

"BRING BACK THE KING"

2 Samuel 19:12

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This story is part of a long history, and yet it is complete in itself. Someone has said the first requirement of a good story is that it must be complete, entire, not fragments - but a whole. This story of an incident in David's life teaches us a story that we need to fix our attention upon. As a point of interest.

The point of interest and question is going to be about bringing the king back. Let me ask you a question - where will you be when the Lord comes? Our king, king Jesus. Two people were about to take a train trip. Having been escorted by a large number of friends, to the station, the train was being loaded with passengers while the group stood chatting on the platform. The conductor looked at his watch, saw the time for departing was at hand, and called out - all aboard. Feeling that there was yet some time, the group continued to chat. The signal was given, and suddenly they realized that the train was pulling out of the station while they stood chatting. Sorry, indeed, were they as they beheld the train leaving them behind. Because they had paid no attention to the command, all aboard. Will we be idly standing by when the Lord shall come or will we be ready.

King David was in exile. He had left a friend of his in the court of Absalom, Hushai. In order that he might defeat the council of Ahithophel. David's one time friend who had deserted him. When Absalom decided on his strategy for attacking David, the council of Hushai prevailed against the council of Ahithophel. David was warned about this. His army was prepared. And he turned

the scale of battle against Absalom.

17:23

Ahithophel committed suicide when his advice was rejected. Because he was embittered and frustrated. In his attempt to get revenge on David for his treatment of his granddaughter Bathsheba. The rebellion was completely broken when Absalom was killed by Joab. This happened inspite of the king's plea that whoever found him should be kindly to him.

18:5-6

18:9-14

18:18 Bride

18:21-22 Runners

v. 14

18:29-30

Now when the word came, the king asked - "it is well with young man Absalom." The messenger of Ahimaaz failed to have a message. He was too polite to tell the truth. And he turned aside. And the next runner, when the king asked about his son - tell us the truth. And we see the grief stricken father in the previous chapter in V. 33 - "oh, my son, Absalom, my son, my son Absalom. Would I have died for thee. Oh, my son, my son."

18:33

Now this cry of a broken heart would be the title of a good best seller. And it has a real message. But the outcry of a man's heart is shame, and grief - but it is far too late. And David is asking himself - Lord, is it I. And what a tragedy.

Now the way is wide open for David, the king, to return to Jerusalem.

Why doesn't he come? However, we find in 2 Samuel 19 - that David didn't lift a finger to re-establish his authority. It would seem to be a golden opportunity. The rebel forces were in confusion. Their leader was dead. And David could have come straight back to Jerusalem in great triumph. But the moment of David's return

was not a dramatic entry. Into the affairs of Jerusalem. It was not by his intervention to crush the opposition.

His return to sovereign power was decided by a voluntary submission of his kinsmen and their love and obedience to his will.

v12
V. 12 The language is clear. It is the voice of David speaking. The voice of the exile king - he is waiting to come back and assume authority over his people. But refusing to do so without an unanimous vote, in favor of his return. He wants a vote from his own brethren and his own tribe. David refuses to move to establish authority until he has asked - and he has the submission and obedience of the people.

Why should that be? Why shouldn't David go back to Jerusalem? And assumed his authority. And put an end to all of the confusion.

He waited first until the debate was over. You remember that Judah was to be David's tribe. He said so himself in Psalm 60:7. The ancient promise given by Jacob in the blessing of his children was that the septr shall not depart from Judah. Gen. 49:10. It was through Judah that David's authority was going to be made effective.

The position of Judah was one of privilege, and responsibility.

They were his own people and until they submitted and gladly obeyed him

his reign would not be established.)

V. 14-15
Therefore, David waited until the discussions and the debates - and a momentous crisis which is described took place in V. 14-15. He bowed the heart of all the men of Judah - even as the heart of one man. So that they sent his word unto the king. Return thou, and all thy servants. So the king returned and came to Jordan.

Here is a flash from the New Testament truth - on an Old Testament story. A truth that somehow challenges our hearts. How often we say as Christian people that we live on the verge of our Lord's return! We believe in the personal and eminent return our of Lord Jesus Christ. To reign in authority and in power. We do not believe that this world will ever be Christianized. We do believe that it must be evangelized - but that's the difference. This world will not become Christian by preaching of the Gospel - but it will know peace and happiness only under the personal reign of our Lord Jesus Christ. As what we call this in theology, the word parousia. Which is often used in the English - the day of the Lord. It means the arrival or the presence of a person. The believer is comforted by the parousia. He looks for the coming of a person. The Lord Jesus Christ. This word has been in the Christian vocabulary since the first century - many, many years ago.

