

<https://youtu.be/uGA1VnaDyDg>

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD & THE CHURCH?

We could say:

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH?

Satan says: "With COVID-19 I have closed all the churches."

Jesus says: "I've just opened one in every home."

Matthew 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

This was the 1st time that Jesus mentioned the word "church" to His Disciple's.
The disciples were not familiar with the word "church".

They knew Tabernacle: Moses built a Tabernacle and the Glory of God filled it.
They knew Temple: Solomon built a Temple after his father David gave him the pattern.
They had synagogues everywhere. It's like our churches today.

But Peter later captured what Jesus meant by "church":

1 Peter 2:9-12

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Church is the people.

Jesus said: "I will build My church."

"I will build my people."

The church in the world today:

1. Is to serve as salt to expose corruption.
2. To serve as light to disperse darkness.

Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Your light on a hill cannot be hidden.

We do not hide a light in our house. It's there to give light to everyone in the house.

The picture of the church in the city is a picture of the city.

You are the salt of the earth.

If the church loses its saltiness, if the church loses what it stands for in the world, it loses its credibility in the city.

If we're going to be the light and salt in our city, we need the Word.

We need to make up our mind who we serve.

We cannot be in the world and when things come up against us through our actions and consequences turn to God, saying "Heal us, save us, deliver us". It won't work.

This could even be the state of the church. It could even be the state of the city, especially if there is perversity in the church.

This could be seen in

2 Chronicles 15:1-7

Now the Spirit of God came on Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. For many days Israel was without the true God and without a teaching priest and without law. But in their distress they turned to the Lord God of Israel, and they sought Him, and He let them find Him. In those times there was no peace to him who went out or to him who came in, for many disturbances afflicted all the inhabitants of the lands. Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress. But you, be strong and do not lose courage, for there is reward for your work."

1. Israel had been without a true God.
So there were other gods in the temple.
2. They had been without a teaching priest.
3. They had been without the Law.

During this time they had no peace.

Ezra was a teaching priest.

Ezra 7:8

He came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king.

King Asa reestablished Judah and Benjamin and they worshiped the Lord.

He dedicated the House of God.

There was no war for 35 years.

But Asa, who did all these reforms, died of a rare disease in his feet, because of 3 things he had committed:

1. King Asa took back all the gold and silver from the temple that he had dedicated to God and gave them to a foreign king when Judah was attacked.
2. He put Hanani, the seer, in prison for correcting him.
3. When the sickness hit him, he did not seek the Lord, but physicians.

2 Chronicles 16:1-3

In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and fortified Ramah in order to prevent anyone from going out or coming in to Asa king of Judah. Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the Lord and the king's house, and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram, who lived in Damascus, saying, "Let there be a treaty between you and me, as between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold; go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel so that he will withdraw from me."

2 Chronicles 16:7-10

At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, "Because you have relied on the king of Aram and have not relied on the Lord your God, therefore the army of the king of Aram has escaped out of your hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubim an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the Lord, He delivered them into your hand. For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars." Then Asa was angry with the seer and put him in prison, for he was enraged at him for this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at the same time.

2 Chronicles 16:12-13

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians. So Asa slept with his fathers, having died in the forty-first year of his reign.

When things go wrong in our church, in our city, we as the church must sit back and ask: "What did we do wrong?" It is one thing to start well, but we also need to endure to the end and finish strong.

Let us stay strong.

STAY FOCUSED.

We must not become sluggish.

Stay connected.

Keep supporting the work of the Lord.