

THE FINDING OF THE “LAW”

By Keith Greer

"Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have **found the Book of the Law** in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it." {2 Kings 22:8}

When the children of Israel cried unto God from Egypt because of their physical bondage, God heard them. Moses was sent to bring them out. The children of Israel were a people for God's "own possession". As they crossed the Red Sea, God delivered them from the Egyptians. "Then the waters returned and covered the chariots, the horsemen, and all the army of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them. Not so much as one of them remained. But the children of Israel had walked on dry land in the midst of the sea, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore." {Exodus 14: 28-30}

Moses went up to Mount Sinai, to receive the Law written by the "finger of God". "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep my covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is mine." {Exodus 19:5} What an opportunity these people had!

Yet, because of a lack of faith, the first generation died in the wilderness. {Numbers 14:26-30} When it was time for the second generation to enter the Land of Promise, they were given this grave responsibility. "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. " {Deuteronomy 6:6-7}

God did not want them to forget the Law, nor the fact of who brought them to the land that "flowed with milk and honey". "The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." {Deuteronomy 7:7-8}

Why when Josiah is in his eighteenth year, and sends Shaphan the scribe to Hilkiah the high priest, is the book of Law "recovered"? How did it ever get lost? Did God's people have no guidance during all these years? Who can believe it!

God's people had forgotten to use the Law and teach it to their children. Henceforth, it was not lost, it was just not used! The new generation had no knowledge of it to guide them in God's ways. Sadly, this is the reason they became so wicked and were taken into captivity!

What is the lesson for us today? Consider the state of the church in our generation. Why are there so many ungodly attitudes? Why are so many of our children going the "way of the world"? Could it be we have "lost God's Law" in our own day? Do we spend time with our children with the book of God? Do our children hear us pray? Do we seek to instill in them the ways of God in every aspect of their lives? What are we teaching our children about Christianity? The Lord's church?

Does the Bible have a prominent place in your home? No, I don't mean on the coffee table in the living room! Does this wonderful book reside deep in your heart? Do you seek to use every opportunity to instill some truth into the lives of those most dear to us in this life? Two things must be true for us to effectively put the word of God into the lives of our families: 1. We must love and know this book in a very intimate way. 2. We must desire the reading of this book above every other type of literature!

Brethren, we better make sure we are reading and applying God's law correctly. By what I see, many are reading "things into the law", rather than living and teaching according to the law! Do you abide in the law of Christ? Or is it lost? ***