

What Happens When a Nation Seeks God - [9 Lessons for Haiti from] 2 Chron Chap 17-20

I. Presence of God With Them

2 Chron 17:3-5 "The Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he walked in the " ways of his father David, & sought not (the false god) Baal, But sought to the LORD God of his father (Asa) & walked in His commandments & not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; & all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents: he had much riches & honor."

II. There was Revival When the King Sought the LORD

2 Chron 17:6 "And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD. He took away the high places (places for pagan worship) & the groves (wooden images) out of Judah."

III. Biblical Education: Provided by Priests & Levites to Teach Law of the LORD:

2 Chron 17:7-9 "In third year he sent princes, Levites & priests. They taught in Judah & had the book of the law of the LORD with them & went throughout all the cities of Judah & taught the people. Deut 17: 18 (Moses [speaking] to [the] time when Israel would have a king) "It shall be when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book that is before the priests & Levites. It shall be with him & he shall read it all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD & keep His law & statutes to do them, that his heart not be lifted up above his brethren & he not turn from God's commandments, that he may continue long his days in his kingdom, he & his children in the middle of Israel.

For we too must study & teach the Word of God: 2 Tim2: 15; 2 Tim 2:2; Phil 2: 15-16.

2 Sam 23 :3-4 God said to David "He that rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun rises, even a morning without clouds:
... as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain."

IV. Blessing of God: There was No War and No Hunger; [Only] Prosperity

2 Chron 17: 10-12a "The fear of the LORD fell on all the kingdoms of the lands around Judah, so they made no war against Jehoshaphat. Philistines brought presents & tribute silver. Arabians brought flocks. Jehoshaphat became increasingly more powerful." Prov 28:20; Heb 11 :6.

V. God Blessed the Nation of Judah with Economic Growth & Business Development

2 Chron 17: 12b-13a "He built in Judah castles (fortresses) & cities of store. He had much business in the cities of Judah." God makes what we do to prosper: Ps 1 :2-3.

VI. God Blessed the Nation of Judah with Security: Army at His Service

2 Chron 17:13b-19 "The men of war, mighty men of valor, were in Jerusalem. These waited on the king." King Jehoshaphat had cooperation of the army in Judah. Heb 13:5-6.

(2Chron 18 - Bible tells us of Jehoshaphat's alliance with ungodly King Ahab of Israel. 2 Chron 19:3 Jehu rebuked him but commended him for "good things in that he had taken away the groves out of the land & prepared his heart to seek God. ")

VII. King Jehoshaphat Participated in Evangelism: To bring people back to God

2 Chron 19:4 "Jehoshaphat dwelled in Jerusalem & he went out again through the people from Beersheba to the south and to Mount Ephraim to the north & brought the people back unto the LORD God of their fathers." God encourages us in evangelism: Rom 1: 15-16.

VIII. God brought Justice: Judges on the King's Team Who were to Fear & Serve God:

2 Chron 19:5-11 He set judges in the land in all the fenced cities to decide & apply justice in the fear of the LORD with a perfect heart. There was to be no iniquity with the LORD nor respect of persons nor taking of gifts. In Jerusalem he appointed Levites, priests & chief of the fathers of Israel for judgment. He set up a system of appeals over which the chief priest, Amariah presided in spiritual matters; Zebadiah, ruler of house of Judah for all civil matters. Levites were officers. Deal courageously and the LORD shall do you good."

King Jehoshaphat had cooperation of civil & spiritual leaders to provide justice in Judah.

IX. There was Deliverance from Enemies: (King Jehoshaphat was warned:)

2 Chron 20:2-30 " .. There comes a great multitude against you. Jehoshaphat feared & set himself to seek the LORD. He proclaimed a fast throughout Judah & gathered themselves to ask help of the LORD .. "Our God, will You now judge them? We have no might against this great company that comes up against us, neither know we what to do, but our eyes are on You." The LORD gave answer: "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude for the battle is not yours but God's. Stand still & see the salvation of the LORD. Tomorrow go out, I am with you." The people fell before the LORD & worshipped him. The appointed singers praised the beauty of holiness & the LORD set ambush against the children of Ammon - to destroy each other. There were all dead bodies before Judah. They went again to Jerusalem with joy for the LORD had 'made them rejoice over their enemies.'[v.27] And the fear of the LORD spread on all the kingdoms of those countries when they had heard that the LORD fought against the enemies of Israel." [v.29]

Haiti has problems of poverty & lack of education, jobs and health care. There is a lesson from the nation of Judah that sought God.

People are hungry. The Church should help but the people need jobs to help themselves. To get jobs, people need education to learn skills for the jobs.

To make jobs available, Haiti needs economic growth & business development.

For economic growth & business development in Haiti, here must be strong security and justice. There must be security with order; security officers with integrity, without corruption;

There must be justice in the fear of the LORD with respect of God's law & rights of each person. That can happen only as the king and the nation seek the one true living God.

What can save Haiti?

If Christians will take their responsibility to teach the law of God: hold forth the Word of God.
If Christians will take their responsibility to live their faith; Love their neighbor as themselves.
If Christians will take their responsibility to take the gospel that will bring people to God.

1 Pet 3: 18 Christ Himself died once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God

Then Haiti could be a nation that seeks God; a nation where the presence of God is; a nation revived not lost in misery; a nation that in justice fears God & desires to obey Him; a nation that enjoys education, health care, provision of needs met, business development, security, justice & no war but deliverance from her enemies.

One nation whose hope is in God .. God speaks in Ps 91:15. What will save Haiti?

It's us .. When we study God's Word, live God's Word & tell God's Word approved unto God; What Will save Haiti? It's Us. Christ in us, the hope of Glory.