

THE SAMARITAN CHURCH

LESSON 21 - ABC

READ THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

II Ki 17:20-41

20 And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight.

21 For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin.

22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them,

23 until the LORD removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.

30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,

31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

33 They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods-- according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the

LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

35 with whom the LORD had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them;

36 "but the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

37 "And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods.

38 "And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

39 "But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

40 However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.

41 So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.(NKJ)

QUESTIONS

WHY DID GOD DEPORT THE ISRAELITES?

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW CROWD IN ISRAEL AND HOW IS THIS SIMILAR TO THE PRESENT VISIBLE CHURCH?

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ASSYRIAN PRIEST AND WHY IS HE A FALSE APOSTLE?

USING JOHN 4 AS YOUR REFERENCE OUTLINE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMARITAN CHURCH.

WHY IS JESUS DIFFERENT FROM THE ASSYRIAN PRIEST WHO CAME TO SAMARIA?

USING ACTS 8 AS YOUR REFERENCE SHOW THE FEATURES OF GENUINE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY.

ANSWERS – LESSON 21(ABC)

REASONS FOR DEPORTATION.

God removed his people from Israel because of apostasy – idolatry, Baal worship, calf

worship, sacrificing of children etc. Israel was now an empty “church building”.

John 15:1-2

15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

NKJV

Jer 2:19-21

19 Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your God, and the fear of Me is not in you," says the Lord GOD of hosts.

20 "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; and you said, 'I will not transgress,' when on every high hill and under every green tree you lay down, playing the harlot.

21 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?

(NKJ)

See how God disciplines his people in mnemonic CHASTISE.

Israel was now populated by a new crowd.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE NEW CROWD.

SENT BY THE ASSYRIAN KING

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

God did not send them. The Assyrian king sent them. This was equivalent to seed planted by the devil.

Matt 13:24-27

24 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' NIV

THEY CAME FROM BABYLON, CUTHAH, AVA, HAMATH AND FROM SEPHARVAIM.

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath,

and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.
This was a multicultural crowd.

The meanings of their cities of origin are:

BABYLON – CONFUSION

CUTHAH – PLACE OF CRUSHING

AVA – PERVERTED

HAMATH – ENCLOSURE OF WRATH

SEPHARVAIM – ENUMERATION, AND TWO FOLD

This multicultural crowd is symbolic of the mindsets of the people in the visible church today:

BABYLONIAN MINDSET – CONFUSED MINDSET

Confusion means disorientation for time, place and person. The church is filled with people spiritually disorientated for time – don't know the times of God, disorientated for person – don't know who they are in God, and disorientated for place – not under the cloud when the cloud has moved – eating yesterday's manna which is today's worms.

CUTHAH MINDSET – HEAVY MINDSET

Crushed by psychosocial problems – rebellious children, marital discord, economic problems. They give up easily. They are not overcomers.

AVA MINDSET – PERVERTED MINDSET

Bound by lustfulness.

HAMATH MINDSET – ANGRY MINDSET

Bound by anger.

SEPHARVAIM MINDSET – NUMERICAL MINDSET

They have a numerical preoccupation. They measure success by numbers. Everything is based on numbers. They have a democratic mentality.

THEY TOOK POSSESSION.

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities.

The weed took possession.

They now occupied positions of authority.

The unrighteous prospered. There is an unrighteous element that is prospering in the visible church. Their prosperity may falsely validate their lifestyle.

LIONS IN THEIR MIDST.

25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the LORD; therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

The lions affected their prosperity – they complained to headquarters.

1 Pet 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.(NKJ)

There are demons in the midst of the church.

Ps 74:4

Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; they set up their banners for signs.(NKJ)

Alcoholism, depression, and disease are lions in the church.

DISCERNED THE DOORWAY

26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land."

The people of Samaria discerned that the reasons for their troubles was that they did not obey the rituals of God.

