

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Psalms 121:1- I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

Psalms 121:2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

Psalms 121:3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Psalms 121:4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

In our last session, we looked at the necessity to study the history and experiences of God's people. Take for instance the history of the children of Israel as they returned to rebuild Jerusalem.

The coming of Ezra and his company to Jerusalem brought courage and hope into the hearts of many who had long labored under trying difficulties. Since the first company of exiles had returned with Zerubbabel and Joshua, over seventy years before, much had been accomplished in the work of restoration. The temple had been finished; the walls of the city had been partially repaired. Yet much remained undone. At times, the people had become disheartened, and had well-nigh ceased all effort to restore the city. Even during the years of comparative peace following the troublous times of Queen Esther, but little was done to upbuild the wall. *{RH, February 20, 1908 par. 1}*

So why had they become disheartened? Why so listless? Listen to how RH, February 20, 1908 par. 2 puts it:

The indifference of many of the Israelites who had returned, is directly traceable to their violation of the plain precepts of the law given at Sinai. Some who had returned, remained faithful; but many of their children and children's children, lost sight of the law of heaven. The Mosaic code, given for the good of the people, was sadly disregarded. Sin was in the camp. Even some of the men who had been entrusted with sacred responsibilities, lived in open sin. Their course of action largely neutralized the efforts of others to advance the cause of God; for so long as flagrant violations of God's law were allowed to go on unrebuked, the blessing of heaven could not rest richly upon the people. *{RH, February 20, 1908 par. 2}*

This is an important lesson for us today.

Family Worship Neglected.--If ever there was a time when every house should be a house of prayer, it is now. Infidelity and skepticism prevail. Iniquity abounds. Corruption flows in the vital currents of the soul, and rebellion against God breaks out in the life. Enslaved by sin, the moral powers are under the tyranny of Satan. The soul is made the sport of his temptations; and unless some mighty arm is stretched out to rescue him, man goes where the arch rebel leads the way. *{CG 517.2}*



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Here's a question for you:

Are you representing Christ to your children? Are you teaching them to obey the commandments of God? I educated my children from their babyhood to look upon God as a kind Father. I did not present him as a stern judge, lest they should fear to come into his presence. But how many homes there are in which prayer is not offered, where there is no acknowledgment of God or his goodness! O, let us not have prayerless homes. Let us live so **that the shield of Omnipotence may cover the family. I want to be on the Lord's side. I want Jesus to build a barrier around me, so that the temptations of the enemy may not come from the inside but from the outside.** {RH, April 30, 1889 par. 9}

Notice that in reference to the rebuilding of Jerusalem, it was not sufficient to rebuild only the temple, but the walls also were to be rebuilt. Isaiah 58:12 is quite clear:

Isaiah 58:12 And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.