

SCCC – THE BLESSINGS FOLLOWING KNOWLEDGE

S - Scriptures

“In the third year of his reign he sent his officials Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel and Micaiah to teach in the towns of Judah.” 2 Chronicles 17: 7

C – Consideration

Jehoshaphat is known in the Bible as a godly king, “His heart was devoted to the ways of the Lord; furthermore, he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah.” He is the only monarch mentioned in Chronicles that had a special concern to govern. He did not just to judge, defend and to provide for his nation, but he decided to send some government officials, and a team of training theologians with a special purpose, “With them were certain Levites— Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah and Tob-Adonijah—and the priests Elishama and Jehoram. They taught throughout Judah, taking with them the Book of the Law of the Lord; they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people.” He understood the importance of making sure that the citizens of Judah would know the Lord and how to serve Him.

C – Commitment

Why would this king have such concern? Was his idea fruitful? Other kings in their beginnings built cities, reinforced walls, renewed the Temple, but Jehoshaphat saw something else. The next verses tell us the results of his task, “The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the lands surrounding Judah, so that they did not go to war against Jehoshaphat. Some Philistines brought Jehoshaphat gifts and silver as tribute, and the Arabs brought him flocks: seven thousand seven hundred rams and seven thousand seven hundred goats. Jehoshaphat became more and more powerful;” Instead of weapons or training a huge army, he got God’s words to the citizens. That it was all that his kingdom needed! The enemies were afraid of Judah, because God’s people feared the Lord. The enemies brought wealth to Judah, because God’s people had the most precious treasure they could have, the Lord’s words in their hearts. The King became very powerful because God’s people learned that victory didn’t come with cars, horses, spears or swords, but from the Lord, as the Psalmist wrote, “Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.” “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”

C – Call

Lord, what a great lesson this passage showed me. How many times I had spent my time doing things, running here and there and I missed the crucial thing, studying Your word. I pray for me and for the churches in the world to send out teachers to declare the word of the Lord, and the blessings certainly will follow. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.