

0 (2s):

Welcome to the Bible teaching ministry of Dr. Ron Jones. Our prayer is that God will use his word to change your life and fill your heart with hope. And now here's Ryan

1 (16s):

What's past is prologue. How many of you have heard that phrase before? What's past is prologue. If we were on jeopardy and you answered what is act two scene, one of William Shakespeare's play the Tempest ding, ding, you'd get all the points. Cause that's where it comes from. What's past is prologue William Shakespeare characters in the play. Use the phrase to suggest that history sets the context for both the present and the future. You might also say, what is inscribed on a statue outside of the national archives building in Washington, DC, ding, ding, you'd also get some points there because there's a statue outside the national archives building in Washington, DC called future a statue called future

2 (1m 8s):

And etched in stone at the base. Is this William Shakespeare phrase from

1 (1m 14s):

Act two scene. One of the Tempest

2 (1m 16s):

What's past is prologue

1 (1m 21s):

And it reminds us of what we learned in first Chronicles. Last week. Don't let anybody cancel your history. Amen, because what's past is pro-life.

3 (1m 31s):

You can't understand your present and who you are in the present, and you certainly

1 (1m 37s):

Can't take steps into the future until you understand your past. So don't let anybody cancel your history or more eloquently put by William Shakespeare. What's past is prologue the past as prologue to Israel's future. Might've been on Ezra's mind as he compiled the Chronicles for the Jewish remnant who were returning to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. It's important to keep that a historical framework in mind, the Jews went in to captivity with the Babylonians that is the Southern kingdom did, and Judah did in 586 BC.

1 (2m 17s):

They were there for 70 years. This is some time after that, that Ezra is compiling

2 (2m 24s):

A history that seems repetitive,

1 (2m 27s):

But he's coming at it from a different perspective. He puts into historical perspective. What was about to happen? The rebuilding of the temple by proclamation of Cyrus,

2 (2m 38s):

King of Persia.

1 (2m 40s):

Wow. Just put a little mark by that thought. Chapter 36 verses 22 and 23 we'll return to that more than 70 years earlier, king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged, Jerusalem deported the best of the Jewish youths and destroyed the glorious temple built by Solomon. It was now time for God's to rebuild their lives by returning to Jerusalem and prioritizing the worship of Yahweh. Now, originally the books of first and second Chronicles were one book. So it shouldn't surprise us that second Chronicles in our Bible picks up where first Chronicles left off historically, that is with the death of king David and the rise of his son, Solomon as king on the throne in Judah or in Israel, because they were a United monarchy at that time, the first nine chapters of second Chronicles.

1 (3m 32s):

You see this in the chart that I gave you in your notes, the first nine chapters review Solomon's 40

2 (3m 39s):

Year reign following David's 40 year rate

1 (3m 43s):

Following Saul's reign all of that with a United Kingdom and then chapters 10 through 36 Eric's reviews, another four centuries of David's descendants reigning in Judah. Again, some of this is his history we've already been through, but as Laura is going to highlight some things that weren't highlighted in Samuel and in the Kings, he focuses his historical review on the Southern kingdom and gives most of his attention to those Kings who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Now there were no Kings in the north where we could say that about them, that they did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

1 (4m 27s):

Most of them, all of them really fell in the, or followed in the line of Jeroboam, who was the first king in the north. And he was a wicked wicked king. They all followed in his footsteps, eight or nine dynasties that rose and fell. But down here in the Southern kingdom of Judah, all descendants of David, not all of them did what was right in the Lord's eyes, but a few of them did namely EISA Joe HOSA fat, Joe Ash, Yosie I

3 (4m 57s):

Hezekiah.

1 (4m 59s):

Then my personal favorite is a young king Josiah. And we'll talk about them in a minute. Now in second Chronicles, the temple takes center stage. As there, it takes a lot of time to lay out details about the funding and even the building of the temple under Solomon's reign. And as the temple takes center stage in second Chronicles, it points us to Christ. If you're looking for that Christ connection in all of this history, if you're looking for the Christ connection in second Chronicles, it's the temple consider these statements that Jesus made Matthew chapter 12 and verse six, Jesus said of himself, something greater than the temple is here.

