

The Eyes of the Lord

2 Chronicles 16:9

Thesis: God is looking and willing to help those who are willing to do His will, but man must learn to rely on God first. (vs. summary: Asa relied on man>>and did not rely on God>>therefore Syria escaped and Asa lost the battle)

Introduction:

1. God is unchangeable throughout the ages (Malachi 3:6), His oath and purpose in the Old Testament are the same in the New Testament (Hebrews 6:17-20). He desires to help and save us.
2. As we read scripture we should look for the never changing character of God. 2 Chronicles 16:9 records a specific event in history that gives us a general, broader principle about God.

(Exegesis of text)

- I. Asa king of Judah relied on the king of Syria (Aram), and not on God (2 Chronicles 16:7)
 - A. Baasha, king of Israel began to fortify his southern border with Judah (vs. 1)
 - B. Asa, king of Judah became nervous and bribed Ben-hadad, king of Syria with gold and silver from the temple. Ben-hadad had a peace treaty with Israel and Asa bribed him to break that treaty. (vss.2-6)
 - C. Hanani the seer (prophet) rebuked Asa for his lack of faith, he should have relied on God as he had done before. (14:9 -defeated Ethiopian's million+ - man army), cf. 14:11; **13:18**
- II. Result: Asa lost the battle (16:7)
 - A. Had Asa relied on God, Asa could have defeated BOTH Ben-hadad and Baasha and won their lands.
 - B. From now on Judah would be plagued with wars (16:9)
 - C. Asa cursed with a foot disease and still refused to rely on the Lord, died with the disease. (16:12)
- III. We should rely on God, and not man - God is actively searching to help those who seek God (16:9)
 - A. The principle Hanani is teaching is that God desires, not a sinless heart, but a whole-hearted trust in God for strong help. Asa at one time had that type of "blameless" heart, but his success made him trust in man and not so much in God. (Cf. 1 Chronicles 29:9)

(Application of the text - What Kind of God is Our God? - A great promise for all time and all people is in 2 Chronicles 16:9)

- I. Our God is Strong (vs.9)
 - A. The Creator of heaven and earth is aggressively seeking to "show Himself strong;" (KJV, CSB) "to strongly support;" (NASB) "to strengthen;" (NLT)

- B. God is omnipotent and therefore, He seeks to stand us up, make us strong, He has our back, when our heart is set on seeking God.
 - C. Psalm 147:5 “Great is our Lord and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.”¹
- II. Our God is aggressive (pursues us with goodness and mercy)
- A. Even when Adam and Eve sinned God sought them out, punished them and gave them a renewed promise with a renewed sense of hope, as long as they diligently sought the Lord. (Genesis 3:9,15)
 - B. Jehovah sought out the scattered sheep of Israel and brought them back, healed and strong:
 - 1. Ezekiel 34:11 “For the Lord GOD says this: “Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and look after them.”
 - 2. The psalmist makes one final appeal as he confesses his sins, “seek your servant.” Psalm 119:176 - “I have wandered about like a lost sheep; search for Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments.”
 - C. Parables of the lost sheep, coin and prodigal illustrate how the Father aggressively seeks us out, pursuing, in order to bless us. But our hearts must be totally committed and trusting on and to Him.
- III. Our God is not limited (vs. 9). Through the whole earth! Everywhere God’s people may be scattered His eyes are seeking us out!

Conclusion:

- 1. Isaiah 64:4-5 God is willing to help those who are patient and wait on Him. “God is unparalleled in his willingness and capacity to work on behalf of those who wait for him. He makes himself available to those who gladly do right, who remember [his] ways. The problem, however, is that Israel at present neither waits for God nor gladly does right nor remembers his ways. They rightly receive God’s anger, leading to Isaiah’s critical question, How then can we be saved?” (Briley, T. R.; 2000–).
 - 1. God’s power is seen in how He loves us. Scheme of redemption.

¹ “The greatness of God (ver. 5) with respect to might (Job 37:23) corresponds to the fulness of His understanding (Ps. 145:3), which no number can express.” Lange, J. P., Schaff, P., Moll, C. B., Briggs, C. A., Forsyth, J., Hammond, J. B., ... Conant, T. J. (2008). [A commentary on the Holy Scriptures: Psalms](#) (p. 672). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

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