

A LAMP IN JERUSALEM.

1. Reading the other day in I Kings, chap. 15..four words attracted my attention. These:- "A Lamp in Jerusalem" Ordinary words. But significant in their setting. Today there are electric lamps in Jerusalem in public places..but still homes where people meet round flickering oil lamps in the old-fashioned way.
2. But this expression is not merely a statement of fact. It carried deep symbolic meanings. The full statement is this: "The Lord his God gave him a lamp in Jerusalem." Gave who? His name was Abijam..grandson of the great Solon ..and he lived in perilous days...Perilous bec, of long process of sinning men..Yes, begin. with Solomon who, after a time of glorious, wise reign..slid into careless backslid Rehoboam, his son, followed him into deeper evils..leading his nation into such deterioration that we read this devastating statement,, "THERE WERE SODOMITES IN THE LAND." And into that dark evil came Abijam..walking in the sinful ways of his forebears. The consequences were foreseeable. Judah soon found that "Sin is a reproach to any people"..and she was on her way down to that 70 years of captivity in Babylon..Jerusalem destined to lie as a ruined heap..leaderless..desolate.
3. That was just one episode in the dark and sinning history of Jerusalem, pivotal city of Israel. It has been destroyed and rebuilt more than any city on earth/. destroyed because of her sin..apostasy..forsaking of her God ..and knowing His inevitable wrath. Even today her walls bear scars of 1967 fighting..shell holes and pock-marks of bullets..Why? Long ago she refused her Messiah...and He said this: Luke 13:34-35 (read). It came..70 AD. Nothing left..no hope..total dispersion thru all nations. Let no man think that God is not just and holy as He deals with sin..Rom. 11:22 tells it this way.. "Behold the goodness and SEVERITY of God." Isaiah was right to warn his people of the consequence of sin. Today we need the same warning. I need not remind you that there are "sodomites in our land"..and fiery Sodom wrath of God is impending.. How long before it falls?
4. Back in Abijam's day..it looked like the end of Israel. But THEN..in those dark times..God gave a promise.."A Lamp in Jerusalem." What did that mean? What symbolize? It spoke of two things..First, that the lamp of Israel's kingship would not flicker out..and that there would be

light provided for the journey. Two essentials would persist
,,LIFE AND LIGHT for Israel..preserving the Davidic line of
kings..of which our Saviour King would be born..the One Who
indeed would become the Light of the World..able to save and
guide all who come to Him. God is FAITHFUL INDEED.

5. Now let me come again to our day. Dark enough? I know
you agree. Hopeless? Yes, on man's level. This world is
sickening towards a final chaos..and wrath of offended God.
But thank God we can still claim the promise. God has
lit a LAMP IN OUR JERUSALEM..shining through whole world..
in Canada..Calgary..this church. A lamp of Hope..a Light
for our feet..to preserve and to lead. LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Spoken by our Lord in Temple in Jerus - John 8:12 - He was Lamp in Jerus!

6. Many of you know what it was like to come to that Light.
Holman Hunt's great picture.. "The Light of the World"..The
Saviour standing outside a closed door..a lamp in his hand..
the other lifted to knock..head bent, listening. Dark within
..and latch on inside. Remember when you opened heart's door
and He came in..with love, light, forgiveness, cleansing.
joy, peace..and a Presence that has been guide thru. life?
God grant every one of us the same glad experience..Open..
Open the door as wide as you can. Give Him WELCOME!
He waits to give PRESERVATION..and GUIDANCE to all men.

7. Let me illus. His PRESERVATION by story from old Jerus.
In 1955 I was in the Garden that surrounds Tomb of our Lord.
Met keeper of garden..Mr. Mattar..fine X'n Arab. His house
was in the Garden..and my priv. to preach there to group of
his Arab friends. BUT in 1967 Israel attacked old city..
Shells crashed into buildings,,bullets whined overhead..
Chaos, wrath, strife.. And Mr and Mrs Matter found shelter..
WHERE? Right in that EMPTY TOMB..on resurrection ground!
Safe in the Rock! That is preservation, salvation ground!
Bought for us by the Light of the World! The Lamp of Life.
Are you tonight..in your spirit..safe in the Rock of Ages?

8. What then? God's Word says to the believer.."Walk in the
Light." How? With your hand in the Saviour's nail-pierced
hand..daily trusting the salvation He bought with His own
blood..Walking also in light of His Word, God's Holy Bible..
"A lamp unto our feet..a Light unto our path." OBEDIENTLY

9. On Sept. 1st, 1939 Germany invaded Poland. On Sept 3rd
Britain declared war on Germany. Dreadful days..World War II
had begun. On December 25th King George VI broadcast his
Christmas message..including this fine quotation:-

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year.
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"
And he replied, "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand
Into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a
light, and safer than a known way."

I thank God that we can have both. The hand of our Saviour-
God who is able to preserve..to save and keep...
And the Light of His Presence and His Word..as our guide
through all the gathering darkness....Until He receives
us into His "PEACABLE KINGDOM" above!

Rockyview CMA - with Beran College Choir - Apr. 13/80