1 (5m 43s):

Jesus also compared himself to the temple when he predicted his own resurrection in John chapter two in verse 19, he said, destroy this temple. And in three days I will raise it up. I don't think they had a clue as to what he was talking about until after the resurrection. And then Jesus replaces the temple in the new heaven and the new earth and the new glorious city Jerusalem that John the apostle writes about in the revelation of Jesus Christ. Now I'm in revelation chapter 21 in verse 22. At the end of the age, it says, John says, and I saw no temple in it for the Lord, God, the almighty and the lamb are it's tough.

1 (6m 26s):

And until then, between the time where we are in the end of the age will tells us in first Corinthians chapter six and verse 19, that we as believers in Jesus Christ are the temple of the holy spirit. So the temple is this, this amazing edifice in the old Testament that points us to Christ. And during the church age that we are in the holy spirit lives inside of us, we are the temple of the holy spirit. We are traveling worship facilities as it were, and that's just something to consider, even as we go back in time and consider those first nine chapters where Solomon built this glorious temple.

1 (7m 13s):

Second Chronicles, as I mentioned earlier, is perhaps best known for chapter seven and verse 14,

2 (7m 20s):

Where the Lord

1 (7m 21s):

Responds to a prayer that Solomon gave in the chapter earlier when he dedicated the temple. And here's the Lord's response. If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and heal their land. Maybe you're among the patriotic Christian Americans who loved her Americans. Who'd love to recite chapter seven, verse 14 on independence day, July 4th, or on the national day of prayer. You know, we'd like

to pull out second Chronicles, chapter seven and verse 14. And we recite that on those wonderful patriotic days.

1 (8m 3s):

We pray and we beg God to heal our land,

2 (8m 7s):

Nothing wrong with that. That's

1 (8m 9s):

A good thing to do. In fact, the basic truth found in second Chronicles, seven 14 is something we should remember and respond to every day of our lives. It's always good for us to confess our sins to God, to practice repentance, to pray with humility. However, when we do this as new Testament believers, will it yield national blessing and renewal for our nation or for any nation that prays this way in the same way that it yielded national blessing and renewal for Israel? Ah,

2 (8m 42s):

That's a much different question.

1 (8m 45s):

The answer to that question must take into consideration the historical context of second Chronicles, chapter seven in verse 14. Plus the unique relationship Israel had with God in the old Testament. Let me just take you on a little journey here. Deuteronomy chapter 28, lays out some of the terms of the covenant relationship that God had with Israel terms that are known as the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience. And when you go back to second Chronicles, chapter six, which is important to read as you come to seven 14, when Solomon is praying at that, that glorious day, when they opened up the temple and they dedicated the temple, you kind of get the sense that Solomon had the covenant relationship and the terms of the covenant in mind when he is praying because his prayer has this, if then construction to it, which, which was very reminiscent of the covenant relationship that God made with Israel is really, if you do this, then I will do this.

1 (9m 50s):

If you do this, then I will do this. If you don't do this, then I won't do this. And you have to understand that in relation to God's response in seven 14, he says, if my people who are called by my name, then I will do this. So let's go back to chapter six and you can read chapter six, verses 12 through 42 and get the larger swath of Solomon's prayer when they're dedicating the temple. But I just want to zero in on verses 36 through 40, just to get a little flavor of it, where Solomon prays to the Lord. If they sin against you for, there is no one who does not sin and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy so that they are carried away, captive to a land far or near yet if their heart, if they turn their heart rather in the land to which they have

been carried, captain and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity saying we have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly.

1 (10m 54s):

If they repent with all of their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, to which they were carried, captive and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen, and the house that I built for your name, then hear from heaven, your dwelling, place, their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you now, oh my God, let your eyes be open. And your ears attentive to the prayer of this place. What a powerful prayer and a prayer that has depth of meaning to it. But a prayer that also is taken from the covenant relationship.

1 (11m 36s):

Here's what Solomon is doing. He's praying the word of God back to God, God,

3 (11m 43s):

He's going back to the covenant relationship. And he's praying what the Lord said to them in the mosaic law. He's praying that back to the Lord and you know what? That's a, that's a really

1 (11m 54s):

Good way to pray. I mean people all the time. And sometimes I feel this way. I don't know what to pray.

