The Chronicles of the Kings of Judah

A Strong Hand and Diseased Feet
Lesson 11
2 Chronicles 13-16

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
November 15, 2015
The course of world history

Focus on the nation Israel – 425 years
  • The Davidic Monarchy – David and Solomon
  • Temple worship
  • The decline and fall of the Davidic Monarchy

Decree of Cyrus – 70 years later
The Chronicles Perspective

- Jesus Christ (John 5:39)
- The Abrahamic Covenant
  - Abraham's family (1 Chron 1:27-28, 32)
  - The Land (1 Chron 16:15-18; 2 Chron 20:7-9)
  - The heart (1 Chron 29:18-19; 2 Chron 30:6-9)
- The Davidic Covenant
  - Revealed (1 Chron 17) – king over Israel forever
  - David’s response (1 Chron 17:27; 29:18-19)
- The recipients – then and now
  - Reality v. Promise
Review

- Saul’s failed kingdom – “did not inquire of the LORD” (1 Chron 10:14)

- Grandeur of David and Solomon
  - Temporal – Military power; Administrative wisdom
  - Spiritual – Temple worship; a loyal heart

- Division: Rehoboam and Jereboam
  - This division is of God (2 Chron 10:15; 11:4) – judgment
  - A dramatic fall – Temple and palace sacked by Shishak
  - A partial reprieve (2 Chron 12:7-8) – blessing!
  - Rehoboam (2 Chron 12:14) – not set heart to seek the LORD
A Strong Hand and Diseased Feet
2 Chronicles 13-16

- **A strong hand – Abijah – King #4 (2 Chron 13)**
  - 3 years
  - Wicked
  - Delivered by faith

- **Diseased feet – Asa – King #5 (2 Chron 14-16)**
  - 41 years
  - He did good and right
  - Did not seek the LORD
A Strong Hand (2 Chronicles 13)

- 1 Kings 15:1-8 (Abijah in 1 Kings – an evil man)
  - Like Rehoboam – heart not wholly devoted to the LORD
  - Not like David
  - Preserved for David's sake (15:4-5)
  - No peace – war with Jeroboam

- 2 Chronicles 13
  - War with Jeroboam – outnumbered but aggressive
  - Piety of Abijah – challenges Jeroboam
  - Ambushed
  - Divine victory by faith
A Covenant of Salt

- God’s Covenant – "Everlasting Covenant"
  "Covenant of Salt" (Num. 18:19; 2 Chron. 13:5)
  "Covenant of Peace" (Isa. 54:10)
  "New Covenant" (Jer. 31:31)
  "Covenant of Life" (Mal. 2:5)
  "Holy Covenant" (Luke 1:72)
  “Covenants of Promise" (Eph. 2:12)
A Covenant of Salt

- First mentioned by Abijah (2 Chronicles 13:5)
- Leviticus 2:13 - salt of the covenant
- Numbers 18:19 – an everlasting covenant of salt before the LORD
A Covenant of Salt

- 2 Kings 2:20 Elisha purified the water with salt
- Job 6:6 – Can something tasteless be eaten without salt?
- Matthew 5:13 – You are the salt of the earth . . ."
- Mark 9:49-50 – salted with fire – be at peace
- Luke 14:34 – tasteless salt is useless
- Colossians 4:6 – speech with grace, seasoned with salt
A Covenant of Salt

› Salt makes the offerings acceptable to God
› 1 Peter 2:4-5 – Jesus Christ is precious to God and our spiritual sacrifices are acceptable to God through Him
› 1 Peter 2:7 – “this precious value is for you who believe”
› Christ is the salt of the earth – we are acceptable in Him
› Covenant of Salt brings a King Who propitiates
› Illustration – victory over Jeroboam
  • Wicked King – appealed to sacrifices (see Isaiah 1)
  • Sovereign grace – based on the work of Christ
  • Faith – the gift of God
› The strong hand is Christ’s
Dates in Kings and Chronicles

- Jerome (347-420): "Read all the books of the Old and New Testament, and you will find such a discord as to the number of the years, such a confusion as to the duration of the reigns of the kings of Judah and Israel, that to attempt to clear up this question will appear rather the occupation of a man of leisure than of a scholar."

- Driver (1948): "The presence of errors in the Biblical Figures is patent, but it is not equally clear where the errors lie."

- Gordon (1958): "The numerical errors in the books of Kings have defied every attempt to ungarble them."
Dates in Kings and Chronicles

- Edwin R. Thiele
  - The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings (1951)
  - A Chronology of the Hebrew Kings (1977)

- Issues for dating the kings in Israel and Judah
  - Year counted from Nisan (Israel) or Tishri (Judah)
  - Accession year v. Non-accession year
  - Co-regencies
Diseased Feet (2 Chronicles 14-16)

- 1 Kings 15:8-22
  - Asa reigned 41 years
  - He did right in the sight of the LORD
  - Heart wholly devoted to the LORD
  - Wars with Baasha
  - Death of Asa – disease in his feet
Diseased Feet (2 Chronicles 14-16)

- 2 Chronicles 14-16 – Good and right in the sight of the LORD
- Initial reforms (14:1-8)
- Zerah's million man army (14:9-15) – 15th year
- Azariah's exhortation (15:1-7)
- Later reforms (15:8-19) – death penalty for not seeking the LORD
- Treaty with Ben-hadad (16:1-6) – 16th year
- Rebuke by Hanani (16:7-9)
- Asa's sin (16:10-14)
Tested Faith

- The deception of peace – Azariah spoke of the blessing of tribulations
- The solution: “Seek the LORD” – in peace even more than in trials
- A blameless heart (15:17) – not overt sin, but overconfidence in self
- The need for a heart that is "completely His" (16:9)
A Strong Hand and Diseased Feet

- The Everlasting Covenant of Salt
- The deception of prosperity
- The prayer of David – 1 Chronicles 29:18-19