

## The Glory Days vs. A Glorious God! 1 & 2 Chronicles

*“Better is one day in Your courts. Better is one day in Your house. Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere, than thousands elsewhere!”*

But what do we do as the people of God **when we can't gather in His house?**

- Back in 1999, BRC had to worship outside this building for 18 months!
- We too had a taste of this too during this pandemic! **13 weeks removed!**
- Israel had a 50-year period of exile – scattered from the land & the Temple!

1 & 2 Chronicles was written from the perspective of those who returned, after the glory days, after the exile, in hopes of there being something to return to!

When you returned to church, in-person, for the first time, what was it like?

**For most of us it was probably bittersweet!**

- Excited to be back, but also feeling like a stranger in our own church!
- Over-joyed to see familiar faces, but also missing the faces of so many!
- **Grateful to be together again, but also still feeling at a distance!**

The facts are, our numbers aren't what they once were – attendance, membership, ministries, volunteers, etc.! So what do we do?

The people of Israel felt the same way when they returned to Jerusalem!

- **They were back in the promised land, but it didn't show much promise!**
- Familiar faces were reunited, but 10 of the 12 tribes were still missing!
- Nothing resembled the glory of what once was (and that defeatist response is why it took another 20 yrs before they re-built the Temple)!

Too often when we experience a great sense of loss, of what once was, **it paralyzes us from pursuing what could be** – both now and in the future!

Israel was no longer a powerful nation, they no longer had an earthly king, their numbers were small, their resources depleted, their temple destroyed, but what they did have was a glorious God who is faithful to His promise!

What the writer of 1 & 2 Chronicles set out to accomplish in these two books was **to share Israel's past with a perspective of a future hope!**

The God whom they served in the past, who delivered them from their enemies, provided for them in abundant ways, & who kept His promises to them since the days of Abraham, is the same God they have today!

Their circumstances had led them to forget about their greatest asset – **God**

The Chronicler wanted to remind them/us of the God we serve & what He is capable of in the direst of circumstances! There is still more to the story!

**2 Chronicles 20:1-23** – The king of Judah w/ the coolest name - **Jehoshaphat**

This was their context – **“A great multitude is coming against you...” vs. 2**

This was their response – **They gathered together! Hebrews 10:25**

- **“Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.” – vs. 4**
- **“All Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, & their children.” – vs. 13**
- **“Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said... - vs. 6**

This was their **confidence** – Their glorious God!

- **“We will stand before this house and before you – for your name is in this house... vs. 9**
- **“We don't know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” – vs. 12**

This was God's response – He said that He would be with them!

- **“Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde (enemy), for the battle is not yours but God's.” – vs. 15**
- **“Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.” – vs. 17**

This was the people's continued response – **Worship!**

- **“And all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.” – vs. 18**
- **“And the Levites... stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.” – vs. 19**
- **“Jehoshaphat appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army...” – vs. 21**

In the midst of extreme circumstances, the people of God gathered together, they worshipped, & they put their trust in their glorious God, & **God delivered!**

Sometimes we have to look back in order to move forward! Sometimes we need to be reminded that the glorious God that goes before us, is greater than the glory days of our past! A better King/Kingdom/Glory is coming!

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