The reason for the church's troubles is disobedience.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PRIEST

SENT BY THE ASSYRIAN KING

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

This priest was a sent one (apostle), but he was sent by the Assyrian king. He came from Assyria, not from Bethlehem like David. His commission was illegitimate.

ILLEGITIMATE COMMISSION:
WENT WITHOUT BEING SENT
SENT BY UNCLES, AND FAMILY.
SENT BY BIBLE SCHOOL
SENT BY MISSION SCHOOL
SENT BY THE DEVIL.

Neh 6:12

And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

DISQUALIFIED PRIEST

27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land."

28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

This was a failed priest - a captive priest. He failed to deliver his own nation, now he was sent to deliver someone else.

He failed to deliver his own church, now he is sent to deliver someone else. This was a priest partly responsible for the deportation of his own nation.

This is a priest with personal strongholds, who went into captivity because of strongholds.

In a crisis any priest will do as long as he is sent by headquarters.

EFFECTIVE MINISTRY (CONTROLLED THE LIONS)

The disqualified priest from Assyria succeeded in controlling the lions.

Healing and deliverance do not validate the minister.

ADDED TRUTH TO ERROR

28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt.

30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the

men of Hamath made Ashima,

31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.

33 They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods-- according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

The priest taught the fear of the Lord. This was a generation that feared God to get blessed. They did not fear God for who he is. They feared God for prosperity.

As long as the lions were dealt with the people were happy.

They feared the Lord but served their own gods. This was a false fear. True fear is to fear the Lord and reject every other god.

This priest built on an Assyrian foundation.

He did not address the idolatry or their belief systems.

HE ADDED TRUTH TO ERROR.

He built on sand.

Luke 6:47-49

47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:

48 "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.

49 "But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."

(NKJ)

THE SCRIPTURES BELOW INDICATE WHAT TRUE FEAR IS.

II Ki 17:35-41

35 with whom the LORD had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them;

36 "but the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice.

37 "And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods.

38 "And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods.

39 "But the LORD your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies."

40 However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals.

41 So these nations feared the LORD, yet served their carved images; also their

children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.(NKJ)

Isa 29:13-21

13 Therefore the LORD said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

14 Therefore, behold, I will again do a marvelous work among this people, a marvelous work and a wonder; for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hidden."

(fear – yare – reverential fear/awe – submission to a proper relationship with god.)

PREPETUATED ERROR

34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the LORD, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the LORD had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel,

Deliverance from the lions validated his ministry. He was accepted as a legitimate minister because his methods worked.

HE DELIVERED THE PEOPLE FROM THE LIONS BUT DID NOT DELIVER THEM FROM THEIR STRONGHOLDS.

SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS FOLLOWED THE ASSYRIAN RITUALS AND THE RITUALS OF JEHOVAH BECAUSE THE MINISTRY OF THE ASSYRIAN PRIEST DEALT WITH THE LIONS. HIS MINISTRY VALIDATED AN IMPURE MIXTURE. HE CURSED GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW AND FORMED THE FOUNDATION FOR THE SAMARITAN BELIEF SYSTEM – AN IMPURE SYSTEM.

(THE PEOPLE DISCERNED THE LIONS BUT NOT THE PRIEST. THE PRIEST SORTED THE LIONS BUT NOT THE PEOPLE.)

A FALSE APOSTLE, OF WHOM THIS ASSYRIAN PRIEST IS A PICTURE OF, IS ONE WHO:

IS NOT SENT BY THE LORD.

IS UNABLE TO DELIVER HIMSELF(ASSYRIAN CAPTIVE).

OPERATES IN MIRACLES AND DELIVERANCE WITHOUT DEALING WITH PERSONAL STRONGHOLDS IN INDIVIDUALS.

MIXES TRUTH WITH ERROR.

PERPETUATES ERROR THAT CURSES GENERATIONS TO FOLLOW.

THE SAMARITAN CHURCH - FEATURES.

The Samaritan woman is a picture of the Samaritan church.
She is the product of Assyrian error.

CONFUSION

This church is disorientated for time, place and person.

