings of the Earth bringing their treasures into Jerusalem (vs 17-18).

And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. (Rev 21:24-26)

Questions:

- ***God's kingdom under Solomon was the culmination of a great struggle/ after leaving Egypt – taking generations. Might our own tribulations today correspond to a similar pilgrimage?***
- ***The greater part of God's people who escaped from Egypt died in the wilderness wanderings (see 1Cor 10:1-11). Only a remnant (who truly believed) & obeyed actually entered Canaan! What does this mean for us? (See Heb 4:1-7)***