

CHURCH IN REGINA

2 Pet 1:19a: "And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place..."

HWMR Week 6—The Intrinsic Significance of the Book of Judges and the Apostasy of Israel in the Worshipping of God

Returning to the Proper Ground for the Recovery of the Church - The Place God Has Chosen

In Deuteronomy 12, 14, and 16 a number of critical points are covered. The first of these points is that God commanded the Israelites to worship Him in the place He had chosen (12:5, 11). When I studied the book of Deuteronomy as a young man, I wondered why God forbade the children of Israel to worship in the place of their choice. They were not permitted to worship God or to enjoy the offerings they presented to God in any place they liked. No, **they had to go to one unique place. The choice was God's, not theirs...** Surely God is omnipresent. He is everywhere, whether it be north, south, east, or west. Since God is omnipresent, why did He require His people to travel to just one place?...God's way is not our way. He has His own wise way. In chapter 12 of Deuteronomy God seemed to be saying, "After you enter into the good land, take heed that you do not present your burnt offerings at any place you see. You have no right to do this. You must go to the place I have chosen. It is not a matter of your sight but of My sight..."

As we all know, God eventually chose Jerusalem. Those who lived near Jerusalem undoubtedly were happy to learn of this, and they might have said, "Hallelujah, we don't need to travel very far." However, those in the north, who had to travel a long way to Jerusalem, might have thought that God was unfair and demanding too much of them. Nevertheless, God seemed to say, "Children of Israel, you have no right to choose the place. The choice is mine. You must go to the place I have chosen." This matter must have some significance in typology.

God's Command Regarding the Produce of the Good Land

God also commanded that **the top portion of the produce of the good land be eaten in the place He had chosen**. Regarding the enjoyment of the produce of the good land, God seemed to say, "When you enter into the land, you must keep aside the top portion of your crops and your herds. **You have no right to eat this portion within your gates**. You must bring it to the place I have chosen for My name and for My habitation. Three times a year you must bring the choice portion to this place." As I read this as a young man, I was troubled and thought that it was not at all economical. Everything other than the top portion could be eaten either in the homes of the Israelites or in any other place of their choice, but the top portion could be enjoyed only in the place God had chosen for His name and for His habitation. To me, this requirement was very strange. Probably you have never heard a message telling you the significance of this in typology.

The Choice Portion of Christ Enjoyed Only in the Church

The good land is a type of the all-inclusive Christ, and all the rich produce of the land is a type of the riches of Christ. Moreover, as we have seen, all the offerings of the produce of the good land are also types of Christ. Based upon this principle, we may ask the following question: Is there a portion of Christ that we cannot enjoy in our private place but only in the place chosen by God? ...I can testify that I have not been able to enjoy the choicest aspect of the riches of Christ in my private fellowship with Him. In private I enjoy only the common portion of Christ, not the special portion. I can enjoy this choice portion of the riches of Christ **only in the church**, in the place chosen and appointed by the Lord... Therefore, we have seen two important points: **the chosen place and the special portion of the produce of the riches of the good land.**

Church Meetings:

Lord's Table Meeting

Lord's Day
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays
7:00 - 8:00 PM

College Meeting

Fridays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Small Group Meeting

Fridays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Young Peoples' Meeting

Saturdays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Conferences & Trainings:

Winter Training

December 20-25, 2021

Contact Information:

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NEW LANGUAGE

**Christ is
the Lord of
Glory.**

God's Wisdom in Maintaining the Oneness of His People

He chose the unique place for His people to worship Him and to offer sacrifices to Him for the purpose of **preserving the oneness of His people**. Without this regulation, restriction, and limitation, dozens of worship centers would have been established throughout the land of Israel, and consequently the people would have been divided. The subtle people of Dan (who are likened to a serpent in Genesis 49:17) probably would have said, "We are not happy with those in Judah. We prefer to be by ourselves. Let us have a worship center here in Dan." Other tribes might have said, "We are a long way from Jerusalem. Let us set up a center where we are." If all the tribes had done this, they would have been divided and could never have sung Psalm 133, which was always sung in the three yearly feasts—the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Deut. 16:16). As the children of Israel ascended Mount Zion, they sang these words: **"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!"** (Psa. 133:1)...

Two Crucial Questions

As you contact other Christians, you must **be calm and sober** and ask them two important questions. First, ask them **why they have different names** that cannot be found in the Bible. Ask them why they have chosen these names for themselves. Tell them that in reading the New Testament you find no trace of these names. Ask them what name they have. Since they consider themselves to be scriptural, why do they not forsake these unscriptural names? Instead of giving you a straight answer, they may twist things in an attempt to excuse themselves.

