



October 10th , 2010
Morning Service

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Teaching Elder

Change Happens Far Before The Ballot Box

Many of have been encouraged by the recent change in the balance of power this Tuesday last and on the surface many things do appear better, however, as Christians we must be aware of the circumstances that caused our nation to slide into perdition and evaluated if any of those effector have been mitigated. If we do this, we will clearly see that our political situation is only a byproduct. We have and will continue to get the government we deserve.

As Solomon so aptly put it, "There is nothing new under the sun...". We can look to scripture for historic examples of how a once Godly nation can fall and why. Furthermore, we can see how a fallen nation can find it's way back into the favor of God.

In Chronicles, the Lord reveals to us how a nations rise and fall is directly related to the state of the Church. When a nation no longer keeps the Law and shuts the church, it falls and pays the consequences of tyrannical leadership and/or military defeat and occupation. When a nation repents and turns to the Law they are blessed. The key to a strong and peaceful nation is a strong church. Strong Churches start with strong families, and a strong family start with you.

As you listen consider the states of your church, your family, and your personal life. Are you giving your best to the Lord? Are you supporting the kingdom as you should?

Revival does not happen because people are waiting for it happen, it happens when we obey God and uphold His Law. God will honor our obedience with revival.

Notes:

Notice that every time a tyrannical king came to power, two things are common.

- The Sabbath was no longer honored.
- The Law was no longer upheld.

Similarly the national revivals had things in common as well:

- deep and meaningful contrition against sin.
- True revival changes the environment. Nations, institutions, and families.
- A society changes from the church outward.
- Started with leadership under the influence of good preaching.
- There was a deep feeling of personal sin and weeping over it.
- There were filled with great praise for the deliverance.

So what is needed?

- The church must find her way back to God and this begins with you.
- We as individuals must step up and support our churches.
- We must believe the state of a nation is directly related to the state of our churches.

Scripture References

2 Chronicles 7:1-22 Now when Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the house. (2) The priests could not enter into the house of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD'S house. (3) All the sons of Israel, seeing the fire come down and the glory of the LORD upon the house, bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave praise to the LORD, *saying*, "Truly He is good, truly His lovingkindness is everlasting." (4) Then the king and all the people offered sacrifice before the LORD. (5) King Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. Thus the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. (6) The priests stood at their posts, and the Levites also, with the instruments of music to the LORD, which King David had made for giving praise to the LORD--"for His lovingkindness is everlasting"--whenever he gave praise by their means, while the priests on the other side blew trumpets; and all Israel was standing. (7) Then Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that *was* before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offerings and the fat of the peace offerings because the bronze altar which Solomon had made was not able to contain the burnt offering, the grain offering and the fat. (8) So Solomon observed the feast at that time for seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great assembly *who came* from the entrance of Hamath to the brook of Egypt. (9) On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days and the feast seven days. (10) Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that the LORD had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel. (11) Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the LORD and in his palace. (12) Then the LORD appeared to Solomon at night and said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. (13) "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, (14) and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (15) "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer *offered* in this place. (16) "For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. (17) "As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, even to do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, (18) then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man *to be* ruler in Israel.' (19) "But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, (20) then I will uproot you from My land which I have given you, and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples. (21) "As for this house, which was exalted, everyone who passes by it will be astonished and say, 'Why has the LORD done thus to this land and to this house?' (22) "And they will say, 'Because they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers who brought them from the land of Egypt, and they adopted other gods and worshiped them and served them; therefore He has brought all this adversity on them.'"

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the want for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.