

Reflections on the message by Colin Dickson on Sunday 25th April 2010

“David”

We are thinking about King David in the Bible, not David Cameron. But pray for the election and the Government. Pray that there will be Christian MPs who will stand up for righteousness and the truth. With God all things are possible. Pray for the next Prime Minister. When Israel had a righteous king, things went well with them.

What do you think when you think about David in the Bible? David was a king, he was physically fit, a soldier. He was an adulterer and a murderer, but he repented. He was a man after God's own heart. He was a musician; a great man of God. We know David especially for the Davidic Covenant and the Messianic Promise. Solomon, David's son was to build the temple of God. His throne would not be taken away and the kingdom would be established for ever (1 Chronicles 17:11-14, 22:7-10). God offers things that are forever, such as everlasting life.

God keeps His promises. He said He would not take away his love away from Solomon, as He took it away from Saul. God's promises to David were fulfilled initially in Solomon. But Solomon did not obey the Lord all his life (Romans 3:23). Only Jesus Christ has lived a sinless life. He is also the son of David (Matthew 1:1). Luke 1:31-33 applied to Him the promise God gave to David. Jesus Himself said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36). The promise made to David also applies to you, for you are part of Christ's church.

God makes promises. The rainbow is a sign of one of God's promises (Genesis 9:13). It is a promise of God. He keeps all of His promises.

The Daily Mail recently posed the question, “What started the earth spinning and what keeps it going?” Dr. I Smith estimated that the earth has been spinning for 4.55 million years and accounted for it by the Nebula Hypothesis. But he has got it wrong. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are more intelligent than scientists like Dr. Smith. *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty* (1 Corinthians 1:27). Recently a volcano in Iceland stopped all air transport to much of Europe. God can bring all of man's activities to a standstill with a puff of wind.

Saul was rejected, and David was accepted. Why was that? 1 Samuel 13:10-12. Saul had not obeyed the word of God and his sacrifice was not accepted (1 Samuel 15). He had not inquired of God first. Things went horribly wrong and there was judgement. And so God appointed another man, David. God is looking for a people who are obedient to Him. Saul did repent. Why was Saul's repentance rejected?

David committed adultery. His sin was very great. Nathan the prophet rebuked David. He told David a parable about a man who had stolen a sheep to feed a visitor. When David became angry about the thief, Nathan told him, “You are the man”. David realised what he had done and repented. His repentance was accepted.

What was the difference between Saul and David? It was the heart! David had a heart that was right before God. God looks at the heart – only He can do this. We look at the outside. God knows your heart. Saul had said the words but he had not repented in his heart. David in his psalms pleaded with God to give him a clean heart (Psalm 51:10). What is your heart like towards God? Ask God to give you a new and pure heart.

It looks unfair to Saul, just like it looked unfair to Cain compared to his brother Abel. But Cain had evil desire in his heart to kill Abel (Genesis 4:1-8). Isaiah realised he was unclean and wanted God to touch him so that he would be clean (Isaiah 6). It is up to each one of us to ask God to make us clean.

You must come to God with a clean hands and a pure heart (Psalm 24:3-4). You can't "pull the wool" over God's eyes. Each one of us will have to face Him one day.

Uzzah grabbed the ark when the oxen began to stumble (2 Samuel 6:2-7). He should not have touched the ark. In fact David should not have put it on a new cart at all; it should have been carried on poles by the priests. David was copying the rituals of the Philistines in using a new cart. And so Uzzah died. God is demanding holiness and righteousness from us and will accept no less. Ananias and Sapphira died for dishonesty.

Was it unfair that Uzzah died? From man's point of view it was, but God has laid down punishment for sin. God is calling you to be righteous before Him (Ezekiel 6). God wants to give you a new heart (Colossians 3:1). He wants you to purify your heart (James 4:8). It is for you to live a life that is holy for God.

David was a tremendous musician. He expressed the thoughts of His heart in the psalms. He praised God exuberantly from the heart.

The Lord called David when he was a shepherd. Is God calling you to do something for Him? You need the power of God in your life, and a heart that is right before Him. You need the Spirit of God in you.