

Preparing the Heart

- *The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. Pr. 16:1*
- God allows each of us to prepare and arrange our heart in any way we choose.
 - *arak is a verb of preparation, arranging OT:4635*
- Man makes his preparations and plans
- Life will unfold based on God's answer to our preparation.
- *A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps. Pr. 16:9*

Those who Prepared

- *Rehoboam did evil, because he did not prepare his heart to seek the Lord.*
- *Joshoshaphat good things are found in you, in that ... have prepared your heart to seek God."*
- *Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God*
- *Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel.*
- What preparations have we made?
- What answer can God give to our preparations?

God Searching for Prepared Hearts

- *I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds. Jer. 17:10*
- *The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Ps. 11:4*

Saul – Unprepared – David Prepared

- *You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." 1 Sam 13:13-14*

David's Preparation – God's Answer

- *He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'* Acts 13:22-23
- *For David, after he had in his own generation served the counsel of God, fell asleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption* Acts 13:36

David's Warning to Solomon

● *“Now therefore, in the sight of all Israel, the assembly of the Lord, and in the hearing of our God, be careful to seek out all the commandments of the Lord your God, that you may possess this good land, and leave it as an inheritance for your children after you forever. 9 "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it." 1Chr 28:8-10*

God's Answer Matches Our Preparation

- *endured with much longsuffering the **vessels of wrath prepared for destruction**, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on **the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory**, Rom 9:22-24*
- *What we prepare of ourselves... God has prepared us for!*
- *If we prepared ourselves a vessel of wrath we are prepared for destruction.*
- *If we prepared ourselves a vessel of mercy we are prepared for glory.*

Examples of Preparation

● *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15*

● *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Josh 1:8*

The Clock is Ticking

- *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard of interpretation, seeing ye are become dull of hearing. 11 For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that some one teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food.*
Heb 5:11-12
- Procrastination, delay, sloth, priorities,
- God is weighing it all and making decisions.

Our Preparations

- *But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 **Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter**, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Tim 2:20-22*
- *Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "**Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**" 2 Tim 2:19*

A Prophecy

- *The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 **Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power;** In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. 4 The Lord has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." Ps 110:1-4*

Volunteers

- *And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I; send me. Isa 6:8*
- *Then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side — come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. Ex 32:26-27*
- *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 1 Pet 5:2*

Examples of the Term

- The Tabernacle in the Wilderness:
- *'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze; 21 Then everyone came whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and they brought the LORD'S offering for the work of the tabernacle of meeting, for all its service, and for the holy garments. 22 They came, both men and women, as many as had a willing heart, Exod 35:5,21-22; 29*

Examples of the Term

- The Temple planned by David built by Solomon
- *Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the LORD; and King David also rejoiced greatly... 14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You. ... 17 "I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.*

Our Choices and Attitudes...

- *What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? Rom 9:22-24*