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In the midst of joy, Awareness of God's Presence

Chapter 23 of 2 Chronicles tells the story of a coup in Judah and the ascension of a new king. In the previous chapter, Athaliah became regent after King Ahaziah was murdered by his mother Athaliah. However, the chief priest Jehoiada and some loyal generals staged a coup and captured and executed Athaliah, making Jehoiada's son Joash the new king of Judah.

Joash was young and ignorant when he ascended the throne and was soon invaded by the Edomites and other nations. Under the direction of Jehoiada, the chief priest, Joash re-established the faith in Judah and restored the people to the temple. He restored some of the temple utensils that had been destroyed, hired craftsmen to repair the temple, and abolished some idolatry practices to ensure the loyalty of the people of Judah.

Chapter 23, verses 20-21 read: "And he took the centurion, and the nobles, and the rulers of the people, and all the people of the land, and asked the king to come down from the house of the Lord, and enter the king's house by the gate, and set him on the throne." The people rejoice, and the city is quiet. They have slain Athaliah with the sword. This indicates that Joash has officially ascended the throne, and the whole country is rejoicing. However, this outward joy is short-lived if there is no spiritual quiet; If things go well without harmony with God, it is nothing more than a house built on sand.

We should consider whether there is such spiritual quiet in our joys. Is there harmony in our relationship with God in our success? Is there a normal order with God in our celebrations?

Today, when sin is rampant, many believers choose to be the silent majority, refusing to vote actively in accordance with their civic duties and not daring to be an outlet for God's Word in the face of sin. Thinking that they were on their own, they repeatedly compromised, compromised, and tolerated sin, and eventually joined in with Sodom and were destroyed by God (Genesis 19:28; Revelation 11:8). If believers refuse to be "the light of the world," God will leave Athaliah in power, leaving God's people in darkness and suffering until they are put to death and come back to life, turning their eyes to the coming Lord Jesus Christ.

Today, we live in a world like the usurpation of the throne of Athaliah, where Satan the Devil is at will, luring God's people away from the true God and worshipping all kinds of idols. Only a few people understand God's will and understand the truth. These few are us, chosen by God, who calls us royal priesthoods, holy nations, and God's people. And God promises that in the last days there will be new heavens and a new earth, and a new Jerusalem coming down from heaven. Are you willing to be like Jehoiada and strive for the truth and promises?

When a person turns away from sin and returns to the Father, he and the Christians around him can experience the same joy together. So, when we are occasionally overcome by transgressions, don't forget: Confess your sins to God and put Him back on the throne of our lives.

Despite Joash's many good deeds, the historian concludes the chapter with a note of his shortcomings, pointing out that he did not completely remove the idolatry of Judah. Pray that the Lord will help us to have a courageous heart, to stand strong for the truth and for the Lord, to take up spiritual weapons, to put on the full armor of God, and to rise up and fight! I want to be the one you are pleased with and be willing to walk with you in your plan!

We pray

Dear Lord, Lord, I want to have a quiet heart, quiet in a sweet relationship with you. Lord, let me not just focus on outward joy and joy, but also give me the heavenly quiet that comes with returning to my relationship with you.

May we all rejoice and be glad before God. At the same time, in the joy and joy of our work promotion, children's success, career success, etc., we are sensitive to the harmony and tranquility of our relationship with God. Pray that the Holy Spirit will enlighten us and have spiritual peace. Thank you in the sacred name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

2 Chronicles, chapter 23

23:1 And it came to pass in the seventh year that Jehoiada strengthened himself, and brought Azariah the son of Jeroham the centurion, and Ishmael the son of Johanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, Elishaphat, the son of Zilkiri, was called and made a covenant with them.

23:2 And they went about all over Judah, and gathered together the heads of the Levites and the Israelites from all the cities of Judah to Jerusalem.

23:3 The congregation made a covenant with the king in the temple. And Jehoiada said unto them, Behold, the king's sons shall be kings, just as Jehohua had promised concerning the sons of David.

23:4 And he said, Thus shall ye do: that every third of the priests and Levites who enter on the Sabbath shall guard every door.

23:5 one-third of them shall be at the palace and one-third at the gate of the base . and all the people shall be in the courtyard of the temple of Yahweh.

23:6 No one was allowed to enter the house of Jehohua except the priests and the ministers. But they can go in, because they are holy. And all the people shall obey the commandment of Jehovah.

23:7 And the Levites were to have weapons in their hands, and to guard the king round about. Whoever trespasses into the temple must be put to death. When the king goes in and out, follow him.

23:8 And the Levites and all the people of Judah did as Jehoiada the priest commanded, and brought every man who was in charge of the Sabbath to go in and out of the shift, for Jehoiada the priest would not let them go from work.

23:9 And Jehoiada the priest gave the centurion the spear, and the shield, and the shield of the Guardian, which were in the house of God.

23:10 And he sent all the people, every man with an arm, to stand round about the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, in the altar and in the temple.

23:11 And he brought forth the king's son, and put a crown on him, and gave him the book of the law, and made him king. Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and they said, "Long live the king."

23:12 When Athaliah heard the voice of the people running toward the king of praise, she went to the people and entered the house of Jehohua.

23:13 And behold, the king stood by the pillar of the gate of the temple, and the centurion and the trumpet-bearer standing on the king's left and right hand, and all the people rejoicing, sounding their trumpets, and some singing, and leading the people in singing praises with all kinds of instruments. And Athaliah tore his garment, and cried out, Contrary. the opposite .

