



7/8/26

So... I love the book, A Gospel Primer. It tells the story of the gospel in both a prose version and a poetic version. And it gives 31 reasons to rehearse the gospel to ourselves daily. I was thinking of summarizing one reason a day over the next several weeks. But before I do, I would like to ask for your help. Can you give me a one sentence summary of the gospel? It's so important before we rehearse the gospel to ourselves that we know what it actually is. How would you describe the gospel?

*Blessings,
Jonna*

2 Chronicles 7:11-22

King David had asked the Lord for permission to build Him a temple, and the Lord said, "No. You've had too much war in your lifetime. But your son, Solomon, can build My temple." In this passage, the building of the temple for the Lord had just been completed. The Lord appeared to Solomon in the night to give both a promise and a warning.

I think this is really important for me to understand. God is on His throne. He is merciful and forgiving, AND He is also holy. He is not weak. He is in charge. It is His right to demand faithfulness and holiness. I know God blessed Solomon with more wisdom than any other man before him or after him. God also gave wealth and power as king. Not even wisdom kept Solomon from going completely against God's will. What God is going to say in this passage was so necessary for Solomon to embrace, and it's so necessary for me. God wants His people to humble ourselves before Him and to humbly seek Him in prayer and obedience.

Though Solomon was under the Old Covenant which was conditional, and I'm under the New Covenant, which is unconditional because of Jesus' sacrifice, I still need to humble myself before God, seek Him in prayer, and choose to obey Him. He's in charge. The fact that Jesus died for my sins is not reason to ignore His holiness, but to pursue humble holiness before Him even more... in awe and gratitude.

So... Solomon successfully finished the house of the Lord as well as the king's house with

everything he had planned to accomplish. And the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night. He said to him, "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice." Solomon prayed. God answered. Solomon obeyed. God chose. This house was to be a house of sacrifice and worship... Genuine sacrifice IS worship. The temple was to be a place where people humbly offered to the Lord their sacrifices with sincere hearts, recognizing Him as their God.

Under the New Covenant, I am the temple of the Lord. He has heard MY prayer, and He has chosen to dwell with ME. MY offering to God is MYSELF, a living sacrifice to Him in worship. O Lord, please remove all the arrogance from my heart so that I am not blind to who You are. All I need is to understand who You are, and the worship will freely flow from my heart.

The Lord went on and told Solomon, "When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, if My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

Let me not miss this. God was anticipating that His people were going to turn toward evil and turn away from Him. He was already letting them know that when they did, He would be ready to forgive and heal their land. How good is God. He KNOWS that we will fail Him. And He allows suffering in order to bring us back to Him... to rescue us and not condemn us.

Because of Jesus, I will never face the wrath of God, but I do experience the discipline of God. Hebrews 12 tells me He disciplines me because He loves me, because I'm His child. Some of the suffering I face is because I live in a broken world, and some of the suffering I face is because I choose to turn toward evil and not seek the Lord. In both cases, He will use it for my good if I'll let Him. I have the promise from 1 John 1:9 that if I confess my sins, He's faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from ALL unrighteousness. God's goal is my holiness. How I respond to my trials makes clear whether or not I'm on His plan to make me holy.

O Lord, I pray for my personal relationship with You as well as for the believers in our country. I pray that we will all take this to heart. Help us to see the promise of hope in the command. We are called by Your name. Please help us first to humble ourselves before You. Genuine prayer can only come from a heart of humility. Please help us to pray to You. Help us not to avoid You or just complain about our circumstances. Please help us to seek Your face. Search our hearts. Reveal what is evil in Your eyes and help us to want You more than the sin. Help us not just to admit our sin, but to confess it and turn from it. Help us to know and believe that You hear humble prayer, that You answer, that You extend immeasurable mercy, and that You heal. Please help all the believers of this country to be loyal to You alone, and to be a light so that others will see... not our wisdom, not our wealth, not our power... but Your love in our hearts... Help others to be drawn to You and to humble themselves before You in true repentance for salvation.

The Lord said to Solomon, "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayer that

is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that My name may be there forever. My eyes and My heart will be there for all time. And as for you, if you will walk before Me as David your father walked, doing according to all that I have commanded you and keeping My statutes and My rules, then I will establish your royal throne, as I covenanted with David your father, saying, 'You shall not lack a man to rule Israel.'"

God WANTS to hear and see. He does hear and see. And He wants my humble obedience to HIS rules and HIS statutes. He's in charge. I see this promise from the Lord first as He spoke of David. David messed up so badly, and yet God spoke of David's obedience. Why didn't He speak of David's failures? Because He loved David's genuine, humble faith... that he lived out 2 Chronicles 7:14. When he turned to what was wicked, he humbly repented and turned from his sin. He turned to God in prayer. God wants my holiness, and He knows that it will only come as I humble myself before Him and let Him do an amazing work in me.

Solomon didn't respond to God as David did. Solomon did not have a wholehearted devotion to the Lord. Even with all his wisdom, he turned to idolatry and the kingdom was divided. God did exactly what He said He would do if Solomon ignored His warning. And yet there was still hope... because Solomon was in the legal lineage of Jesus (Joseph, Mary's husband, was a descendant of Solomon). But in the direct line through Mary, Solomon was not listed. God established His eternal throne through David, as He promised He would... even though the kingdom was divided. God's mercy and grace are incredible. O Lord, let me never think I'm entitled to anything, but let me be grateful for Your mercy and grace.

When these things would take place among the chosen people of God, even though God had warned them, God said they would question why. "Faith never wonders why" (Amy Carmichael). God said, "And at this house, which was exalted, everyone passing by will be astonished and say, 'Why has the Lord done thus to this land and to this house?' Then they will say, 'Because they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore He has brought all this disaster on them.'"

In 70 AD, the temple was destroyed and it was never rebuilt. But there is a new temple that can't be destroyed... the temple is my body and every single body that belongs to Jesus, and the Holy Spirit dwells in us. O Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, let me never abandon You. I know You will never abandon me. Let me always keep the gospel at the forefront of my mind. You didn't just deliver me from Egypt. You delivered me from sin and death. Please remove ALL the idols from my heart so that my loyalty is to You alone. Other gods are false gods. They only bring destruction.

Father, please help me to humble myself before You, remembering how awesome You are. Help me to pray. I know You listen and answer. Help me to seek You and to pursue You. Please help me to be repulsed by anything that doesn't align with Your holiness. I know there's work to be done in my heart. I praise You that You don't demand my perfection, but You count my faith as righteousness... Faith given by You, and righteousness freely given by You through the blood of

Jesus, I am Your temple. Let me offer myself daily as a living sacrifice to You in worship. You are in charge and in control... and You are worthy.