

10. Jesus in 1 & 2 Chronicles

October 29, 2015

I am sure that you feel like there are too many redundancies in the Bible, especially in the OT. I must agree with you. But since we all have pathetically limited brains and we, either live in Green Valley or nearby, have a tendency to forget just about everything, it must be necessary for our God to repeat the same things over and over.

As we study 1 and 2 Chronicles, the majority of the stories were mentioned previously in the other Books. There are not a whole lot of things that would catch us off guard. But since the Lord is the Author of this Bible and we will be obedient to Him to study these two Books before we move on to the next.

In 1 and 2 Chronicles, the kings of the northern kingdom Israel were hardly mentioned, because the emphasis of these Books was on Judah and the Messianic line of Christ. The lengthy genealogies in 1 Chronicles helped the Israelis who were returning from the Babylon exiles be aware of their connections with the past, and of the continuity of God's promises. It also helps us understand the lineage of Jesus in the Books of Matthew and Luke.

These two Books contain the stories of God preserving His people and keeping His promises, as well as the stories of what happens to His people when they rebel against Him. So you can conclude that these two Books are a spiritual commentary on the Books of Samuel and Kings.

Don't even think for a moment that these two Books are just compilations of old events. These Books provide great lessons with examples for us as we are daily making the same kinds of decisions they were making.

A. JESUS IN THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." 10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

In the midst of hundreds of names mentioned in chapter 1 through 9, many of the men were characterized as being evil, but the Lord chose to dedicate two verses for one person, Jabez. The Lord said through the author of this Book that Jabez was more honorable than others. So, what does this man Jabez have to do with Jesus? Nothing directly. But Jabez's prayer was not for himself, rather for the glory of God as the Lord Jesus' prayer at the Garden of Gethsemane as well as all of His prayers were not for Himself, rather for the glory of the Father.

Jabez's name is rather strange. It means "pain". Was it because the delivery of him was so painful to mama or was the circumstance of delivery painful to her? We don't know. But his character stood head and shoulders above others and noted by the Lord.

I don't believe that Jabez's prayer was a typical selfish prayer of "Give me this, let me have that". According to a Chaldean translation of this prayer, with the line: "and enlarge my borders with disciples." Jabez's desire for more territory was not only to

displace the wicked, but also to advance the cause of godliness through the multiplication of disciples.

Jabez asked that the hand of God would be with him. "The 'hand of the Lord' is a biblical term for God's power and presence in the lives of His people. He also asked to be kept from evil and that he would not cause pain. The Lord granted his prayer, because he prayed according to the Lord's will.

If you ever want to pray a prayer for me, I would appreciate it if you would pray this one: "Lord, bless JK indeed. Enlarge his areas of ministry and service so that he can reach out to more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ because Your hand is with him. Keep JK from evil, that he may not cause pain to others." That would be a perfect prayer for me.

You might be familiar with a book called "The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life" by Bruce Wilkinson in 2000. It became an international bestseller, topping the New York Times bestseller list and selling nine million copies.

The book "The Prayer of Jabez" has been compared to the "Prosperity Gospel" of the circle of Faith Movement and has received the criticism often addressed toward its doctrine. For example, Wilkinson's idea of the Jabez prayer suggests that God ought to do what man wants, instead of man following God's will. Some theologians and Bible teachers have taken issue with the form of the prayer, citing Jesus' admonition against "vain repetitions" in Matthew 6:7-9. The commercialization of Jabez by the publishing company and the author had attracted criticism even further.

If you ask an opinion about Wilkinson's book "The Prayer of Jabez" to me or any other Calvary Chapel pastors, you are not going to get a high remark.

B. JESUS IN KING DAVID'S LAST DESIRE

1 Chronicles 28:2-8 Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it. 3 But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of war and have shed blood.' 4 However the Lord God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel. 5 And of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel. 6 Now He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. 7 Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.' 8 Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever.

David called the temple "a house of rest." God's rest represents the completion of His work. The idea of rest was so significant for the temple that even though David's role as a 'man of war' was a vital part of the temple preparations in creating the necessary conditions for the work, it disqualified him from building the temple himself. Only Solomon, the 'man of rest', was sufficiently fitted for the task.

David's exhortation to Solomon began with the most important aspect – emphasizing a steadfast commitment to a real fellowship with the Living God.

If there was anyone who could ride on the spiritual coat tail of one's father, it would have been Solomon. Because not many people come close to king David's heart for the Lord.

Many pastors' kids who should have known better, but they tend to walk away from the Lord and do the things that the world entices them. Franklin Graham, the son of Billy Graham was one of them. Somehow they think that they can still ride on their fathers' spiritual coat tails and make into heaven. Or they flat out don't care.

