

REFORMED CHURCH BELLVILLE : SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2011 MORNING SERVICE

Sing before: Psalm 146:8

Let us commence this meeting with God by declaring openly to one another and to God:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Beloved grace and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the mighty working of God the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Psalm of praise: Psalm 23:3

Confession of faith: Nicene

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was Incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And we believe one holy universal and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

After the reading of the Law we confess our guilt and pray for forgiveness and a new life before God with Psalm 101:1,4,6

Law

Psalm: 101:1,4,6

Prayer:

- **Doxology**
- **Worship**
- **Confession of sins**
- **Forgiveness**
- **Gratitude**
- **Prayer for the need of the congregation of the church, the authorities and the sinful world and appeal to God's promises**
- **General prayer**
- **Enlightenment from the Holy Spirit for the sake of the ministry of the Word.**

Amen

Psalm 36:2

Scripture reading: 1 Chronicles 17

Scripture text: 1 Chronicles 17:10

Furthermore I tell you that the Lord will build you a house.

(1 Chronicles 17:10)

Wrong life values can cause us to apply wrong values when worshipping the Lord. Still it is so that the grace of the Lord is so large that He therein also grants us mercy and brings us to conversion. We consider this matter from two viewpoints:

1. **David's mistake**
2. **Was everything lost due to that?**

1. David's mistake

For a long time during these times Israel was living in peace with the surrounding nations. This gave David time to attend to the internal matters concerning his people.

- It came to pass that one-day he noticed that he had collected more luxuries around himself than were around the ark of the Lord.
- As an example he lived in a cedar-wood house – which for those times was very luxurious – whilst the ark of the Lord was still housed in a tent.

According to the answer from the Lord, given through Nathan, to David it is clear that David's consideration of the glory of God was completely exterior.

- For him, in a certain sense, religion decayed to showmanship and therefore the **exterior difference** between his house and that of the dwelling of the Lord came to his notice and bothered him.
- The motive for the building of the temple should have been something else.
 - To Solomon the motive was that he wanted to install the **holiness of the Lord** amongst his people.
 - It dealt with the residence of the Lord amongst his people.

David immediately took this new idea of him, wanting to build a temple, to the prophet Nathan. Here the second mistake took place.

- Nathan, although it was not the way a prophet should have approached it, immediately approved the matter.
- He should firstly have consulted the Lord whether it would have satisfied Him.

Therefore the night afterwards the Lord intervened.

- Somehow He revealed to Nathan that David was not allowed to build Him a temple.
- Th Nathan this must have been quite an embarrassment having to return to the king and withdrawing his permission of the previous day.

The fact that this was difficult for Nathan is expressed in the words of verse 4 where he had to say: **'Thus says the Lord...** and again in verse 15 where it is written: **According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.**

In full honesty he had to go and say what the Lord wanted to be said. And he did exactly so.

There are various matters the Lord, through Nathan, brought to David's attention.

- Firstly that David was not allowed to build the envisaged temple.
- Secondly that David had to order his values of faith.
- Therefore the Lord, right at the start of Nathan's message, cut David's idea, that the Lord needed a residential building, short.

In order that He, in this way, would not be dependent upon those worshipping Him, the Lord does not allow decisions made for Him.

- Typically of idols, they have to be housed in buildings and statues.
- **The Lord lives inside the hearts of His children.**
 - This is why the Lord calls back the history for David, reminding him that He, since the day He had Israel depart from Egypt until the day Nathan had to speak, He has not lived in a house. (Verse 5)

It is important to grasp this principle:

- Man cannot decide for the Lord about something He himself has not decided about – not even about how you want to worship Him.
- The Lord does not subject Himself to the ideas of the king – only His command alone determines what He wants.
- He has never yet wanted a building to reside into, and therefore says that He has never given such a command to any of the rulers either.

From these words of the Lord it is clear that for David, in the first instance, it was not that he wanted to worship the Lord by planning to build the temple.

- For him it only went about status – the Lord should not live in such a humble place whilst the king lived in a cedar-wood house.
- David put the earthly dwelling of the Lord in competition with his own house. He argued that something should be done about having the Lord residing in a place with higher status.

Where did the fault lay?

- David forgot – or for a moment did not consider it – that the Lord is omnipresent.
- **He forgot that the Lord in fact is a close God, having personal relationship with those who worship Him.**
- Therefore the Lord pointed out to David that He accompanied Israel throughout their travels.
- In the first place the Lord is not interested in external status. He wants to be served by internal sincerity.

It seems possible that David, for the moment by himself, attached too much emphasis on the powers of decision making he as king had.

- Therefore the Lord reveals in verse 7 the big distance between Him and David.
 - He is the Lord of Hosts. The Name means: The powers and beings in the heavens and in the rest of creation are all subservient to Him.
 - He is the **Most Powerful and therewith the Supreme** over all creatures.

In contrast to this everlasting and Omnipotent God stands David. How great and powerful was David?

- Firstly the Lord called him His “servant”. This word has a dual meaning, in the first instance it indicated that David is a servant, in service to the Lord.
- His kingship is the instrument the Lord uses to reign over His children.