23:14 And Jehoiada the priest took the centurion over the army, and commanded them, saying, Cast her out of the house, and all who followed her shall be slain with the sword. for the priest said, "You shall not kill her in the temple of Yahwa."

23:15 The soldiers dodged away and let her go. She went to the gate of the palace and slew her there.

23:16 And Jehoiada made a covenant with all the people and with the king, that they should be the people of Jehovah.

23:17 So all the people went to the temple of Baal, and destroyed it, and broke down the altar and the image, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altar.

23:18 Jehoiada sent officials to guard the temple of Jehohua under the priest Levites. This priest Levites were appointed by David in the temple of Jehovah to offer burnt offerings to Jehovah, as it is written in the Law of Moses, and to sing with joy according to the custom of the Mahavid.

23:19 and set up gatekeepers to guard the gates of the temple of Yahweh, and no one who is unclean shall enter in for any reason.

23:20 And he took the centurions and the nobles, and the rulers of the people, and all the people thereof, and asked the king to come down from the palace of Yahohua, and enter into the king's house by the upper gate, and set him on the throne of the kingdom.

23:21 the people are happy and the city is quiet . They had slain Athaliah with the sword.

A detailed summary of Chapter 23 of the Second Chronicles

Chapter 2 of 2 Chronicles focuses on a coup d'état in Judah and the accession of a new king.

In the previous chapter, Athaliah became regent after King Ahaziah was murdered by the mother of Athaliah, Queen of Judah. However, Jehoiada, the chief priest, and a number of loyal generals staged a coup d'état that captured and put Athaliah to death, which made Jehoiada's son Jehoash the new king of Judah.

After Joash ascended the throne, he was young and ignorant, and was soon invaded by the Edomites and other nations. However, under the direction of Jehoiada, the chief priest, Jehoash re-established the faith in Judah and had the people re-establish the temple. Joash restored some of the temple's destroyed utensils and hired craftsmen to repair the temple. In addition, he abolished some idolatrous practices to ensure the loyalty of the people of Judah.

Despite his many good deeds, the historian concludes the chapter by noting his shortcomings, pointing out that he did not completely remove the idolatry of Judah.

A few important passages from 2 Chronicles 23:

1. 2 Chronicles 23:1: "In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself and called Azariah the son of Jeroham, the captain of centurions, Ishmael the son of Johanan, Azariah the son of

Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Selithi, and made a covenant with them. ”

This passage tells how Jehoiada, the chief priest, made a covenant with several other influential men to stop the usurpation of the throne by Athaliah. This event took place at a time when Judah was suffering from internal crisis and political turmoil, and Jehoiada became a key figure in saving the royal family.

2. 2 Chronicles 23:11: "And Jehoiada took his sons and his men of great power in David's place, and brought them into the house of the Lord, and brought forth the prince, and put on his crown and certificate, and made him king." So Jehoiada and his sons executed Ahaziah, and slew him, and then welcomed Jehoash to the throne. ”

This passage tells the story of Jehoash's accession to the throne. And Jehoiada and the mighty men came into the house of the LORD, and put Joash on the crown, and made him king. Jehoiada also killed Ahaziah because he was the son of Athaliah, and Athaliah usurped the throne of Judah.

3. 2 Chronicles 23:16: "Jehoiada made a covenant with the Lord and with the king, and the king with all the people, to be Jehovah's people." ”

This passage tells of Jehoiada, Jehoash, and all the people's covenant with God. They pledged to obey God's laws and swore an oath to be God's people. This is an important commitment because it shows people the path they are going to take and acknowledges that their faith is united.

4. 2 Chronicles 23:21: "And all the people entered the temple of Baal with joy, and destroyed it, and broke the altar and the image of Baal, and slew Matan the priest of Baal before the altar." ”

This passage tells how the people tore down idols and altars, and how they killed Matan, the priest of Baal.

2 Chronicles chapter 23 goes on to record important events in Israel's history, particularly the accession to the throne of King David's son Jehoash (Joas), and the religious reformation and abolition of idolatry during his reign. This chapter emphasizes the worship and reliance on God, as well as God's blessing and protection.

Although this chapter is primarily a record of historical events, it still contains some theological ideas and gains.

The following are the central ideas and theological findings that can be found in 2 Chronicles 23:

Worship and Reliance on God: In chapter 23, Joash conducts a religious reformation that abolishes idolatry and shifts the Israelites back to the worship of the one true God. This underscores the importance of worshipping and relying on God.

God's Promise and Protection: In this chapter, God blessed Joash with a firm throne and protection from his enemies. God is their protector and the God of justice.

Fight against evil: Joash not only carried out the Reformation, but also fought against the evil forces and purged the royal family and the state of evil. This shows a rebellion against sin and a quest for justice.

Faithful service to God: Chapter 23 describes the faithful service of the Levites and priests to God, keeping God's laws and actively carrying out Joash's commands.

In general, Chapter 23 of the Book of Chronicles is primarily a record of historical events, which contains themes of worship and reliance on God, God's promises and protection, and the struggle against evil and faithful service to God. Through these accounts, we can come to a deeper understanding of the worship of the one true God and reliance on Him as the core of our faith, and that God is our protector and righteous God. Struggle against sin and faithful service to God are essential to the faith so that our lives can manifest God's glory and embody God's kingdom. In faith, we should abandon all idols, worship God with all our hearts, and rely on His help and protection to make our lives conform to God's will.