

Sermon, April 17, 2011
“Ruin and Restoration”, 2 Chronicles 36:15-23; John 12:12-15
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

Review of the Books of History so far:

From Joshua through Chronicles there are 5 important themes

- Only King God can lead you into the “promised land”
- Trust and belief in the King will redeem you, bring you salvation
- Obedience will allow you to dwell in His Kingdom at peace,
- There are consequences to disobedience
- Repentance will restore you

Overview of Chronicles:

- 1 & 2 Chronicles originally written as one book covering Adam to the return from exile in Babylon/Persia in 538 BC.
- Author unknown, perhaps Ezra.
- The 8-9th book of history, 13-14th book of the Bible.
- **Overall Outline of 1 & 2 Chronicles:**
 - 1Ch.1-9 Genealogies
 - 1Ch. 10 United Monarchy under Saul
 - 1Ch.11-29 United Monarchy under David
 - 2Ch.1-9 United Monarchy under Solomon
 - 2Ch.10-36 Judah Monarchy in the Divided Kingdom
 - 2Ch.36 Return from Exile, Judah’s release form 70 year captivity

Major Themes of 1 & 2 Chronicles:

- Where 2 Kings ends dismally with the exile of Judah to Babylon, 2 Chronicles concludes with the Jews release from Persia and return to Jerusalem.
- A major premise of the book is that obedience brings blessings, while disobedience results in judgment.
- Three basic failures brought God’s wrath: 1) personal sin; 2) false worship/idolatry; and 3) trust in man rather than God
- Kings answers the question, “How could this have happened to us?” The exile from God’s Promised Land confirms God’s power of judgment.
- Chronicles answers the question of the exiled community, “Is God still interested in us?”
- The genealogies reflect God’s everlasting interest in His people and speak of Israel’s continuity and election as God’s people.
- Presents David and Solomon in their glory, reflecting the true King to come.
- Immediate divine response for disobedience and obedience is portrayed.
- An emphasis on seeking and turning to God shown in **2 Chronicles 7:14** as an example, *“if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

There are many lessons in 2 Chronicles. One is the ruin and restoration of God’s people at the end of the book.

God redeemed His people from the slavery of Egypt and brought them into the “Promised Land”. For over 700 years the chosen people of God struggled to be citizens of this “Promised Land” but continued to disobey the commands of God.

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God is patient, kind, compassionate, but He is also just.

- **2 Chronicles 36:15-16** The first nine chapters of 2 Chronicles tells of the monarchy of King Solomon, chapters 10-36 tell of the history of the kings of Judah, many were disobedient to God and did not look to him but adopted the ways of the world around them and turned from God.
- God will always look to help you, to teach you, to guide you in His ways of truth and light.
- Even though God is patient, kind, loving and forgiving you cannot continue to turn against Him and not expect to suffer the consequences.

Judah suffered the consequences of an unrepentant heart and the beautiful city of God was ruined, ransacked, and destroyed

- **2 Chronicles 36:17-21** Jerusalem was destroyed. The Temple was ransacked and torn down stone by stone.
- The glory of God’s holy city was removed
- God gave His children a lesson of tough love.
- His love preserved them in exile and eventually brought them to repentance.

After 70 years of bondage at the hands of the Chaldeans, then Persians, God restored His people.

- **2 Chronicles 36:22-23** God used the pagan King Cyrus to release the Israelites back to Jerusalem.
- So they came back to a destroyed city without a Temple, paving the way for “The” King to come.
- This restoration was difficult, but prepared the true restoration intended all along.

560 years later the glory of the Jerusalem of David and Solomon was gone, but a new and more glorious temple was anxiously waiting to be built. And the true King would usher in this new covenant.

- **John 12:12-15** Try to understand the Hebrew thinking ...
- “The” King was coming...He was coming to bring salvation to the Jews
- The long awaited King was finally coming, bringing us back to the glory days of David and Solomon. He was coming to free the captives from the bondage of Roman oppression...
- The expectation for Him was at the pinnacle of what a Jew could imagine!
But!

The purpose and meaning of the triumphant entry of Jesus was so much greater than anyone could possibly imagine, salvation was indeed at hand but nothing like what the Jews thought...

- The arrival of the King ushered in a Kingdom so great that it was beyond what was expected, it was the Kingdom of God in your heart.
- **Jn 12:13** *“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord-- the King of Israel!”*
- *Hosanna...* a cry expressing an appeal for divine help *save! help, we pray! Also, we praise you.*
- Yes there was certainly cause for cheering, demonstrating exuberant love, excitement and a euphoric atmosphere...

Christ was arriving in Jerusalem to bring peace...not between Rome and Jews, but between God and mankind!

- **Colossians 1:19-20; Romans 5:1**
- The whole purpose of the triumphant entry of Christ was not to bring back the kingdom of David for our salvation, but
 - to bear the penalty for our sins on the cross,
 - to bring peace between you and God,
 - to restore and reconcile your relationship to God.
- The real triumphant entry is the entry of Christ in your heart!

- If Christ is calling to your heart this day do not turn away; acknowledge your sins to Him, ask for His forgiveness, and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and you ...shall...be...saved! Your relationship with God restored.