

THE SERMON OF AZARIAH, SON OF ODED PROPHET SENT BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO KING ASA OF EXHORTATION

Prophetess
Cynthia Kelly

AFTER KING ASA GREAT VICTORY AGAINST THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY. God sent Azariah the prophet of Oded with a sermon of exhortation to remember the past mistakes of Israel, remember in trouble to seek the Lord--turning to Him, and He would be found. To remember the long season without the true God, His presence, teaching priest, and the law of God. To remember a time of great vexation from God; nation against nation and city against city were destroyed, to remember the times when there was no peace, because God brought forth vexation for disobedience. In 2 Chronicles 15:7, King Asa is encouraged, ***“Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.”***

THE EFFECT OF THE SERMON SENT BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD - KING ASA

STARTS THESE BOLD ACTIONS:

- He grew bolder for God. He took courage, started a reform throughout the land of Judah, Benjamin, Mount Ephraim, Manasseh, Simeon, this territory fell to him, granted to him out of Israel in abundance.
- He put away all the abominable idols, and renewed the altar of the Lord. He gathered everyone including strangers in the land at Jerusalem in the third month of the fifteenth year. Around the feast of Pentecost. He extended his influence further than before.
- He became daring, they offered sacrifice to the Lord of thanksgiving, praise, prayer, and supplication, entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and soul. All the people repented to the Lord, to enter engagements of true relationship and fellowship unto God. This was their resolve.
- Whosoever, would not seek the Lord God of Israel were to be put to death, whether small or great. And they took an oath unto the Lord with loud voices, shouts, and trumpets and cornets. All Judah rejoiced at the oath because they had sworn by their whole hearts, whole desire, and the Lord was found by them. As such, they made it their own **“act”** at the order of King Asa.
- This would not just be about religion, tradition, rituals, but relationship and fellowship to seek God with a loyal heart, and reliance on Him in all occasions.

THE PROCESS OF TIME

- During this great reform, covenant, and oath, the Queen mother, Maachah, Asa mother was caught making an idol. Asa cut down the idol, stamped it out, and burned it. ***“Be careful of the covenant and oath you make to God in the sight of God.”*** The Queen mother was removed from her position, but kept from death. She was given grace to live. Perhaps, she subscribed after being caught to the covenant, however, she remembered those high places in the land.
- Of greater significance, King Asa failed to remove all the high places out of all the cities of Israel and all the cities of Judah. 2 Chronicles, 15:17, ***“But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless, the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.”*** The reformation was not complete because the high places remained.
- These high places represented idolatry and pagan worship, sacrifice to false gods, and sacrifice to people. The location, placed on high hills or mountains in which you had to look up to, and journey to those high places.

“Be Careful of the Covenant and Oath You Make to God.”

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(Continued)

A DEEPER REVELATION OF THE HIGH PLACES:

- Let us take it deeper, the high places represents a “*spiritual culture of compromise*” and “*spiritual culture of distractions of true worship (mixed with the world worship)*,” compromise failure of complete obedience to God, compromise of total reliance and trust in God, compromise to a power and status mentality of men or women heart and soul walking away from God in their own strength, power, and way, not of God.

THE TEMPERATURE AND CULTURE:

- **How is the temperature?** My brothers and sisters, “*culture*” represents shared spiritual and natural beliefs, what you value, customs, practice of a group of people, social behaviors transmitted from generation to the next. And shared characteristics: The culture includes the “*complex whole*” of human society, learned through socialization, shaping an individual’s personality, sense of belonging, identity, and learned behavior. Culture and classification are coupled together. There is a spirit of both. If it is the right or wrong spirit unveils in the “*process of time*” all orchestrated by God, Himself.
- In this “*process of time*” Queen mother had an influence on her son King Asa, to the effect in his heart perfect before God, to do right by God, which simply stated “*sincerity is something less than sinless perfection*” but not sinless. He was blinded by what remained, those high places incorporated for 35 years of King Asa reign. Which means there was a cover up of those moments of people journeying to the high places to worship. A sneak out moment. God the Father and Jesus Christ, are beckoning for a true heart and soul, loyal commitment, true repentance, and true relationship and fellowship. Hebrews 3:17, “*Today, if you hear my voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.*” Hebrews 4:7, reiterates, “*...Today, if you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.*”
- These high places represent anyone, anything, or whatsoever thing to take precedence over God the Father and Jesus Christ, to compromise, draw back, coping with sin, going on, knowing sin, and offering sacrifice, praise, and prayer. **Stay Strong, Stay Loyal to the Lord, Because He Is Watching!**

"Stay Strong, Stay Loyal to the Lord, Because He Is Watching!"