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A Christian man riding on a commuter train folded his paper and in thoughtful meditation spoke to his companion. As I read the newspapers and compare the world events to what I read in the Bible, I feel convinced that we are not far from the day of the Lord's return! A bit shocked, or not Biblically minded, his companion said,

"what a dreadful thought! No, said the first man. I was thinking what a wonderful thought the coming of the day of the Lord is the same as the coming of any special or authoritative person. It depends on whether or not we are ready for them.

And how true - it is just like a young scoffer who lives a wild life. Makes fun of his friend of former years for his good life and faithfulness to the Lord's work. Here, you are - going on wasting so much time in what you call the Lord's work. Because you believe he is coming again. Now where have you been. Suppose he doesn't come. The thoughtful reply was, I gained the confidence in a Heavenly reward. But if he does come - where will you be.

How often we hear people say - things can't go on much longer as they are. Surely Christ must be coming.

Has it ever occurred to you that you had a personal responsibility to fulfill before our Lord can come back. Does it shock you when we say to you - that I do not believe that it is possible for Jesus to come today! Now I want to give you a statement from the word of God and give you three or four things out of this Old Testament story to bring out some New Testament light. And I hope that these will take root in your heart.

I. THE KING IS DEMANDED BY THE SUFFERING OF THE WORLD

Now you get an idea here from Samuel - V. 1-10. Of the kind of thing that happens when the king is rejected. "And all the people were at strife throughout

V.110
all the tribes of Israel saying, the king saved us out of the hand of our enemies. And he delivered us out of the hands of the Philistines, and now he is fled out of the land for Absalom. And Absalom whom we anointed over us, is dead in battle. Now, therefore, why we speak not a word of bringing the king back."

The absence of king David meant the presence of strife and frustration.

Problem in the S.B.C. -
" " " Church -

Now the folly of their allegiance to Absalom - another leader was clear. It had brought only misery and confusion. They were on the wrong side and they had rejected their true king. Therefore, the situation was full of unrest. How like the world today. People who follow after Satan and everything that comes along.

In the absence of the Lord Jesus Christ, for remember, is absent in his person! Although he is present with his body in the church by the Holy Spirit. The only true prince of peace - what is the condition of the world today. Is it not suffering and unrest. The longer he is absent - the greater the suffering. Until the pressures build up all over this world. There is trouble.

See
Now is supported in evidence in the world around us. And this is supported in the words of the Lord Jesus himself. "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that ye be not troubled. For all these things must come to pass. But the end is not yet. Nation shall rise against nation. Kingdom against kingdom. And there shall be famine and pestilents and earthquakes in diverse places. All of these are the beginnings of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted.

And ye shall be hated of all nations for my name sake. Matt. 24:6-9.

Paul writing in Timothy 2 Tim. 3:1-5 this know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. Men shall be lovers of their own selves. Covetous, boastful, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents. Unthankful, unholy, without natural affection. Truce breakers. False accusers in continent, fierce despisers of those who are good. Traders, petty, high-minded. Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. From such turn away.

We hear the cry of exploding populations. Nations underprivileged - crying for freedom at any cost. We read the staggering increase in crime. These and multitudes of symptoms with which we are familiar give us a description of times just before his coming. Which we have read from the word of God. Now the desperate need of this poor world is peace, rest, freedom and deliverance. Now none of these things are going to be possible except under the rule of the king of righteousness. The return of the king is demanded by the suffering world. The cry of humanity. The begging for the king to return. To end this suffering.

Then somebody might ask - well, why doesn't the king come!

The King is Demanded By the Suffering

II. DELAYED BY DISOBEDIENCE

The return of the king is delayed by the sinfulness of his people. V. 12.

David said, we are my bones and my flesh. Therefore, then are ye the last to bring

back the king.

Jesus said, and this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. And then shall the end come. Matt. 24:14. And the Gospel must be published among all nations. These are the masters own words. Of course, he must return to reign in power and glory. Jesus must personally come - God's word says so. Then why would the cry of suffering humanity, to which there is no answer, except the coming of Jesus Christ. Why doesn't he come.