3 (12m 1s):

Pray the word of God back to God.

1 (12m 4s):

You want to pray according to the will of God,

3 (12m 6s):

Pray the word of God. Every time you pray the word of God, you'll be perfectly aligned

1 (12m 11s):

With the will of God. And this is what Solomon is doing. God, this is what you promise to do the, if then constructions. Now in light of that, the Lord responds

2 (12m 24s):

To Solomon's prayer. And if you read second Chronicles,

1 (12m 28s):

Six and seven, it says that after Solomon completed the Lord's house and he prayed, the Lord appeared to

Solomon at night and said to him, this let's pick it up in verse 12 of chapter seven. The Lord says, I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain or command the locusts to devour the land or send pestilence among my people. He's saying all the curses that I talked about in the covenant

3 (12m 59s):

Relationship. If all of that happens to you and things are going really bad. Now we're

1 (13m 4s):

Ready for seven 14.

3 (13m 7s):

If my people who are called

1 (13m 10s):

By my name will 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. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that has made in this place. You know, it's always important to read the word of God in context. What did it mean to the people, to whom it was written originally and only then when you have the historical perspective, can you build the applicational bridge into the present and by doing so, you understand that if then construction, thus when Israel, repented of her

2 (13m 52s):

Ways she did so nationally, it was a

1 (13m 57s):

National repentance starting with whoever was sitting on the throne, all right, much different than, you know, where we are in America. Erica is not Israel. America does not have the unique covenant relationship that God had with Israel, prophetically speaking, we are in the church age. All right. And Israel has kind of paused until the rapture of the church followed by what's called seven years of tribulation. And what's also referred to in Bible prophecy as Daniel's 70th week, it's the remaining prophetic week where God will then turn his attention back to Israel.

1 (14m 39s):

And all of the covenant promises that God made to Israel way back in the books of

3 (14m 45s):

The law. He hasn't forgotten them. Their disobedience hasn't negated. Those, those who

1 (14m 51s):

Embrace called replacement theology, they westernize our faith too much. And they say, America is

3 (14m 57s):

The new Israel. The church is the new Israel.

1 (15m 1s):

No, you know what that says about God is he doesn't

2 (15m 3s):

Keep his promises.

1 (15m 5s):

He is faithful to his covenant, regardless of whether Israel was faithful to God and he'll come back to her someday. So let's understand historically, even one of our favorite bumper sticker versus second Chronicles, chapter seven and verse 14. It may sound like I'm splitting theological hairs, but old, old Testament, covenant blessings and curses need to be understood historically and only applied principally for the church. Good for us to pray. Second Chronicle seven in verse 14. Absolutely. It's always good for us to confess our sins to God, to practice repentance, to pray with humility before him.

1 (15m 52s):

And if we know anything about the character of God, he'll bless us and he'll bless our nation, but not based upon a covenant relationship

2 (16m 0s):

That was unique

1 (16m 2s):

To Israel's relationship with her, with God in the old Testament. The sad reality during this time in Israel's history is that they did not follow the Lord with their whole heart. Ultimately not even Solomon met the conditions of the blessing. His and morality led to the nation, splitting into the Northern and Southern kingdoms during his son, Ray Boams rain and led by Jeroboam. The Northern kingdom ran grossly into morality were overtaken by the Assyrians and never heard of, again, the Southern kingdom did better, but Judah experienced only brief seasons of reform under the leadership of the Kings that I mentioned before. And then I want to talk about here in our time remaining, this is EISA and Jehosaphat, Joe Ash, you Zaja Hezekiah Josiah.

1 (16m 50s):

Each of these Kings were zealous protectors of the Davidic dynasty, but even at the end of about four and a

half centuries because of history, the Davidic dynasty crumbles, but the Davidic line to Messiah did not. And you see the providential hand of God, just preserving the messianic line all the way to Bethlehem. Now let's talk about some of these good Kings, because again, what Ezra is doing in the Recompiler nation of this history is trying to reach out to another generation of Israelites who are trying to rebuild their lives. 70 years of captivity. They're coming back to Jerusalem.

