

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Renewing the Kingdom

I Samuel 11:14

Israel had a history of looking to all the wrong places for help when things went wrong. At times they turned to other nations such as Egypt and Assyria (see I Kings 16:7; II Chron. 28:16ff; Isa. 30:1-6; Jer. 27-29) and at other times they even turned to idols for help (Isa. 44:12ff; Jer. 10:6-11). During the days of Samuel, the judge of Israel, the people demanded a king (I Sam. 8:5). Israel reasoned that a king would judge them and fight their battles (I Sam. 8:20). Though Jehovah had forbid such an event the people were nonetheless bent on having a king (I Sam. 8:19).

Saul was chosen as the first king of Israel and anointed by Samuel in accordance with God's instructions (I Sam. 10:1). The king's first act was interpreted as valor and a sign of approval from the perspective of the Israelites. Saul had routed the Ammonites and Israel could not have thought much higher of him at this point (see I Sam. 11 all). Samuel's response, after the battle, was "***Come, and let us go to Gilgal and renew the kingdom there.***" Samuel had previously told the people that their request for a king was not Jehovah's will. Some may have thought the old judge of Israel would forget such thoughts seeing that Saul had saved the people out of the hands of the Ammonites. Samuel; however, would not let the subject die. When the people come to Gilgal to "*renew the kingdom*" Samuel lets them have it. Samuel asked the people if he had wronged them in any way that they should ask for a king (see I Sam. 12:3ff). Samuel reminded Israel of the "*righteous acts of Jehovah*" in that He had helped them out of all their previous distresses when they had repented of their errors (see I Sam. 12:6-11). Why then did they request a king when "*Jehovah your God was your king?*" (I Sam. 12:12)

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Announcements:

Last Sunday **Bill Lee** was restored to the Lord. Bill had been a member of the Faith Village church for over 25 years and came to see the error of their institutional practices. We praise God for Bill's decision and look forward to working with him in the kingdom of God.

New Acts study has now been posted on our website:
www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Tonight is the **last Sunday of the month singing**. Be sure to get with one of the men to have your favorite song sung.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Finally, Samuel accuses the people of sin saying, "*Your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of Jehovah, in asking you a king*" (I Sam. 12:17). To prove his point the judge of Israel called down rain from heaven during the wheat harvest (a time that rain was a rarity - I Sam. 12:17-18). When the rain came the people were terrified and cried out, "*we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king*" (I Sam. 12:20). Samuel agrees with their confession and instructs them to never seek after another nation, king, or idol for help when Jehovah God is there only true help. Furthermore, Samuel instructs the people saying, "*Only fear Jehovah and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you*" (I Sam. 12:24).

There were three things that occurred to the Israelites that caused the kingdom to be renewed. First, Israel acknowledged their sin. Secondly, they purposed to seek out Jehovah alone for help in times of need. Lastly, they were instructed to fear the Lord and serve Him in truth. If the old and gray headed man of God would not have said anything to them, after they had defeated the Ammonites, Israel's joy would have continued even though they were in error (see I Sam. 12:2).

How can the Kingdom of God be Renewed Today?

God's kingdom, the church, can never be renewed by changing His authorized patters of worship or the work of the church. At times; however, brethren begin to drift from the divinely established standard of truth. The longer this drifting is allowed to occur the further from the initial position of truth one floats. Let the Lord's church examine itself today to see whether a renewal of the kingdom needs to occur. Do you and I acknowledge our sin or do we justify, conceal, or act oblivious to it (see Jer. 3:13; Acts 8:14-24; I Jn. 1:9)? Does the church, God's people, pray fervently to the Lord at times of need or do we go seek out help from men (I Thess. 5:17-18)? Lastly, does the church of God illustrate fear through obedience to the authorized will of God alone (Col. 3:17)? Take a look at the church around you. Does the kingdom need to be renewed? May the Lord bless all the old gray headed men who bark at sin and who never let a matter die until it is corrected.

John C. Robertson

Convincing an Agnostic that God Exists and has Expectations of Man

Introduction:

Friday's edition of the Times Record News had an article in it about the acceptance of those who hold agnostic beliefs. Acts 17 records the apostle Paul's experience with agnostics in Athens. Paul explains the identity of Jehovah God in seven areas that caused some to believe (see Acts 17:32-34). This study may help you the next time you talk with one who only believes in the possibility of a supreme being.

I. Jehovah God made the world and all things therein:

A. God spoke and the world was (Psalms 33:6-9).

B. Revelation (Jn. 20:30-31), Creation (Rom. 1:18-23), Witnesses (I Cor. 15:1ff), Man's nature (Rom. 1:19-20, 26; 2:14, 27; I Cor. 11:14), fulfilled prophecy (Isa. 46:9-10), and our own created being (Acts 17:28-29).

II. Jehovah is Lord of heaven and earth:

A. The Lord has power and exercises sovereignty over the world.

III. The Lord does not dwell in Temples made by Man's Hands:

A. No matter how attractive and expensive He will not be lured in.

IV. The Lord has no needs to be met by man that he may be Sustained:

A. While idols needed to be carved, maintained, and moved around the Lord needs no such help.

V. Jehovah gives life, breath, and all things to man for his existence:

A. Man is completely dependant upon the Lord now and on into eternity.

VI. The Lord has even created all of humanity:

A. Man's natural bent is to "seek God."

VII. It is through God that we live, move, and have our being:

A. We are the offspring of God (Lk. 3:38)

B. Our very existence and needs that are met by creation tell the story of Jehovah God.

Conclusion:

Paul explains the identity of God in such a way that one would have to be a fool not to believe or understand (see Ps. 19:1). Seeing that there is a God who is responsible for all creation let us know that He has expectations of his created beings. Now is the time for repentance because there comes a day when the sovereign creator of all existence will judge the world (Acts 17:30ff). Let the agnostic and skeptic examine their environment and make the one and only conclusion: God is.