Another very important point we should not miss is that David acknowledged that God's choice for him had nothing to do with himself or his family line. Why did God choose David? I have another question for you to make it more individualized. Why did God choose us over millions of other people who could have more influence than you or me? We often think that God couldn't do His work without us. Here is a Hebrew phrase for that – "in pig's eyes."

John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

The Lord has not chosen us because of our intelligence or capabilities. In my guess, He simply loves us enough to ignore all our shortcomings. Let's not forget this.

C. JESUS IN THE SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

2 Chronicles 3:8-14 And he made the Most Holy Place. Its length was according to the width of the house, twenty cubits, and its width twenty cubits. He overlaid it with six hundred talents of fine gold. 9 The weight of the nails was fifty shekels of gold; and he overlaid the upper area with gold. 10 In the Most Holy Place he made two cherubim, fashioned by carving, and overlaid them with gold. 11 The wings of the cherubim were twenty cubits in overall length: one wing of the one cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub; 12 one wing of the other cherub was five cubits, touching the wall of the room, and the other wing also was five cubits, touching the wing of the other cherub. 13 The wings of these cherubim spanned twenty cubits overall. They stood on their feet, and they faced inward. 14 And he made the veil of blue, purple, crimson, and fine linen, and wove cherubim into it.

In my opinion, there is no such a word "modest" when it comes to the things that king Solomon did. Everything he did was beyond calculation. When he offered animal sacrifices, 7,000 bulls were slaughtered, plus rams and lambs.

His temple was no different. The tabernacle in the wilderness was built strictly according to the exact specifications of God. Rather small and humble from outside, yet stunning inside. But for the temple that Solomon had built, gold everywhere and expensive marbles and cedar beams in between.

King David wanted to show God's greatness with plenty of his preparation for the temple, but for Solomon, he was showing off his greatness on this temple project.

Our future church building will be very functional, not elaborate; practical, not mesmerizing, even if we had a lot of money. We'd rather show off the One whom we worship in that building than the building itself.

One good example of going without limit by Solomon was the veil that separated the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. It was originally mentioned in Exodus 26:31 – a simple curtain with cherubim embroidery. But according to some historical accounts, this Solomon’s veil was 18 inches thick. It would be impossible for any human to accidentally tear it.

When the Lord died on the cross, we are told that the veil that was as the same thickness in Herod’s temple as this one in Solomon’s temple was ripped in two, from top to bottom. The Lord used it to show His announcement of the acceptance of Jesus’ atoning sacrifices on the cross.

Matthew 27:51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split

We are no longer separated from His presence and holiness, because our Savior Jesus made the Way to the presence of God.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

D. JESUS IN GOD’S CLOUD

2 Chronicles 5:13-14 indeed 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,” that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

This was the cloud of glory, seen often in the OT and NT. Sometimes called the cloud of Shekinah glory. It is hard to define the glory of God. Some people would call it “the radiant outshining of His character and presence.”

Here are a few mentions of the cloud of God:

- The cloud that stood by Israel in the wilderness – Exodus 13:21-22.
- The cloud of glory that God spoke to Israel from – Exodus 16:10.
- The cloud from which God met with Moses and others – Exodus 19:9, 24:15-18, Numbers 11:25, 12:5, 16:42.
- The cloud that stood by the door of the Tabernacle – Exodus 33:9-10.
- The cloud from which God appeared to the High Priest in the Holy Place inside the veil – Leviticus 16:2.
- The cloud of Ezekiel’s vision, filling the temple of God with the brightness of His glory – Ezekiel 10:4.
- The cloud of glory that overshadowed Mary when she conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit – Luke 1:35.
- The cloud present at the transfiguration of Jesus – Luke 9:34-35.
- The cloud of glory that received Jesus into heaven at His ascension – Acts 1:9.
- The cloud that will display the glory of Jesus Christ when He returns in triumph to this earth – Luke 21:27, Revelation 1:7.

It is worthy of note that this great outpouring of the glory of God came in the context of intense and dedicated praise. God pours out His glory when His people praise Him from their hearts.

There were a few times I felt the presence of the Lord during our worship on some Sundays. Sometimes it is so evident when the hearts of the believers come together and lift up their voices to Him. It doesn’t have to be in the church only. His presence

is everywhere. All we have to do is turn to Him and give Him our hearts. Simple, but we are so often distracted with unnecessary things.

E. APPLICATIONS

1) The will of God comes from the heart of God and it is an expression of the love of God.

2) The presence of the Lord will become so real and so tangible in our lives when we worship Him with all of our hearts.