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LIFE-STUDY OF FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES

A. To Give a Full Chronology of God's Move in Man's History

The central thought is, first, to give us a full chronology of God's move in man's history by including the genealogy from Adam to Samuel, indicating that God's move in man's history to prepare the way for God to carry out His eternal economy in humanity by becoming a man that man may become God is not a matter that concerns only the history of God's elect but a matter that concerns the history of the entire race of mankind. The central point of view in 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings is the chosen people of God, but in 1 and 2 Chronicles it is the entire race of mankind. This needs a lineage not from Samuel but from Adam to Christ, which corresponds to the genealogy of Christ as recorded in Luke 3, not as presented in Matthew 1. The view in Matthew 1 is narrow and is limited to Israel. The view in Luke 3 is broad and includes all of mankind. This is a strong evidence that the coming Christ as the embodiment of God is not only for the one race chosen by God but for the entire human race created by God.

We need to see that God's move is in man's history. Have you ever heard such a phrase as "God's move in man's history"? Do you believe that in today's tumultuous world situation God is still moving in man's history? We need to believe that God has been moving and is still moving in and through man's history. In Adam's history God moved, and in Abel's history God also moved. This was a move on the positive side. But God moved even in Cain's history. This was a move on the negative side.

I can testify from my observation of the world situation since 1918 and from my study of the prophecies in the Bible that God surely moves in man's history. Let us consider, for example, the dispute over Palestine, that is, over the good land, that has been going on for hundreds of years. Who is the landlord, the rightful owner, of the good land—Israel or the Arabs? The Jews say that Palestine is the land of their forefathers, and the Arabs claim that it is the land of their forefathers. This issue has not been settled but is still on the negotiating table. The statesmen involved in these negotiations are foolish men, for they do not know God or the Word of God, the Bible, yet they are talking about God's affairs. God is the landlord of Palestine, and only He can solve the problem concerning this land. I believe that while the statesmen are negotiating over the ownership of the good land, the Lord is in the heavens laughing (Psa. 2:4). The decision regarding the good land will not be made by statesmen; it will be made by the One

who is in the heavens. Soon the Lord Jesus may come back and settle this matter. When He comes He may say to the statesmen of the world, "This is not your business—it is My business."

We have pointed out that the chronology in 1 and 2 Chronicles indicates that God's move in man's history is to prepare the way for God to carry out His eternal economy in humanity by becoming a man that man may become God. If this cannot be accomplished, there is no way to solve the problems of today's world situation. All the problems on this earth are waiting for one thing—for a good number of men to become God-men. This matter concerns not only the history of God's elect, Israel, but also the history of the entire race of mankind.

The world situation has changed greatly during the past fifty years. In these fifty years God has blended together people from everywhere on earth. In our semi-annual trainings saints come together from fifty nations. This would have been impossible fifty years ago. This blending of the nations is something that could have been accomplished only by God.

Through such a blending thousands of God-men will be produced. In Russia, for instance, the God-men are spreading and increasing. The whole world is open to the ministry in the Lord's recovery. This ministry has reached to all six continents, and I have received letters of appreciation from saints in many different countries saying that they are open to receive this ministry.

Recently I released the matter of the high peak of God's revelation—the revelation that God became a man so that man may become God in life and in nature (but not in the Godhead) for the producing of the Body of Christ as His expression. Now we need to pray that the Lord will give us a new revival, a revival which has never been seen in man's history. Such a revival will be something new, for it is related to God's "hobby," to His good pleasure, to the desire of His heart. God's good pleasure is that God would become a man to make man God in life and in nature. This is the desire of God's heart, the "hobby" in His heart, and He will accomplish it.

As we have seen, whereas the central point of view in 1 and 2 Samuel and in 1 and 2 Kings is the chosen race of God, the central point of view in 1 and 2 Chronicles is the entire race of mankind. This indicates that God thinks not only about Israel but also about the Gentiles. Most of us are not of the people of Israel, but God thought about us in eternity past. Ephesians 1:4 tells us we all were chosen by God before the foundation of the world. We praise the Lord for choosing us in Christ before the foundation of the world.

