

2026-07-05

The Importance of History

Mark 12:35-37

The Bible is an amazing collection of books and letters. All the writings are inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16). Everything is written for our instruction and correction. It contains information and teaching about the past, which we call history. It also contains prophecies about things to come, the future which is also from God (2 Peter 1:21). Historians today seem to record and speak of historical events without having any influence from God. To them God does not exist and so He cannot be involved in the affairs of men. In the past things were different. Before our “modern age” **history was always seen Providentially**. People recognized that God was directly involved and intervened in the affairs of men and nations. As a Christian, we should know that God is involved in our lives and in this world and all the nations of this world. He is completely aware of everything that is going on. He is all knowing of all things, past, present and future. Jesus made the statement, “*But the very hairs of your head are all numbered*” (Matthew 10:30). We do not even know how many hairs we have on our head or all over our body. God does know this fact. Since He knows this trivial information, He knows all the details about us. He knows our thoughts, our hopes and our fears. He knows the truth about every detail of our lives. There is nothing hidden from God. We cannot hide anything from God.

It is important to believe in a Providential view of history. There is no blind chance or accidents. God is at work. He is always at work in our lives. Most of what He is doing we may see but we do not know or understand. We cannot see the whole forest while standing in the midst of the trees. I have been reading two books about the founding of the United States of America. I am not finished with them yet. I am fascinated by how God continues to work in people and through people to accomplish His will. The first book is called, “The American Story” written by two brothers, David and Tim Barton. It looks at what they call the golden thread of God woven through the discovery of the Americas to the establishment of the Republic of the United States of America. God was and still is involved in what is happening.

The second book is “Miracle at Philadelphia” by Catherine Drinker Bowen. This book covers the five months of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 which brought about the Constitution of the United States of America. In the middle of those months, when the temperature outside was as hot as the tempers inside the debate room, Benjamin Franklin, trying to bring the divided men together stated, “I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth—that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground

unseen by Him, was it probable an empire could arise without His aid? We have been assured, sir, in the Sacred Writing that ‘except the Lord build they labor in vain that build it.’” (Matthew 10:29 / Psalm 127:1). God has His plan for our nation whether we choose to believe it or not. The same is true for every nation in the world. Some nations have rejected God and His will for them. Others still seek Him. My prayer for the United States of America is that we still seek Him and His will. In doing so, we must seek His moral standard for our nation so that we can be a people of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The devil is trying to pull this nation and all nations into an immoral society filled with manmade gods. That is what happened to Israel.

The nation of Israel had lost their moral and spiritual standard at different times in their history. God allowed them that choice as He does all nations. He continued to restore them whenever they humbled themselves, sought His face and turned from their wicked ways (2 Chronicles 7:14). Pray for the true Israel to do the same today. God has always wanted His people and all people to love Him with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. At times His people would get caught up in trying to love God by other means, keeping the laws, emphasized in the circumcision of the flesh.

God had always wanted His people to get caught up in loving Him in a right relationship with Him, emphasized by a circumcision of the heart (Deuteronomy 30:6 / Jeremiah 4:4 / Ezekiel 36:26-27 / Romans 2:29). This was especially true when the Word of God became flesh and lived among us, **fully God and fully human**. Jesus demonstrated by His life and taught the Jews the most important commandment. *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. And the second, like it is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself”* (Mark 12:30-31). Jesus calls us to demonstrate our love for Him by helping other people in their need. **Christianity is a participating faith, not a spectator experience**. Jesus followed up His response to the scribe with a question that the Jews debated and could not figure out.

Mark 12:35 *“Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, ‘How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David?’”* This is still the Tuesday before Jesus is crucified. It has been a long day already. These events began at Mark 11:20. The day ends at the end of Mark 13. The scribes were correct in their teaching that the Messiah of God would be a descendant of King David. That is what the prophecies in their historical writings had foretold. **This was the announcement of God**. David’s descendant will be on the throne forever (2 Samuel 7:16-17). David was promised that his line would last forever (Psalm 89:3-4). **David’s descendant will be born**. *“And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be*

called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end upon the throne of David" (Isaiah 9:6-7). David's descendant will reign wisely and do what is right and just (Jeremiah 23:5-6). David's descendant will be king over His people (Ezekiel 37:24). Yes, the scribes believed this, and taught this to the people of Israel. The answer to this part of the question is easy. Of course, the Messiah is a physical descendant of David. Then Jesus continued.

Verse 36 *"For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: 'The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"* Jesus quoted the first verse from the Messianic Psalm 110. Jesus confirmed that this psalm was spoken by King David. He also confirmed that David spoke this psalm by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a truth directly from God spoken by King David. What truth did David say through the Spirit of God that Jesus confirmed? **The LORD God Almighty spoke to David's Lord.** By bringing this Old Testament scripture up, Jesus entered into an age-old debate that the Pharisees and Sadducees had about who is the Messiah. Is the Messiah David's son or is the Messiah David's Lord? How can this be? Can He be both? The Jewish leadership along with other people struggled with this teaching, this truth. They did not believe that the Messiah could be both! Maybe we do not have a problem with this but many people still do.

Verse 37 *"Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" And the common people heard Him gladly.*" Since the Messiah is David's son, He is human and has a physical body. He is a descendant of David. The prophecies confirm this. How then can the Messiah also be David's Lord? **Everyone knew and believed that David's Lord was God Himself.** Do you believe that David's Lord is God? Yes, of course we do. Read David's psalms. *"O LORD my God, in You I put my trust"* (Psalm 7:1). *"O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth"* (Psalm 8:1). *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want"* (Psalm 23:1). So, how can the Messiah be a descendant of David and also be God? Jesus did not have a problem with this. He was living proof if people would believe. This was the struggle of the Jews including the disciples of Jesus. And it still is the struggle of many Jews today as well as other people. When did the disciples finally understand that Jesus is God and was human? They fully and completely believed after the resurrection of Jesus.

After Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, when the Spirit of God permanently filled Jesus' disciples, Peter was in the Temple preaching. Towards the end of his sermon he said, *"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and*

hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ’ (Acts 2:32-36). The Jews had no problem with believing that the Messiah would be a physical descendant of David. They did struggle with believing that the Messiah was God in a human body. Peter used this same verse from Psalm 110 to encourage the Jews that **Jesus was fully God and fully human**. Peter did not say this to condemn them, but to convict them of their sin and unbelief. The Holy Spirit convicted them. *“They were cut to the heart”* and asked, *“What shall we do?”* (Acts 2:37). Peter told them to repent and believe the truth. He told them to be baptized and 3,000 people responded with faith in Jesus as Lord and Messiah. He is both God and the human sacrifice for our sins. Through Him and only through Him is there complete forgiveness from God.

God is always at work in our lives. And He still gives us the choice to believe and follow Him or to reject Him. Too often when bad things happen, we are quick to blame God. We wonder where is God. God is not the problem. He is perfect. He is good and holy. We are the sinners here we are the ones who have made the poor choices, individually and collectively. God is at work in this world. *“Now He (the Spirit of God) who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God”* (Romans 8:27). The Holy Spirit, who knows our hearts, prays for us. Not only this but we know that in all things God works together for our good, to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose (8:28). God’s goal for us is to be like Jesus, kind and compassionate, helping others, learning and growing in the ways of God.

Questions to ask yourself:

Where are you now spiritually? Who does God want you to be? Have you been making the right choices? Seek to know God’s will for your life.

Actions to take:

Look at your life. God has brought you to this point in life. He wants to develop your character. Will you let Him? Will you trust Him? Take the next steps He shows you.

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Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;
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