

“There Is None But You to Help”
(2 Chronicles 14)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, we considered the downward trend of the United States and of the world in general.
 - a. Sadly, we are in a state of moral decline.
 - (i) We’re doing things today that a century ago we would never have thought of doing.
 - (ii) In the early 1900s, people were put into Federal prison for adultery. Today, it’s not only acceptable, it’s encouraged.
 - (iii) People used to see homosexuality as a moral crime against God, then as a psychological problem, then as a genetic defect, while now it is promoted as normal and healthy and those who can’t accept it as abnormal.
 - (iv) There was a time in this nation when human life was counted as sacred and something to be protected at just about any cost. Today, abortion and euthanasia are very common.
 - b. Everyone is affected by this decline; even the church, since we live in the same world and society.
 - (i) Little by little, the church is embracing the same ideas.
 - (ii) It’s been said that the church is always about 20 years behind the world in morality; sadly, this is too often true.
2. But remember that what we’re seeing isn’t anything new.
 - a. Every nation that rises, eventually falls.
 - b. Every church that has been raised up by the Lord eventually declines and falls away from the truth – I’m not sure that there are any exceptions.
 - c. The same was true of the Old Testament church.
 - (i) It reached its glory in the days of Solomon.
 - (ii) But afterwards it declined until it had all but lost the truth and had but few faithful left.
 - (iii) Still, from time to time, the Lord would revive her and would not let her fully fall away.
 - (iv) He always had His remnant He preserved, and He still does today.

B. Preview.

1. All this is to say that what we need today is revival – a spiritual infusion of grace sent by God by the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Remember what we saw last week as to how the Lord slowed the downward progress of His church:
 - (i) Sometimes He would discipline them by sending difficult times.

- (ii) Sometimes He encouraged them through His promises and blessings.
- (iii) Sometimes He let the Law do its work through its warnings and threatening.
- (iv) Sometimes He raised up godly leadership that would lead His people back into His paths, such as with Josiah.
- (v) But sometimes He sent His Spirit in great power to bring His people to renew their covenant with Him.

- b. These things provide us with the key to the revival and recovery of this nation.
 - (i) Remember that the church must first be revived before the Lord will send revival to the world.
 - (ii) But for the church to be revived, we must be revived as individuals.
 - (iii) And so take note of what's going on in the world; see it as a wakeup call to personal renewal; and begin to seek the Lord to revive your heart through His Word, His Worship, prayer, and fellowship.
 - (iv) Don't slide down into the pit of immorality with the rest of the world, but be renewed in your hearts and call on the name of the Lord.

- 2. This morning, we're going to look at one more spiritual principle to help us in our warfare: the Lord is able to help us – He is the only One who can - and He has promised to do so if we will only call on Him. Let's consider for a few moments how the Lord preserved His church in the tribe of Judah, the tribe through which Jesus Christ would come.

II. Sermon.

A. The Lord preserved Judah through a very long and dangerous time.

- 1. We've already seen that at this time the visible church was mainly in the tribe of Judah.
 - a. The Lord kept them from falling away from Him as Israel had done because this was the tribe through which He was bringing His Son.
 - b. At the same time we need to realize that it wasn't only Judah that was preserved.
 - (i) Benjamin – which by this time was a very small tribe – also came under the protection of Judah. It's interesting to note that when Joseph's brothers returned the second time to Egypt for food, and had to bring Benjamin with them at Joseph's request, it was Judah who guaranteed Benjamin's safety and so took on himself the obligation to protect his life.
 - (ii) The Levites, who were a small tribe as well, also came from all over Israel to stand with Rehoboam and Judah when Jeroboam set up the golden calves at Bethel and Dan (2 Chr. 11:13).
 - (iv) Finally, there were some from the ten tribes who had left their land and went to Jerusalem to support the son of David for three years, because their hearts were set on seeking the Lord (v. 16).
 - (v) Judah was not alone.