1 (17m 32s):

He's saying, listen, you can't

3 (17m 33s):

Understand the way forward. You can't understand who you are present, lets you understand

1 (17m 37s):

Your past and you appreciate who you are as the chosen people of God. So let me, let me tell you your story. And he goes through specifically the reigns of Kings in the Southern kingdom, only in Judah, only the Davidic dynasty, the Davidic line to Messiah. And he gives, well, at least 70% of the editorial space in chapters, 10 through 36 are focused on the Kings who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Yes. When a king served Jehovah, faithfully, God blessed the nation politically.

1 (18m 17s):

He blessed the nation economically. However, what you find even with these good Kings, there were forms were short-lived. Every one of them were descendants of David. They robustly protected the Davidic dynasty, but their reforms were short-lived that said we can learn something from them, starting with king EISA. His story is found in chapter 14 and 15. It says that EISA read the land of idolatrous worship and restored Yahweh's altar. Well, that's a good thing. Three cheers for king EISA.

1 (18m 58s):

He didn't tolerate idolatrous worship. And when these good Kings came to power, they knew that this was a disastrous way for the country to go. And so he tore down those idolatrous worship places and restored the purity of worshiping God in the centrality of that also EISA had an army of about 300,000 people. And with that he conquered an Ethiopian army, totally 1 million men and 300,000 chariots. Why? Because he trusted the Lord to fight his battles. What a lesson to learn there. You got any battles you're facing today where you feel outmatched?

1 (19m 40s):

Well, I learned a lesson from EISA the king. However, EISA like most of these Kings, they were good Kings. They did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but there's a little asterix by every one of their names in their lives. And when EISA had reached his 36th year as king of Judah, he failed to trust God when the king of Israel in the north threatened to attack Israel rather than saying, Lord, I think I'm outmatched here. Again. I

don't have that big of an army and trusting God to fight his battles again. You know what EISA did? He, he went into the temple treasury and he took some gold and some silver and he went and bribed the king of Syria to join forces with them against Israel.

1 (20m 25s):

And the Lord was not pleased with that. He trusted an Alliance with Syria more than he trusted the Lord God. And the Bible says in chapter 16 and verse nine, that the all seeing eye of God was watching. EISA when he did this, one of the prophets in the land named Hanani, I confronted EISA and told him in chapter 16, numbers nine, listen to this for the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. But you EISA have done foolishly in this for, from now on. You will have wars. We learned from AC that God sees everything, sees everything that we do guys like radar are scanning across the earth, looking for a heart that aligns with his.

1 (21m 16s):

And when he finds somebody like that, he says, that's somebody in whom I want to pour out my favor in my power, in my strength. That was EISA for a good part of his reign. But toward the end right age is no guarantee that you'll continue to make wise decisions. Be careful older folks. Some of the mistakes that these good Kings made, came late in their life and late in their reigns. And EISA EISA was not that man, that the eyes of the Lord scanned one, oftentimes when I'm on an airplane and I'm sitting in the, the window seat, I look out at 30,000 feet and I think of second Chronicles, 16 numbers nine, and how the Lord's eyes are scanning this earth, looking for somebody's heart that aligns with his.

1 (22m 4s):

And he says, that's a person I can use. And I just quietly pray. God, give me that kind of heart. Give me that kind of heart. EISA was not that person in his old age, but I hope that is you. And I hope that is me. Jehosaphat EISA son became king of Judah after his father's death. And second Chronicles chapter 17 verses three through six, says the Lord was with Joseph. And because he walked in the earlier ways of his father, David, he did not seek the bales, but sought the God of his fathers and not according to the practices of Israel, that's the Northern kingdom. And furthermore, he took the high places and the Asher out of Judah, again, three cheers for Jehosaphat.

1 (22m 45s):

All right, he didn't tolerate this stuff. He said, no, we need to worship Yahweh. We are the chosen people of God. And he cleanse the land of these pagan worship sites and acting many good spiritual reforms in the Southern kingdom. However, the people didn't go along with it. And it says later that the people returned to the high places, quite frankly, because their hearts had not been changed. You know, you, you, you can destroy the buildings and, and clean up the high places. But, well, it's a reminder that external religion is not enough to transform a human heart to HOSA fat also.