This word *servant* is also a Messianic word, used normally prophetically in the Old Testament referring to the Great Servant of the Lord who is still to come:

- Jesus Christ – the Servant whom, in obedience to the Lord, would redeem His children and bear the punishment over these people.
- Of course the word *servant* is used in reference to David. He, as war-king, was in fact a type of Christ, because just like David was in continual battle with his enemies and conquered them the one after the other, so Christ was in battle with Satan and his forces, and He also conquered them.

David, out of his own, was not *servant*, war-king and victor.

- The Lord reminded David that in his deepest being, he still was just a shepherd.
- The fact of him being king of Israel was only due to the Lord who made him as such.
- Furthermore the Lord reminded David about the fact that He (the Lord) fought all his battles for him.

When we read the history we come anew to the realization that, because it was the Lord always telling him what to do and not to do, the Lord fought David’s battles for him. At any rate every time it was the Lord granting the victory, not David’s battle abilities.

In 1 Chronicles 22:8 and 1 Chronicles 28:3 we read about David, many years afterwards, telling Solomon that the Lord also forbade him, because he fought wars and killed many people, to build the temple.

2. Was everything lost due to that?

The crux of everything is that the Lord revealed to David the vastness of His grace:... **the Lord will build you a house.** (V.10)

This is relevant to what the Lord told David at the beginning that He, unlike idols, does not reside in a temple.

- The Lord lives amidst His children. These children are in the hands of the Lord.
- Therefore the Lord firstly promised that He would now grant rest to these people. The Lord will cause their enemies to refrain for some time from fighting with them: ... **nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously** (verse 9)
- It came to pass exactly like this, because during the times of Solomon no war was ever waged.

For David himself, after this temple-building matter, more wars remained to be fought.

- Verse 10 reads: ... **also I will subdue all your enemies.**
- The following chapter as well as the chapters in 2 Samuel (chapter 7 and onwards) also tells about more wars fought and conquered by David after this event.
- This peace was something totally strange to Israel.

Then the Lord starts to describe in more detail how this grace of God came closer to David's own body.

- Verse 11 confronts David with the fact that a day will arrive when the Lord would let him die.
- Still this message of death is devoid of terror because the Lord revealed to David his destination upon death 0 he will be going to his fathers. This is just another way of telling him that after his death, he will be going to the Lord.

Then comes the most important announcement:

- The Lord will let one of David's sons rise as king. The Lord will install his kingship till eternity.
- David may not build a house for the Lord, but this son will be the one building a house for the Lord.
- The Lord promised that He would not withdraw Himself from this son like He withdrew Himself from Saul.
- The Lord kept to this promise, because Solomon was blessed till the end of his life.

Of course Nathan's prophecy meant much more than just Solomon who later built the temple.

- The house referred here to by the Lord is not only the temple in Jerusalem –
 - it envisages far further than the temple in Jerusalem. It points to the kingdom of the hereafter.
 - Therefore this prophecy also reaches further than Solomon, eventually envisaging the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord always predicted that the Messiah would be born from the house of David. This is how we understand the Lord's words in verse 14:

"And I will establish him in My house and in My kingdom forever; and his throne shall be established forever." (1 Chronicles 17:14)

There is only one Person ruling till eternity: Jesus Christ.

- In Jesus Christ the Lord made His promise to build for David, the human, a house, come true.
- David had to hear from the Lord that he, as a human, couldn't rise above the status of a shepherd.
- Still, God made him king so that he could mirror the image of the coming Messiah.
 - The Messiah image existed out of David freeing the people from all forces suppressing them.
 - It was prophetic of the redemption every one of us have in Jesus Christ. He conquered the hell and its forces so that we can live in the freedom of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus took the prophecy of Nathan a step forward:

- Prior to Him leaving the earth He very clearly told His disciples that He is going to prepare a residence for us in the House of the Father.
- The crux that we must realize very well is that you do not just enter that dwelling.
- David was not allowed to build a residence for the Lord as and when he liked.
- Therefore the Lord revealed to him that the situation is exactly the opposite – the Lord builds a house for him.

When your values are tuned to total obedience and worship of the Triune God you may enter this house.

- We face the same problem as David that our insight is warped and therefore many times wrong and wanting.
- Just as for David, the Lord Himself opens for us the way back into His grace.
- He sent His Son to be punished for our sins.
 - This Son also had to conquer the Satan who causes these shallow human insights.
 - He changed us from sinners, continually falling in our hardheadedness, into children who may enter the eternal house of the Father.

In this way the house promised to David also became true for us.

- The King's Son provides us with a house that cannot be measured to earthly luxury, but then that is also not His intention.
- He takes us into an eternal home where the glory and holiness of God is installed.
- Therefore the last book of the Bible teaches that there the glory of God is like an eternal sun shining over us, that there God is everything in everybody.

The Lord builds the house. Come let us worship and thank Him for it with everything we have.

Amen.

Closing prayer.

Closing Psalm: 68:9

The Lord bless and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you, the Lord turn His countenance to you and give peace.

Amen

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