Second, since they claim to be the church, ask them **how many churches there should be**. No one would say that there should be more than one church. Rather, everyone would say that there should be just one church. But in saying this, they are caught. Then you should reply, "Since there is only one church, why are you here as a 'church' and someone else is over there as another 'church'? You have so many so-called churches in one city. Since you are all in Anaheim [*Regina*] and even in the same neighborhood, why don't you all come together? You claim that you are the church and that there is only one church. Why then will you not be one? We all hold the same Bible, believe in the same Lord Jesus, and live in the same city. You all claim to be the church, yet you refuse to be one. What is this?" If any would say that it is not convenient to come together, you should reply, "In the early days in Jerusalem there were tens of thousands of believers who met in houses. But Acts 8:1 speaks of the church, not the churches, in Jerusalem. In the Bible there is only the city church, not the street church." If any would attempt to justify the existence of denominations, we should point to the four divisions named in 1 Corinthians 1 and ask whether they are positive or negative, whether they are approved by the apostle Paul or condemned.

Thus, we must ask about two matters: **unscriptural names and divisions**. These questions need to be answered. We have no particular names, names that are not in the Bible. We are not divisive; we are prepared to be one with all believers in Christ. Thus, **we are on the proper ground as the church**. If we are not the church, then what are we?

No Right To Our Own Choice

If you bring all these matters to the Lord in prayer, you will **clearly see that God has chosen only one ground**, the **ground of oneness**. The principle is found in Deuteronomy 12, 14, and 16, where God charged His people again and again to care for the unique place chosen by Him. **As far as the public worship of God's people is concerned, none of us has the right to select the place of our choice**. Deuteronomy 12:8 says, "You shall not do according to all that we do here today, each man doing all that is right in his own eyes." In these chapters Moses charged the people to do what was right in the eyes of God, not to go any longer to the place of their choice and not to offer their burnt offerings in the place of their preference. Rather, they had to **take heed** to the place that God should choose. They had to learn how to worship God. They had no right to choose a place. The unique place is the ground chosen by God. This was true in typology, and it also must be true in reality.

Enjoying God's Presence and God's Glory in His Temple

...[W]e admit that all real Christians throughout the world are truly the people of God. But so many of them are still in captivity and do not have the church life. Hence, they are not the temple with God's presence and God's glory. If we see this matter clearly, then we shall know where we are and what the Lord's recovery is today. Hallelujah, we are in the Lord's recovery! **The Lord's recovery is to bring us back to the original ground so that His temple may be built and we may have His presence in His glory for our enjoyment**. Today we are enjoying this glory. We have the boldness to say that the church is here (Excerpts from the Young People's Training, chapter 12).

Announcements:

1. The December Semiannual Training will be held online. Subject: CS of 1&2 Samuel. Local registration deadline is on December 5, 2021. The cost is \$125USD per trainee (\$165CAD).

Prayer Burdens:

1. Lord, You are our Husband and we are Your corporate wife. Save us from doing what we think is right in our own eye. Have mercy on us that we would never forsake You or leave our position as Your wife.
2. Thank You for coming to us as the Angel of Jehovah. Even though we do not act as a proper wife, You still came to become a Servant to care for us. Continue to admonish us to listen to Your voice.
3. Save us from any form of mixture and apostasy. We take no other way but Your way. Remove the “houses of Micah” and recover the proper way to worship You according to the Scriptures.
4. Lord, give us a heart that cares more for Your Body then for our own self-interest. We don't want to be like Dan who was divisive. Preserve us in the proper ground of oneness.
5. Lord, we declare that we are only members of Your Body. As members, we honour the place that You have chosen. May there be no compromise even among us in Your recovery but care for one another in a genuine way.
6. Lord, in this time of apostasy, we declare and believe the fundamental truth and the deeper, fuller revelation of the pure Word of God. Strengthen us to fight the battle for the truth. Thank You for Your rich and divine provision.

Other Burdens:

1. Pray for the word of God to reach all parts of Canada, especially the remote areas. Pray that many genuine seekers of the Lord will receive a copy of the New Testament Recovery Version.
2. GTCA: Abbotsford, BC; Airdrie, AB; Guelph, ON. Pray for the burden of gaining more Caucasian believers and gospel contacts to be brought into the church life. May the localities gain a stable meeting place and a shepherding atmosphere where everyone will be ushered into the church life.

Church in Regina:

1. Pray for the purchase of a lot property and **meeting hall**.
2. Pray for the **small group meeting** and that the brothers and sisters in the church to be vitalized. Release this burden, the prayers and the one accord.
3. Pray for a “**one piece**” **view** of our labor for the children, young people and the college students. May we all see the church life as one, offer no strange fire, and go on steadfastly in one accord.
4. Pray for a **regular bible distribution** and the continual **preaching of the gospel**. May our living be a testimony for the gospel.
5. Pray for all the saints to pick up the burden to spread the truth embodied in the **New Testament Recovery Version** so that it would become part of their daily living.
6. Lord, we pray for our individual **pursuit of the Life-study messages**. Prepare our entire being for the upcoming semiannual training.