

The Healing of the Breach

Sunday, August 09, 2020
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2 Samuel 19:9-15 And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, The king saved us out of the hand of our enemies, and he delivered us out of the hand of the Philistines; and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. And Absalom, whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back? And king David sent to Zadok and to Abiathar the priests, saying, Speak unto the elders of Judah, saying, Why are ye the last to bring the king back to his house? seeing the speech of all Israel is come to the king, even to his house. Ye are my brethren, ye are my bones and my flesh: wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king? And say ye to Amasa, Art thou not of my bone, and of my flesh? God do so to me, and more also, if thou be not captain of the host before me continually in the room of Joab. And he bowed the heart of all the men of Judah, even as the heart of one man; so that they sent this word unto the king, Return thou, and all thy servants. So the king returned, and came to Jordan. And Judah came to Gilgal, to go to meet the king, to conduct the king over Jordan.

2 Samuel 19:16 – 2 Samuel 20:26

Lamentations 2:13 What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?

- I. Israel had just suffered a great division and now there is much to be healed before this breach in the nation can be unified again.
 - A. David cannot just immediately come back home after Absalom is dead and those who were with him are vanquished.
 - B. The whole division and strife was centered around one person – Absalom, but he had recruited many in Israel to take his part against the king and their own brethren.
 - C. His loss was spectacular and swift but now the two sides remain looking at one another with both thinking, “What do we do now?”
 - D. Most people who enter into strife do not consider what they will do when they lose.
 - E. When the strife is in a nation or a family there is no victory, even for the victor.
 - F. One side is usually forced to fight, even though they do not want to.

- II. How are such wrongs and divisions ever healed?
 - A. First of all, there is never any healing unless at least one side is willing to forgive and go on.
 - B. If both sides are bitter and demanding justice there will be no reconciliation, but a continuation of the strife with words and criticism until it leads to another full-blown war.
 - C. Even if one side has this attitude there will be no peace but only a period of time for them to reorganize and wait for the opportunity to make another attack.
 - D. This case is typical of most cases of strife in nations and families.
 1. David and his people had no joy in the victory.
 2. Those who had sided with Absalom did not know what to expect now that they had lost so quickly and decisively.

3. At the first, David and his people did not know the attitude and state of mind of those who had lost toward them.
 4. So both sides are now isolated and alienated from one another.
- E. There is strife among the people of Israel now about what to do.

And all the people were at strife throughout all the tribes of Israel...

1. Some wanted to bring the king back immediately, remembering his goodness.
2. Others were not so ready to bring David back, mostly out of fear of what he or his people might do to them for their failed rebellion.
3. They have not send spies or ambassadors to David to find out what David's attitude and intentions are.
4. But David has spies and is getting intelligence about what is going on in Israel, so he knows what they are thinking, but they do not know what he is thinking.
5. That is also the way things usually work when there is division and strife in a nation, a family, or a church.

- III. David's thoughts and intentions toward all the people of his kingdom are good will and forgiveness.
- A. But the people are not sure of this and fear that he will punish them for their foolishness and rebellion.
 - B. They will not know for sure until they acknowledge him as their king and ask him to come back and take the throne.
 - C. As soon as they do that they immediately see his forgiveness and good will in action.
 - D. Shimei was the first example of forgiveness, as he had made the worst public spectacle of shaming David when he was on his way out.
 1. Sometimes it is the worst sinners who return to the King first.
 - E. Abishai, one of David's most faithful servants thought he should be put to death immediately, but was rebuked by David.
 1. You will always find these people having their say when a breach is trying to be healed.
 - F. But in spite of the obvious good will and forgiveness David offered to those who had turned against him and joined with Absalom in the rebellion, there were still those who followed a nobody named Sheba and refused to acknowledge David as king or submit to him.
 - G. Once David was back on the throne He dealt with this rebellion and it was subdued quickly.
 - H. All this episode has a parallel in God's kingdom and his dealing with mankind.
- IV. There has been a great breach in God's creation.
- A. A rebellion against the King began with one man.
 - B. Since the rebels have always been in the majority since the rebellion began those who are born into this world are naturally drawn into joining the rebellion because of the influence around them.
 - C. But God has faithfully sent ambassadors from the beginning of the rebellion to offer reconciliation and peace to those who will acknowledge Him as King and submit to Him in love.

1. Like in David's case, God knows what we are thinking, but we have no idea what his mind and heart is toward us.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

- D. Just as David showed by his godly example, God will not go where he is not sought after, received, and welcomed.
 1. He will rule by consent and not by force.
- E. Just as David, God promises to forgive and to not remember their sins any more.

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

- F. Just as in the rebellion in Israel, some respond and follow Christ, but many others join themselves together and refuse His good will and forgiveness toward them and maintain their hatred and rebellion against Him.
- G. Just as David returned to Jerusalem as king of Israel and is called by God the "king of Israel forever" Jesus will return to this earth for those people who have acknowledged Him as King and submitted to Him in love.
- H. In the rebellion against David, those who refused to be reconciled were destroyed, and so will it be with those who rebel against God and refuse his offer of reconciliation through the death of his Son for their sins.
- I. Make sure you are not deceived into following and rebel king who will lose instead of the true King who will never lose.