DISORIENTATION FOR TIME

John 4:6-7

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

7 A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."
(NKJ)

She comes out at the sixth hour(midday), not the traditional time to fetch water. This images the spiritual disorientation for time.

John 4:25

The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ).
"When He comes, He will tell us all things."(NKJ)

She has a futuristic focus – the Messiah is coming.

John 4:12

12 "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"(NKJ)

She also has a past focus – our father Jacob.

John 4:10

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."(NKJ)

She is not living in reality.

She does not recognize the present visitation of God.

This church does not recognize the present visitation of God.

DISORIENTATION FOR PERSON

John 4:12

"Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it

himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"(NKJ)

She did not know that Jacob's name was changed to Israel. She was locked into an historical time period.

She idolizes Jacob and the well, taking pride in the fact that He, his sons and his livestock drank from the well.

DISORIENTATION FOR PLACE

John 4:20

"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."(NKJ)

At that time Jerusalem was the place of worship. She did not know the place of worship.

John 4:5

So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.(NKJ)

Sychar means drunkenness. Drunkenness is characterised by the above problems.

CRUSHED

John 4:7

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink."
(NKJ)

She walks alone. She comes at midday to avoid contact with other women. Her feelings of inferiority inhibit association.

She has a better relationship with men rather than women. When she went into the city she spoke to the men first. Crushed people relate to opposites better.

The waterpot gave her some respectability. When she met Jesus, she left the waterpot behind. Crushed people carry physical items for respectability.

John 4:28

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men,
(NKJ)

She has instability in relationship because of unfulfillment. She tries to sort a spiritual problem through a carnal method(several husbands). Crushed people resort to carnal methods for fulfillment.

She gets her self- esteem by historical association.

John 4:12

"Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"(NKJ)

She is never satisfied – the water of this church is natural.

John 4:13

Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,
(NKJ)

The revelation of this church is deficient in the Spirit.

She boasts of depth and failure of others to access what she can access.

According to her the well is deep and the enquirer did not have her technology to gain access.

John 4:11

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep.
Where then do You get that living water?(NKJ)

This church boasts of depth of revelation. This church believes that others do not have the means to gain access to her revelation without her methods.

A crushed person has no discerning of depth .

PERVERTED

John 4:18

"for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband;
in that you spoke truly."(NKJ)

She has moved from relationship to relationship. Her value system is corrupted.

This church knows nothing about covenant. Relationships in this church is for carnal pleasure not for spiritual purpose.

She comes out at the the sixth hour and is in the sixth relationship. Six is the number of man, flesh, carnality.

ANGRY

John 4:9

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.(NKJ)

She turns a simple request to a political problem. This demonstrates unresolved anger. This church cannot cross racial barriers.

NUMERICAL PREOCCUPATION

John 4:18

"for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband;
in that you spoke truly."(NKJ)

She has passed through 6 relationships.

This is a church more concerned about numbers than covenantal relationships.

JESUS IN SAMARIA

The Assyrian priest dealt with the lions, not with the people. He left the people with unresolved strongholds.

Jesus is the “Lion of the tribe of Judah” in Samaria. He, unlike the Assyrian priest, was sent by the Father.

Jesus exposes the strongholds in the woman’s life. This confrontational approach brought release in her life.

John 4:29

"Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"
(NKJ)

GENUINE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY WILL EXPOSE STRONGHOLDS IN
PEOPLE’S
LIVES.

GENUINE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY.

Acts 8:5-13

- 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.
- 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
- 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.
- 8 And there was great joy in that city.
- 9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,
- 10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."
- 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.
- 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.
- 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.(NKJ)

Simon the sorcerer came to the Lord after the powerful ministry of Philip.

Acts 8:18-23

- 18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,

19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"

21 "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

22 "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

23 "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

(NKJ)

Now when the apostles come to Samaria they exposed the fact that Simon's heart was not right before God. Simon escaped discerning under an evangelistic grace.

The stronghold of bitterness and iniquity in Simon's heart was exposed.