1 Chronicles - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 13

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“And these are the singers, chief of the fathers of the Levites, who remaining in the chambers were free; for they were employed in that work day and night” —1 Chronicles 9:33.

IS singing work? It is certainly not labor in the sense of toilsome effort. But we read of the “service of song,” And when our hearts are lifted up to God in praise and our lips intone thanksgivings to His Name, it is indeed a work in which He finds delight. He has said, “Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me” (Psa. 50:23). Of old the Levites, who were set apart for the special ministry of song, were “employed in that work day and night.” It is no light thing to be appointed to lead the praises of God’s people. It is a blessed and joyous service in which the heart must be continually occupied. Paul and Silas were true singing Levites, even in a prison cell with their feet fast in the stocks. It is God alone who giveth songs in the night.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 12

“And Jabez was more honorable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that Thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that Thine hand might be with me, and that Thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which be requested” —1 Chronicles 4:9, 10.

IN the midst of what seems to many like a wilderness of forgotten names, how refreshing it is to come across the brief story of Jabez. His name means “Sorrowful,” but through grace he was determined to rise above the sorrow that overshadowed his life and enter into the joy of fellowship with God. His prayer is fourfold, “Bless me indeed.” That is, “Give me true happiness.” This is only found as one prevails and walks with God. “Enlarge my coast.” He was not content to go on only with what he had. He would enter into and enjoy more of the inheritance of the Lord, “That Thine hand may be with me!” He counted on God’s protecting care. And lastly, he prayed, “Keep me from evil that it may not make me sorrowful,” Sin is the only thing that can rob a child of God of his joy in the Lord.

—Margaret D. Armstrong.