- c. But for the most part it was Judah who followed the Lord – the largest tribe and the one in which the son of David reigned.
 - (i) On the one hand, the loss of the ten tribes was in fulfillment of God's punishment on Solomon. But on the other, the preservation of the one tribe was to fulfill the Lord's promise to David. The Lord said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and you have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you, and will give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days for the sake of your father David, *but* I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, *but* I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen" (1 Kings 11:11-13).
 - (ii) The Lord didn't choose just any tribe to give to the son of David, but the tribe that was his own kindred, the tribe God had chosen as the kingly line, the tribe through which Jesus would come.
 - (iii) As an aside, the Jews got their name from Judah, because Judah was the last tribe remaining after the captivity (2 Kings 17:18).
 - (iv) Because the Lord was intending to raise up His Son from Judah, He made sure to preserve it from the time of Solomon onward.
- 2. Let's consider some examples of this preservation:
 - a. When Shishak, Pharaoh of Egypt, came against Judah with 1,200 chariots and 60,000 horsemen, the Lord fought for His people (2 Chr. 12).
 - b. He delivered them again in Abijah's days, when Jeroboam came against Judah's army of 400,00 men with an army of 800,000 chosen men (2 Chr. 13:3). On that day, 500,000 of Israel were slain, an event from which they would never fully recover.
 - c. And again in Asa's day when Zerah the Ethiopian came against him with an army of 1,000,000 men (2 Chr. 14:9), as our text reminds us, "Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, 'LORD, there is no one besides You to help *in the battle* between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You.' So the LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa and before Judah, and the Ethiopians fled" (vv. 11-12).
 - d. And again in Jehoshaphat's days when the Moabites, Ammonites, and Edomites came together against Judah with a much larger army than Judah could every muster.
 - (i) Jehoshaphat and his people were very justly afraid, and so they sought the Lord and put their trust in Him.
 - (ii) The Lord answered by telling them they wouldn't have to fight; all they had to do was stand still and see the salvation of the Lord (2 Chr. 22).
 - e. And again in Ahaz's day, when Rezin, the king of Syria, and Pekah, the son of Remaliah, the king of Israel, combined their forces against Judah.

- f. And again when Sennacherib, the king of the most powerful nation on earth, came against Judah in the days of Hezekiah, after he had conquered most of the neighboring countries. When they cried out to the Lord and put their trust in Him, the Lord sent His angel to kill 185,000 Assyrians in one night (2 Kings 19).
 - g. The point is that the Lord was preserving His visible church in the tribe of Judah because it was through them that the Messiah was coming. But He didn't act on their behalf until they recognized their need and called out to Him.
- B. Now if the Lord would do this for His people through whom He would send His Son into the world, won't He much more do so for you whom He has chosen to give to His Son?
 - 1. There always will be a church on earth to worship Him according to His will.
 - a. As our Confession of Faith also reminds us: "The purest Churches under heaven are subject both to mixture and error; and some have so degenerated, as to become no Churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan. Nevertheless, there shall be always a Church on earth, to worship God according to His will" (WCF 25.5).
 - b. The Confession is simply reflecting what we've already seen in our text. We don't need to be afraid that the kingdom of darkness will swallow up the kingdom of light: no matter how bad things get, no matter how much she is hated and persecuted, she will not be destroyed.
 - c. Our Lord has told us, "On this rock [that is, on the Gospel] I will build My church; and that gates of Hades will not overpower it" (Matt. 16:18).
 - 2. The Lord will preserve His people.
 - a. The Lord will make sure that His church will continue.
 - b. He will be our shield and our bulwark; He will be there to rescue us when we are in trouble.
 - 3. But there is something we must do to receive this help – the same thing the Old Testament saints did when they were in trouble – we must trust in the Lord and call upon His name.
 - a. The Lord wants us to recognize our complete dependence on Him.
 - b. And He wants us to express that dependence through our prayers, by our looking to Him, in our seeking Him.
 - 4. We do need to understand what Asa did: there is none but God who can help us.
 - a. In our text, we read, "Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, 'LORD, there is no one besides You to help *in the battle* between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You" (2 Chr. 14:11).
 - b. When we are faced with those who are too strong for us, we must look to God for help.

- c. When we are faced with things that are too difficult for us, we must turn to Him.
- d. When we are faced with a task that is too hard, we must rely on Him.
- e. This is always true:
 - (i) Sometimes we forget our dependence on Him and think we can get along without Him most of the time.
 - (ii) We seem to forget the things He does for us on a daily basis.
 - (a) Don't you know that if He was to withdraw His support for one moment, you would wither and die? He is the One who sustains your life.
 - (b) If He were to withdraw His hand of blessing and provision, you would starve in weeks.
 - (c) If He were to withdraw His divine power from supporting you in being, you would vanish into nothingness.
 - (d) You don't need God just when things are difficult, you need Him all the time. Your life, your wellbeing, your very existence depends on Him.
 - (iii) How much more do you need Him when you are faced with difficulties? If you can't draw a breath without His help, how can you face your trials without Him?
 - (iv) The Lord wants you to know that He is there to help you.
 - (a) You are a part of His church.
 - (b) He will protect you who have trusted in His Son, even as He protected His Old Covenant saints.
 - (v) But you must be faithful to call on Him, as also Jehoshaphat and all Judah did when faced with their enemies.
 - (a) Remember to love Him, honor Him, serve Him, do what you believe will glorify Him in all your decisions, to keep striving forward in your Christian walk, to continue to grow in grace.
 - (b) And then remember to look to Him when you are faced with trouble: the Lord is not to be our last resort - He is to be the One we look to first.
 - (vi) In just a few moments, we will be celebrating the sacrament that reminds us how much we depend on Him for delivering us from the pit of destruction at the price of His only begotten Son.
 - (vii) As we participate, let's look to the Lord for our deliverance and safety, and let's renew our covenant to love and worship Him with our whole lives. Amen.