2 Chronicles - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 14

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“Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: for thou exceedest the fame that I heard. Happy are thy men, and happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom” —2 Chronicles 9:6, 7.

WHAT the Queen of Sheba said of King Solomon may well be applied to our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. None can realize His worth until they come to Him in faith and prove for themselves the wonders of His grace and the glory of His power. Then indeed the adoring heart admits with joy and gladness that His wisdom and goodness are far beyond all that has ever been proclaimed by the heralds of His gospel. Faith, we are told, comes by hearing (or, a report). He who hears the Word and believes the message is the recipient of life eternal and enters into fellowship with Him who is the Source of that life. Then the heart can say, “The half has not been told me.”

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 17

“But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense” —2 Chronicles 26:16.

THERE is a very real danger in success even for those who are children of God. It is easy to become proud and to take credit to oneself instead of giving all the glory to Him through whom alone promotion comes (Psa. 75:6, 7). King Uzziah, as he is called here, otherwise known as Azariah (2 Kings 14:21; 15:1-7), is a striking illustration of this truth. Like many others, he began well and ended badly. In his early years he was earnest and energetic in building up the kingdom of Judah and in furthering the observance of the law of the Lord. While under the helpful influence of “Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God” (2 Chron. 26:5), he sought after God, and as long as he did so he prospered. “But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction.” In his old age he became a “castaway” (1 Cor. 9:27). He was set to one side as unfit to be used of the Lord, while his son acted as regent in his place.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 16

“And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; but sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in His commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. Therefore the Lord established the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honor in abundance”—2 Chronicles 17:3-5.

THE path of obedience is the path of blessing. This is the great lesson emphasized in the life of Icing Jehoshaphat. Disobedience always results in sorrow and disappointment. Yet how slowly we learn these things, simple and so often demonstrated as they are? What can be more foolish than to suppose that we, poor finite creatures of a day, are capable of ruling ourselves and finding lasting happiness in acting in accordance with our own unrestrained impulses, rather than by yielding ourselves unto God to do His will and be controlled and directed by Him as He has revealed His mind to us in His holy Word? It is His love for us that leads Him to give us suited instruction for a safe way through this scene. Our greatest wisdom is manifested in surrendering ourselves wholly to Him, in order that He may be glorified in and through us.

—Annie Johnson Flint.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, March 15

“And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with Thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art God; let not man prevail against Thee”—2 Chronicles 14:11.

GOD’S power is omnipotent and He is prepared to back up the man of faith, no matter how difficult the circumstances that he may have to face. We today are not called to battle with flesh and blood, using carnal weapons, but our conflict is with Satanic hosts, who would seek to rob us of the enjoyment of our inheritance in Christ (Eph. 6:12). But, for faith, the devil is already a defeated foe (Heb. 2:14). As we meet the enemy in the power of the cross, victory is sure (Gal. 6:14). He who wrought for Ma will undertake for us as we rely upon His faithfulness and walk in obedience to His Word. Asa’s prayer is soul-stirring and indicates strong faith and high spirituality. He put God between him and the enemy. It was a case of divine power versus human assumption, the might of Jehovah against mere brute strength and artfulness.

—Helen Frazee-Bower.