1 (23m 27s):

And this is one of the asterisks that you put by his name. He also wasn't very wise in the alliances that he formed early on. He formed an Alliance with wicked king Ahab, remember a Haben Jessebelle why would anybody in line with them? But your host did that. And then at the, of his 25 year range of, I had also allied with the wicked king of Israel hacia I think it's pronounced. And he got together with him to build some ships

2 (23m 58s):

That would sail to Tarshish.

1 (23m 60s):

We're not told exactly why, but it didn't please the Lord that Alliance either. And the Bible, and this is just puts a smile on my face. The Bible just says, the Lord destroyed the ships before they ever sailed.

3 (24m 10s):

I wonder how that happened.

1 (24m 13s):

You know, I think sometimes of parents who see their kids grow up and they start dating this person or that person and it's, and it's not, it's not an Alliance that is based upon a mutual love for God. And for Jesus. What do you do as a parent? You just pray and let the Lord destroy the ships before they ever sail. All right. He does this in Joe Jehosaphat's life. Joe Ash became king at age seven and reigned 40 years in Judah. He repaired the temple restored the worship of God. Again, three, three, cheers for Joe Ash. But the money wasn't coming in as quickly as was needed to repair the temple.

1 (24m 59s):

And so Joe Ash built a chest and he set it outside the Lord's house. And he made a proclamation to the people. You know, when you come to the Lord's house, bring your offering as well. And the, the chest of Joe Ash, as it is called, filled up time and time again, and they emptied it out and then it filled up again and they emptied it out and they filled it up again. And this is how they paid for the, the repairs in the temple. As long as Jehoiada was high priest, Joe Ash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. But the Bible tells us that Jehovah does the high priest died at the age of 130. And when he died, Joe Ash quickly abandoned the house of the Lord and returned to idolatry.

1 (25m 43s):

It's one of those head scratchers. I'm like, I don't quite understand this. The only thing I can conclude is that Joe Ash had a relationship with the high priest, but he didn't have a relationship with God. There's a big difference between the two made me think of how many times I've seen this happen in my own ministry and pastor colleagues who have reflected the same, that when they leave a church or come to a church, there's the shuffling of the sheep. These people are leaving because you left or other people are leaving because

you came, when you asked him, why are you leaving? Well, you know, we just, we had a relationship with our pastor. We really liked him and he's gone

2 (26m 19s):

Now. So

1 (26m 22s):

Was your relationship with the pastor or with God? Yeah. Joe ashes case. As soon as Jehoiada, the high priest dies.

3 (26m 33s):

He stopped serving your way. He stops doing what is right in the eyes of the Lord. And he goes back to the idolatrous ways of the people. What's up with that. Joe Ash, I don't know,

1 (26m 42s):

Make your own conclusions, got to move on you. Zaja and heads of Chi. If we had time, we could dive into the lives and reigns of these two good Kings Hezekiah. For example, chapter 31 tells us did what was good and right, and faithful before the Lord, his God, and every work that he undertook he did with all his heart. And he prospered again, way to go Hezekiah. There was a lot that we could dive into, but this is an overview of the book and we don't have time to go there. One last king, this is Josiah. He was the best of the good Kings. He assumed the throne at the age of eight and he reigned for 31 years in Jerusalem.

1 (27m 26s):

Now when Josiah was a teenager and probably coming of age to actually begin to have control from the throne, one of his servants was, was cleaning up the temple. Every church I've ever served has some closets that show boy, they need to be cleaned up some rooms while the temple was just in disarray. And this servant was over there cleaning up the temple and he found a copy of the law of God blows off the dust. He's amazed by what he finds. He runs back to the king, to the throne, and he says to young Josiah, look at what I found.

2 (28m 5s):

And Josiah says, read it.

1 (28m 8s):

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus numbers, Deuteronomy the reading of the law of God allowed in the presence of the king and king Josiah. His heart was so convicted by the fact that the nation had drifted so far away from their divine purpose. As the chosen people of God, it just gripped his heart. At that time don't ever underestimate the power of the public reading of God's word. It gripped young Josiah's heart, and he, he enacted stunning reformation, spiritual reformations during his reign. However, and here comes the asterix.

