

More Lessons from History - 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles and more...:

Tonight's question: *What do you think the peril of these first two books is? What did David do wrong and what led to his downfall?*

2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles can be dealt with together, because these two books cover the same time of history. Each gives us a slightly different viewpoint of the story of David in his kingship over Judah and Israel.

The story of David is perhaps the most wonderful story in the entire Bible. David was a man "*after God's own heart*"! He had an unwavering faith that shows in this man growing up as a boy: His battle with Goliath, living in the court of King Saul at the risk of his life, the story of his friendship with Jonathan, and finally being made king, first over Judah for seven years and then over Israel and Judah together for thirty-three more years, a reign of forty years altogether.

However, there is a dark side to the story of David. There was a weakness in his life which resulted in the terrible moral fall of this man. He was an adulterer and murderer! How could he, God's own man, be guilty of these terrible things.

With each of these Bible character's faults we should always ask and try to discover "how did it start?" When we do this we will learn about the *nature of sin*.

[Read 2 Samuel 11:1]

The danger to faith that we see displayed in shown here is the danger of a ***forgotten calling***. The result was indulging in the lusts of the flesh. David was the king of Israel and Judah and was supposed to be at the head of the army. He forgot his calling. He was resting when he had no need for rest. He was staying home and enjoying himself while the others went into battle.

While he was home enjoying himself, he went up upon the housetop and, looking over into his neighbor's yard, saw a beautiful woman taking a bath. It did to him what such a sight does to any normal male - he was filled with lust and indulged his passion and took her. In order to cover up that sin, he had to murder her husband. So the terrible fall of David occurred.

*It all began by the subtle danger of a **forgotten calling** and the indulgence of the flesh.*

The wonderful part of this story is David's repentance. Despite David's fall, he was a man after God's own heart, because the minute he was faced with his sin he admitted it and repented, and he accepted the grace of God. The result was ***Psalm 51***.

Quickly, we move onto **1 Kings and 2 Chronicles**, which again can be linked together because they cover the same general period.

These two books are mostly about two men, *Solomon* and *Jeroboam*. Jeroboam was the rival to Solomon's son Rehoboam. He became king of the northern kingdom, Israel. This is the account of the division of the kingdom between Judah and Israel.

The story of Solomon tells us he was crowned king even before his father David's death! He came into the kingdom at the height of its glory. As a young man, Solomon chose wisdom rather than anything for himself.

God gave him wisdom. He was the author of the books of Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes.

But along with his wisdom, God gave him power, magnificence, riches in abundance. But within this was the seed of Solomon's downfall. **[Read 1 Kings 3:1-3]**

What do think was wrong here?

[Now read 1 Kings 6:38 & 1 Kings 7:1] Seven years building the Temple, but thirteen years on his own house!

You can see the beginning of the self-centered life and the danger of a love of things.

The downfall of Solomon was the danger of ***glorification of material possessions***.

[Read 1 Kings 11:1-3]

And that is the story of the downfall of the wisest man who ever lived - through the ***glorification of material possessions***. His heart was turned away from the Lord by a love of things - spiritual strength lost by giving himself to possessions.

The rest of the book is the story of Jeroboam and the rebellion he started, and the beginning of the northern kingdom of Israel. The danger (*struikelblok*) in Jeroboam's life is in 1 Kings 12:26-28.

It was the danger of a ***substitute faith***? But what is a "substitute faith" It is *religious deceit*.

This the peril which is deluding and destroying the faith of thousands and millions today. All over South Africa we encounter Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, Charismatic Pentacostals, Zionists and members of many other such deceptive cults that have fallen into Jeroboam's sin, succumbing to the pressure of a substitute faith of false gods with Christian names. How many have been destroyed by that?

We shouldn't think that the AGS is the one true church and that there is nothing wrong with us. Dr Isaac Burger is on record as saying that a person who doesn't "speak in tongues" should seriously doubt his/her own salvation, and I personally have heard that Baptist minister say that a person who hadn't gone through adult baptism was simply not saved and would go to hell!

It is very important that we always follow what the Word tells us about Christ, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal to us a personal revelation of the arisen Christ in our lives. We should never be deceived like Jeroboam into following a ***"substitute faith"*** - one that replaces Christ Jesus with something else that is man-made - our own "golden calves"

Right in the midst of all of this negativity in **1 Kings** and **2 Chronicles** is an shining example of God's grace - the story of a man who lived and walked unaffected by these dangers and pressures - glorification of material possessions and a substitute faith - he was *Elijah the prophet*.

Next week we will look at 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. Is you were to summarise these two books in one sentence, what would that be?