

# Gaining Wisdom from the past

- “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.’ George Santayana actual Quote: “***Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.***”
- Is this true or just a human philosophy?
- *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. 10 Is there anything of which it may be said, “See, this is new?” It has already been in ancient times before us. 11 There is no remembrance of former things, Nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come By those who will come after. Eccl 1:9-11*

# Gaining Wisdom from the past

- The Holy Spirit wrote the OT with us in mind:
- *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Rom 15:4-5*
- *6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ... 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1Cor. 10:6, 11*
- They weren't written for them, but for us! Those who refuse to learn are doomed to repeat

# These Scriptures – Make us Complete!

- Eunice and Lois taught Timothy from early youth
- *from childhood (from a babe) you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3:15-17*

# Wise unto Salvation

- Tonight we will follow this example and consider some of the important lessons from the inspired history of our people.
- Two kings, two choices, two outcomes:
- *Thus King Rehoboam strengthened himself in Jerusalem and reigned. Now Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he became king; 14 And **he did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord.** 2 Chron 12:13-14*
- *So Jotham became mighty, because **he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.** 2 Chr. 27:6*

# Johoshaphat

- Another example – a mixed choice evil companionship does corrupt good morals!
- He had barely escaped with his life at Ahab's death
- *And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Therefore the wrath of the Lord is upon you. 3 Nevertheless **good things are found in you**, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and **have prepared your heart to seek God.**"*  
2Chr. 19:2-3

# God is Searching for the Prepared

- *The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Ps 11:4*
- *"I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds. Jer. 17:10*

# God Found Ezra

- *And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. 9 On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. 10 For **Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.** Ezra 7:8-10*

# Preparing the Heart

- *The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. Pr. 16:1*
- *A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps. Pr 16:9*
- God allows each man to prepared His heart.
- Man makes his preparations and plans for his heart and his life.
- But how it all works – the answer God gives based on the preparations we make. Jotham prepared his ways Rehoboam didn't. When the opportunity came one failed.

# The Preparations

- *Rehoboam did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord.*
- *Joshoshaphat good things are found in you, in that ... have prepared your heart to seek God."*
- *Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God*
- *Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.*
- What preparations have we made? What answer can God give to our preparations?

# Jonah-Unprepared but God had an Answer

- Now **the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah**. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17
- 6 And **the LORD God prepared a gourd**, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. 7 But **God prepared a worm** when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. 8 And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that **God prepared a vehement east wind**; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. Jon 4:6-8
- Because Jonah was not fully prepared, God had a fish.

# The Preparations of our Heart

- Is this still true? Does God still answer with the unfolding of our lives? Will my preparations matter?
- *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2Tim 2:20-22*
- The decisions we make regarding the direction we are going to go will determine how God can use us and the answer He will give to our preparations.

# Heart's Preparation & God's Answer

- 10 So **they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai**. Then was the king's wrath pacified. Est 7:10
- Do not be deceived, **God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap**. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. Gal 6:7-9

# Our Preparations Direct our Life

- *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 **Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter**, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Tim 2:20-22*
- *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, **"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."** 2 Tim 2:19*

# David's Warning to Solomon

● *“Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever. 9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it." 1 Chron 28:8-10*

# God's Preparation Matches Ours

- *endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, Rom 9:22-24*
- ***What we prepare of ourselves... God has prepared us for!***
- ***If we prepared ourselves a vessel of wrath we are prepared for destruction.***
- ***If we prepared ourselves a vessel of mercy we are prepared for glory.***

# God has something Prepared for All

- *What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? Rom 9:22-24*
- Have I prepared my heart to be a vessel of wrath or a vessel of destruction?