A little boy was called in from his play by his mother. As he left his companion who asked where he was going. I'm going to the airport to meet my Daddy, the boy said. But how do you know that he will come in on a plane. His friend said. In full confidence the child replied he said so. Now this is the promise of Christ. Now it is not less certain but it is more true.

It is because we haven't obeyed his commandments. Peter writes something that really shakes us. Seeing then that all of these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be. In all holy conversation and godliness looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God. 2 Peter 3:11-12. The English revised version says, looking for and hastening the coming of the king. Is it possible for us to hasten the day when Jesus comes. Yes, it is.

Is it possible for us to delay it. It certainly is.

V111

If he is going to come, and demonstrate to his people, his reign through the body of believers, who are obedient to all of his commands. Then why are those who are his so disobedient?

Only 9% of the world's population speaks the English language. And 90% of Christian work is done among that 9%. In other words, only 10% of the Christian people are among the 91% who speak other languages. It seems today that there are billions who are pagan. We have the Bible in several difference languages - thousands of languages. It is translated in over 1,000. And probably parts of the New Testament into several hundred. But still they tell us there must be as much as 2,000 tongues that are without the Bible, or God's Word.

They have never read Rev. 5:9 - Thou art worthy, for thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood for every kindred and tongue and people and nation. It means that when we get to Heaven, there will be people there not from some tongue, not from some tribe, or some nations. But from every tongue and every tribe and every nation. There will be no exception. Out of every one of them, will come those who have been redeemed by the blood.

Yet, sometimes we sit in our churches. There are multitudes - tribe after tribe, nation after nation, who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus. And they are suffering in this world. And that is part of the cry of humanity. That arises for peace, liberty, and justice. Now we know there is only one answer. The coming of the king. What then is our alibi before God for failing to take the message to the utter most parts of the earth. That is why I believe that Christ Jesus really cannot come today. Because we are failing to obey his command to preach the

Gospel.

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Ez. 33:7,11 says so thou oh son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel. Therefore, thou shall hear the word of my mouth. And warn them for me. And say unto the wicked - oh wicked man, thou shalt surely die. If thou doest not speak to warn the wicked from his way. That wicked man shall die in his iniquity. But his blood will I require at thine hand. And nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked, of his way - return from it. If he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity. But thou hast delivered thy soul, therefore, oh thou son of man, speak saying as I live - sayeth the Lord God. I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked. But that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways. For why will you die oh house of Israel. 1"

Do you get the truth of that portion of Scripture. We may long for the return of Jesus, our Lord, and our King.

And we may believe that this is the only hope for our suffering world. That it is for him to come back.

But our disobedience to his command to preach the Gospel to every creature, delays his coming. Prolongs the suffering.

What is it going to be like one day. To face the judgement seat of Christ.
In the light of these facts ✓

As the king said, you were a part of my very flesh. And here you are a part of the church.

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On January 18th of each year, the citizens of a little Norweigan town climb the hill that they might get an early glimpse of the rising sun. Which will be returning after months of darkness. It is a time of rejoicing. They know from that day on, there will be sunlight after darkness. So believers, here is darkness. We are looking and expecting Christ's return. How can we go on in disobedience.

A Demand for suffering is delayed by disobedience

III. DEPENDENCE UPON SUBMISSION

Now we have talked about two or three things here. The king has been demanded for the suffering world. The king has been delayed by disobedient people. And now finally, the king's return is dependent upon our submission. Do you see what must take place. Before David could come back. V. 14-15. He bowed the heart.

V. 14

21, 25, 39

V. 15

V. 31, 33, 39 we have a beautiful story of the man who conducted the ferry and brought the king back across Jordan. Barzillai. This man had provided substance for David. He is an old man. He tells us that in his beautiful old age - he comes and he makes generous provisions for the king. With his kindness he desires to share with the king in his closing days. I think this is something of the beauty of old age. That was crowned with kindness and with a disposition. That he wanted to help the king on his way back to his throne in Jerusalem. And he tells us in V. 39 that the king kissed him and blessed him for his kindness.

