**Adult Sunday School**

November 14, 2010

**INTO THE WILDERNESS**

WILDERNESS; IT’S MEANING A tract of land, or region uncultivated and uninhabited by humans.

Parched, solitary place, a waste area. It also implies a place of loneliness. **An empty room**

1 Chronicles 20:1—*And it came to pass, that after the year was expired, at the time that kings go out to battle, Joab led forth the power of the army, and wasted the country of the children of Ammon, and came and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried at Jerusalem. And Joab smote Rabbah, and destroyed it.*

1. David’s Israel besieges the Ammonites.

(1 Chronicles 20:4) And it came to pass after this, that there arose war at Gezer with the Philistines; at which time Sibbechai the Hushathite slew Sippai, that was of the children of the giant: and they were subdued. 5—And there was war again with the Philistines; and Elhanan the son of Jair slew Lahmi the brother of Goliath the Gittite, whose spear staff was like a weaver's beam. 6—And yet again there was war at Gath, where was a man of great stature, whose fingers and toes were four and twenty, six on each hand, and six on each foot: and he also was the son of the giant. 7—But when he defied Israel, Jonathan the son of Shimea David's brother slew him.

(1 Chronicles 20:8) These were born unto the giant in Gath; and they fell by the hand of David, and by the hand of his servants.

Overwhelming victories were wrought by David.

1. David’s Israel was a force to be reckoned with.

In springtime it was common time “For Kings to go forth to battle”... (2 Samuel 11:1)

1. BUT DAVID TARRIED AT JERUSALEM.
2. DAVID HAD BECOME COMPLACENT.

1 Chr.21:1—And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel. 2—And David said to Joab and to the rulers of the people, Go, number Israel from Beersheba even to Dan; and bring the number of them to me, that I may know it. Added to the king’s complacency,

1. DAVID HAD BECOME PROUD. He wanted to know the strength of “His Servants”. David had become self exalting.

Now; (Rev. 18:3) For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies (7) How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, **I sit a queen**, and am no widow, and **shall see no sorrow**.

1. Here, we are told of a people who have been

exalted into a life that was self satisfying, powerful, and existed lasciviously. We have lived exquisitely. She has said in her heart, we are the ones to be reckoned with. We have conquered all our adversaries. We have seen no defeat. We are a “royalty” unto ourselves, our shorelines have never been trampled on.

(We are that we are), we shall see no sorrow.

1. This people have become proud. Also;

Revelation 3:17) Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

* 1. A multitude of believers have become proud
  2. A multitude of Christian believers, have become “self sufficient”.

Yet with all this truth revealing the conditions of man’s heart, our God is so rich in mercy, and in His mercy, grace is extended to us. The believer’s part in this is to understand the working’s of God’s grace and mercy.

All sin has to be dealt with by a Holy and righteous God.

1. Choose to enter a “wilderness” to approach God
   1. Have Him, in His love for us, chasten us, and correct us for our sins, or, He will choose, in His love for us a “wilderness”
2. READ OF DAVID’S EXPERIENCE.

The Lord is said to have been “displeased with this thing” that David had done. I Chron.21:7, 8-12; God now offering David a choice of punishments. 13 “In a great strait”- painful yet grace says it is better to fall into the hand of the Lord, for great are His mercies.

Don’t let us fall into the hand of man.

1. DAVID CHOSE A “WILDERNESS”. (Vs 22) “Grant me this place of this threshingfloor”.... “thou shalt grant it me for the full price, that the plague may be stayed”...

An altar is built, and burnt offerings made and the Lord answers David with fire upon the altar. (Vs25) sin is removed, and the soul is cleansed.

David’s heart was after the Lord’s. He wanted the Lord’s forgiveness, and restoration to the God he loved. He met with the Lord, just him and the Lord, in a wilderness experience, and his soul’s freedom was wrought.

1. God’s own people, in the Laodiceann state: Rev 3:16-17 “Because thou art lukewarm”

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, increased with goods, have need of nothing” “I will spue thee out of my mouth” A “wilderness” will be chosen for her. “And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God” Rev12:6 “That she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished”

The wilderness, a place prepared by God to a people that needed that “solitary” place. That “parched” place. That “loneliness” place.

1. We must get alone with Him now and prove our love.
2. It will take a “wilderness” prepared by the Holy Ghost
3. This is the place we prove our love to Him.

Into the wilderness a “bride” is adorned for her husband. We have a choice, with rewards right now. In (Trib)-wilderness choices will be made for us. He loves us. Do we love Him?