None of them lasted beyond his own generation.

1 (28m 48s):

The next three or four generations of Kings that came and here again, we're in the Southern kingdom. In Judah, the Davidic dynasty, they're all descendants of David. The last three or four were all wicked Kings following Josiah. And that's when the Lord said enough is enough. And he sent the Babylonians 586 BC and they're taken into captivity. Second Chronicles covers about four and a half centuries of old Testament history. The past is prologue. Remember that? Don't let anybody cancel your history to understand your present the way into the future. You got to connect to your past the good, the bad and the ugly, but as he ends with the Babylonian captivity, but he does something that a king Samuel and Kings does it do.

1 (29m 40s):

He adds the why, the specific reason why Judah was held captive by her enemies for 70 years, seems like a round number or doesn't it.

2 (29m 51s):

Why is that?

1 (29m 52s):

Go with me to second Chronicles, chapter 36 and verses 20 and 21 turn there in your Bible. It says of Nebuchadnezzar king of the Babylonians who were

2 (30m 8s):

The super power

1 (30m 10s):

On the earth at that time, the Babylonian empire that he never knows or took into exile in Babylon. Those who had escaped from the sword and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom Persia. All right. Ultimately the Medo-Persian empire overtook the Babylonians. Okay. So, so as far as advancing

2 (30m 37s):

The history here

1 (30m 39s):

Until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, Jeremiah is one of the major prophets. We're going to take this four and a half centuries of history and drop in the major and minor prophets and hear their messages to the Northern and Southern kingdom during this time. But there was something that Jeremiah said during that time. And this was to fulfill the word of the Lord

by the mouth of Jeremiah. Here it is until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths

2 (31m 10s):

All

1 (31m 11s):

The days that it laid desolate. It kept Sabbath to fulfill 70 years. What's that all about? Well, if you go back into the mosaic law and look at the Sabbath laws, you know, one of the commandments says, keep the Sabbath day, make it holy. The Lord worked for six days, rested on the seventh, but the expanded Sabbath laws also included giving the land rest every seven years. Now, imagine if you were in an agricultural economy and your livelihood and your health and the ability to feed your family was dependent upon planting and harvesting.

1 (31m 53s):

It would take a lot of faith to come to that seventh year and say, we're not gonna do anything this year.

2 (31m 59s):

We're not going to plant. We're not going to harvest.

1 (32m 2s):

There'll be nothing coming in this year. We're going to trust God. Well, these four and a half centuries, Northern kingdom, Southern kingdom, they just totally ignored the Sabbath laws concerning in the land. And eventually God said enough is enough. Why 70 years in captivity we'll do the math 490 years. It was that they disobeyed the Sabbath laws divided by seven it's 70. And so God sent his, his children into timeout for an appropriate period of time. 70 years, not a day later, not a day sooner.

1 (32m 43s):

Would they come out of time out to reclaim every Sabbath year that they had disobeyed him. Boy was that a long time to learn the lesson, wasn't it. But after 70 years they came out of captivity and Asmara ends second Chronicles

2 (33m 3s):

With hope.

1 (33m 5s):

I love it. This because this can be a dark time in Israel's history where even in the Southern kingdom, you come all the way down to this. And you know, the Davidic dynasty is gone, not the, not the messianic line, but the dynasty is gone. The next time a king will sit on the throne of David and Jerusalem. You know what? His name will be Jesus at his second coming. That's an exciting time to look forward to, but as Zara ends

with hope from an unlikely source. Remember I mentioned Cyrus king of Persia at the beginning, I said said, mark down chapter 36 verses 22 and 23.

1 (33m 48s):

And it says that to fulfill a prophecy made by the prophet, Jeremiah, get this the Lord stirred

2 (33m 57s):

The heart of Cyrus, a pagan king

3 (34m 2s):

Of the Peggy pagan Mito Persian

1 (34m 6s):

Empire. I mean, this was, this was no a friend of y'all way and the God of Israel, but God stirred

2 (34m 14s):

The heart of Cyrus to rebuild the Lord's temple.