David had made an appeal to Judah - you are my people. You are bone of my bone. Flesh of my flesh. Why are you the last to bring back the king. And that appeal had reached their hearts. Not simply their minds but their hearts. He had bowed the hearts of his people and made them willing. And therefore, he would come back to rule. Through his people who were obedient. He was able to return and demonstrate the power and the blessedness of his authority.

Let me ask you again - what did it take to bring the king back. The unanimous surrender of the people of God. To the purpose of the king. That was what opened up the way for his return.

Now what is going to have to take to bring king Jesus back. Exactly the same. Nothing more and nothing less than that. The longer we fail in our surrender and in our obedience - the greater is our judgement. The Lord looks down upon his people and he says, ye are my brethren. Ye are my bones, my flesh. Well, that is what the church is. Isn't that what Paul says about the church. Wherefore then are ye the last to bring back the king.

It is recorded that Dr. Bonar never passed a day without the feeling that the Lord might return. Each morning he arose, stepped to the window, and looked Heavenly. Perhaps, today Lord. Each night, as he drew back the curtains, before retiring he would look up and say perhaps tonight Lord. He knew it would be sudden and he was ready. And very anxious for it to take place.

Did you ever attend a homecoming - after days of preparation the visitors

came. And what a joy it was to see a certain one. And you see one run and embrace one whom they had not seen for months or years. And you hear people say, you know your return has made the day complete. Your coming on this home-coming has really been a blessing.

It will be like that when the king comes.

Now the return of the king is dependent upon our submission. Our obedience to his vision. And may I say that that obedience begins right here. What about the ignorant people of this city concerning the Gospel. I am reminded that Paul when he wrote about missions, said for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. For them, shall they call upon him - in whom they have not believed. And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard. How shall they hear without a preacher. How shall the preacher except they be sent. Rom.10:13-15.

Now what about some personal questions. Is your life related to God's purpose as he looks down today. Does he say to you - why are you the last to bring the king back.

Is your life hastening the return of Christ. Or is it delaying it.

Have you spoke a word this week about bringing the king into some life.

Do you have a vision that only when we are surrendered and obedient, and Christ rules, and comes and rules.

You may ask ~~today~~ what can I do about that.

The first thing you can do right now in your heart, is to speak a word to bring back the king. To reign and rule in your heart. That is, speak to your own soul that you desire to take your place in his kingdom and let him have the authority in your life.

Then the second thing you can do is to speak about the king to your neighbor or your friends or family. Talk to them about bringing back the king. Bring him into his rightful place in their lives. You can begin right there in your own home.

Then you can begin giving sacrificially to the king's work. To see that nothing takes away first place in giving the Gospel out to the nations of the world through your church. Everything else is secondary. All of the other programs that challenge you - no matter how great these programs may be. No matter how much they may need it. Remember that your home base work is important if you are going to get the Gospel out to the utter most parts of the world.

Many Clwes : 1948 - Jewish state Israel
1967 - Jews control Jerusalem 1st Time since 586 BC
Nebuchadnezzar -

anti christ - dictators, Haman being say Worship me -
This may be one of the great sins of the church today. Of spending money

on the latest equipment. When there are multitudes who have never heard the Gospel.

Bringing Back The King -

28.17.12

K - Cycle

28.17.23 Friendly K

28.18.5-14 A Rebellion

18 - Bride

21-22 Runners

29-30, 33 Broken Heart

I. The K is Demanded By The Suffering

29.19.1-4, 19 strip Matt. 24:6-9

21cm 3:1-5 Oligo + Frustration

II. The K is Delayed By Disobedience

28.19:11-12

Ezek 33:7-11

III. The K Dependence upon Submission

28.19:14-19

28.19:31-35, 39 story

con - K Jesus is coming sub 21:8-9

Dan. 7. 4 Best Empires + wind - Dan 2 - The Nebuchadnezzar 25
67007 - already come + fulfilled. 216 life - 25

Babylonian 2 (- Lion) wings, royal Power! Drach -

Median Persian 2 - 200 yr (Bear) Strength, Force, shran

Grecian 2 180 yr - (Lion) softness, speed -
elev. Anat - 30 yr - sqria

(500 yr) Roman 2 500 yr - (10 Horns) Power
(10 Toes) Ruled Proud Day
Roman Empire -

at all times Faith all have shared.
to be saved - destroy