

IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN SCRIPTURE (2)

Introduction

- 1) In the midst of the divinely inspired Scriptures, there are important moments that reveal vital truths that we should know and understand
- 2) These moments often come at critical times and places in the story of redemption
- 3) Let us visit two of these moments and learn important lessons about obedience and joy

I) A JERUSALEM MOMENT (1 Chronicles 15:13)

“We did not consult Him about the proper order”

- A) David prepares to move the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to Jerusalem (1 Chron. 13:1-6)
 - 1) Ark is moved on a new cart (vv. 7-8)
 - 2) Oxen stumble and Uzza touches ark; God angered; Uzza struck dead (vv. 9-10)
 - 3) David angered and afraid – wonders how he can bring ark to Jerusalem (vv. 11-13)
- B) Later, David is ready again to move the ark of the covenant (1 Chron. 15:1)
 - 1) David now states God’s intended means of transporting the ark – Levites carry (v. 2)
 - 2) Levites gathered in Jerusalem to transport the ark (vv. 3-11) and David notes that God was angered because “*we did not consult Him about the proper order*” (vv. 12-13)
 - 3) The ark is carried as Moses had commanded according to the word of the Lord (vv. 14-15)
- C) David learned that it is vital to have divine authority for all you do (cf. Col. 3:17)
 - 1) When God has spoken, there is a “proper order” – the divinely authorized way
 - a) God had given a command – Numbers 4:15; ignorance or forgetfulness is no excuse
 - 2) Other ways are not the “proper order” – “new carts” of human wisdom
 - a) Does not matter if it is a good cause (v. 3), popular (v. 4), others do it (1 Sam. 6:7-8), or part of sincere worship and service (v. 8)
 - 3) “New carts” have rolled into the church: *Instrumental music, missionary society, sponsoring church arrangements, women preachers/elders, etc. Beware!*

II) ANOTHER JERUSALEM MOMENT (Acts 15:24)

“To whom we gave no such commandment”

- A) In the early church, an issue arose in Antioch of some teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the law of Moses to be saved (Acts 15:1)
 - 1) Paul and Barnabas opposed this – much dissension and dispute (v. 2)
 - 2) They and others were sent to Jerusalem about this question (vv. 3-5)
- B) Apostles and elders came together to discuss the matter – much dispute (vv. 6-7a)
 - 1) Peter spoke about what he saw and learned at the house of Cornelius (vv. 7b-11)
 - 2) Paul and Barnabas related the miracles and wonders in their work among the Gentiles (v. 12)
 - 3) James quoted the prophets concerning the inclusion of the Gentiles in the church (vv. 13-21)
- C) A letter was written to Gentile brethren (vv. 22-29)
 - 1) What about the teachers and teaching? – “*To whom we gave no such commandment*” (v. 24)
 - 2) No “commandment” from apostolic authority (v. 22); brethren encouraged (vv. 30-31)
- D) This proclamation by the apostles emphasized the need for divine authority
 - 1) When no authority from God, no authority to teach or act – silence of God (1 Cor. 4:6)
 - 2) Apostles’ doctrine is given by the Holy Spirit (v. 28; 2:42; Eph. 2:20; Jn. 16:13)
 - 3) Divine authority is determined by command, approved example, and necessary inference
 - a) Peter, Paul and Barnabas – *example, necessary inference*; James – *command/statement*

Conclusion

Divine authority is necessary for all that we say and do. Many errors have crept into the structure, worship, and work of the church. Let us be wise and follow God’s word in all things.