1 (34m 18s):

And in verse 23, Cyprus proclaimed the Lord. The God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. Medo-Persian empire was now the new, super power of the earth. They had overtaken the Babylonians and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you. All his people may the Lord, his God be with him, let him go up. What

2 (34m 42s):

A proclamation.

3 (34m 45s):

I, this is the last person that the Jews would have ever thought would have said, go back to Jerusalem and build your temple. Coming from Cyrus, the king of Persia. Come on. Now.

1 (34m 56s):

It's just a reminder that God can and will use anybody to

2 (35m 1s):

Advance his purposes during the

1 (35m 6s):

Presidency of Donald Trump. Some people compared him

2 (35m 11s):

To king Cyrus.

1 (35m 12s):

Trump was not known for his faith in God, but he spoke robustly in favor of religious freedom. Did he not and strongly upheld the Judeo Christian values upon which our nation was founded. And for that reason alone, I'm glad that he was our president, but how quickly things change.

2 (35m 34s):

I hear

1 (35m 35s):

We are as a nation that on independence day and night, national days of prayer, we pray. If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray. We beg God to heal our land.

2 (35m 50s):

We beg him for leaders who will uphold these

1 (35m 54s):

Principles of religious Liberty and the Judeo-Christian principles upon which our, our country is founded. And sometimes he uses a very unlikely source

2 (36m 6s):

To just be prepared for that.

1 (36m 8s):

God surprises us that time in many ways. And if America returns to God, Bible history gives us every reason to believe based upon the character of God, not a covenant relationship that now where America has replaced his real or anything like that. But based upon the character of God, we have every reason to believe from Bible history that God will bless his people and bless his nation. And so I just say, may revival in the church and a spiritual awakening from sea to shining sea, start with you and start with me. Let's pray in the spirit of second Chronicles, seven in verse 14. God, if we humble ourselves, if we pray, if we seek your face, if we turn from our wicked ways, if we practice repentance, that's a big GIF, isn't it?

1 (36m 56s):

Yeah. If, if it's starts with you, how are we going to do? If it starts with me, how are we going to do? If it starts with our church, how are we going to do? Let's not point our fingers this way or that way. Let's just look in the mirror and say, Lord, if I humble myself and pray and seek your face and turn from my wicked ways, will you

heal my life? My family, my church family. And if enough of us do this around here, we heal our land and give us leaders that uphold godly principles or at least leaders that will allow for the propagation of the gospel as freely as you intended it to be disseminated in this world.

1 (37m 45s):

And it start with each one of us.

2 (37m 48s):

There's always hope.

1 (37m 50s):

There's always hope for Israel and God isn't done with Israel. We're very close historically up to about 400

2 (37m 58s):

BC at the end of Chronicles,

1 (38m 1s):

We need to talk about Ezra and Nehemiah and Esther. But after this, there are no more Kings. And there, there are 400

2 (38m 10s):

Years of silence without a prophet of God and then comes Bethlehem.

1 (38m 19s):

The promise of Messiah and all through this history. The providential hand of God is preserving and protecting that line that started in Genesis three, came through the covenant, made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David in all the, of David until the dynasty crumbles, but the promises don't and God still preserves that thin red line that goes all the way to Bethlehem and all the way to the cross where Christ died for our sins and was buried and rose again on the third day. And we remember his death as we come to the Lord's table, but we remember his death until he comes.

1 (39m 0s):

The Bible says,

2 (39m 3s):

Because

1 (39m 5s):

He's coming again. And when he comes, he will defeat his enemies and sit on David's throne

2 (39m 14s):

And rule the world for a thousand years before there

1 (39m 18s):

Is no more need for a temple, new heaven, new earth, new holy city of Jerusalem

0 (39m 25s):

And the almighty God. And the lamb of God is the temple. And God dwells again with his people. Isn't it a fabulous story when you piece it all together and it

1 (39m 38s):

Just makes me stand in amazement

0 (39m 40s):

Of this book, we call the Bible. It truly is the word of God. You've been listening to the Bible teaching ministry of Dr. Ron Jones for a complete list of resources available from Ron's ministry, visit something good, radio.com.