B. To Present Some Important Details of God's Dealing with the Kings of Judah

The central thought of 1 and 2 Chronicles is also to present to us some of the important details of God's dealing with the kings of Judah that are not recorded in 1 and 2 Samuel and in 1 and 2 Kings. Many readers of the Bible feel that 1 and 2 Chronicles are somewhat repetitious, covering things which have been covered already in 1 and 2 Samuel and in 1 and 2 Kings. We need to see that at the beginning of 1 Chronicles a part of mankind's history is recorded that is recorded neither in 1 and 2 Samuel nor in 1 and 2 Kings. Furthermore, at the end of 1 Chronicles there is a supplement to David's history, and in 2 Chronicles there is a supplement to the history of the kings of Judah. Israel was divided into two nations: the northern kingdom, called the kingdom of Israel, and the southern kingdom, called the kingdom of Judah. The good kings were not in Israel but in Judah. Second Chronicles does not touch the kings of Israel but covers only the kings of Judah, giving us details not found elsewhere concerning God's dealing with them and also telling us the reasons why God dealt with them in the way He did.

Finally, in 1 and 2 Chronicles we have a complete history of God's move in man's history from Adam to Abraham, from Abraham to Samuel, and from Samuel, who brought in the kingship, to Israel's return from their captivity.

THE LIFE OF A GOD-MAN IN OUR MARRIED LIFE AND IN THE CHURCH LIFE

We need to have a God-man living in our married life. If a married brother would live the life of a God-man in his married life, he would surely be a good husband, for he would be a real God-man in loving his wife. Likewise, if a married sister would live the life of a God-man in her married life, she would be a good wife, submitting herself to her husband.

We also need to have a God-man living in the church life, especially in relation to what we call the vital groups. How can we have a vital group if we ourselves are not vital? This is impossible. Suppose at dinner a brother and his wife are not happy with each other. They even exchange words and argue for quite a long time. Suddenly they remember that later that evening they must attend a meeting of their vital group. But how could this couple be vital in the meeting? Because they are not vital at home in their married life, they have no way to be vital in the meeting.

OUR NEED FOR A REAL REVIVAL

Because we are short of the God-man living, we need a real revival. The children of Israel had only an outward law, but today we have something much stronger and much higher

than the law. We have the all-inclusive, life-giving, compounded, consummated Spirit in us, who is the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19). We need to live Christ by the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (vv. 20-21a).

We have such a Spirit within us, but what do we live and how do we live? Do we live Christ? In the church meetings we may live Christ, but do we live Christ at home with our husband or wife and with our children? We need a real revival to be God-men who live a life of always denying ourselves and being crucified to live Christ for the expression of God.

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for the blending and one accord among the saints.
- Pray for the English-speaking testimony and gospel preaching on West Valley College campus.
- May the Lord raise up many brothers to bear the testimony together.
- Pray for the burden to raise up next generation for building up of the body of Christ.
- Pray for YP that they will be companions with one another to pursue the Lord together.
- For GOW training: Vital groups be raised up, attending prayer meeting, prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursuing the truth.
- Pray for the coming monthly GOW training and Labor Day Conference.

Announcement

- Fellowship with Brother Paul Hon at Campbell meeting hall, Monday (8/20), love feast started at 6:00pm, 7:15-9:00pm meeting.
- Morning Revival: 2012 Memorial Day Conference Message #5.
- Gospel of John Reading Schedule: S.16:1-15, M.16:16-33, T.17:1-5, W.17:6-13, Th.17:14-24, F. 17:25-18:11, S.18:12-27.
- Tuesday (8/21) prayer meeting at meeting hall.
- Labor Day conference, at Burlingame Hyatt. The dates are Friday (8/31) and Saturday (9/1) nights. The link is: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/NorCalLD2012>
Friday 8/31, 7:30 ~ 9:00pm, combined meeting, Msg #1
Saturday, 9/1: 9:00 ~ 10:30am Msg #2
11:00 ~ 12:30pm, Msg #3
Noon: picnic blending with saints Santa Clara.
Special fellowship: 2:00pm ~ 3:00pm - young adults
3:00pm ~ 4:00pm - GTC-NC
4:00pm ~ 5:00pm - smaller localities
5:00pm ~ 6:00pm - GOW training testimonies
7:00 pm-9:30pm – Msg #4
Lord's Day, 9/2, 9:30 ~ 12:30pm: combined Lord's table meeting, followed by messages 5 and 6