



The Chronicle

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National Overseer's Address 2021 Disobedience comes with Consequences

Philip C. Bennett

During the journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land, God chose the Levites and sanctified them to offer His sacrifices on behalf of all the people. God gave specific instructions to Moses, who in turn instructed Aaron the High Priest: *"So Aaron and his sons did all things which the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses."* (Leviticus 8:36)

When Israel were obedient to God's commands, God would manifest His presence among them: *²³ "And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people. ²⁴And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces."* (Leviticus 9:23-24)

God was pleased with their obedience and still delights in it today. He frowns on disobedience. God sent Saul on a mission and gave him specific instructions:

¹"Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD. ²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. ³Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." (1 Samuel 15:1-3)

Saul failed to carry out all of God's instructions and then tried to justify himself: *"And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."* (1 Samuel 15:23)

God, through the prophet Samuel declared: *²² "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."*

²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."

(1 Samuel 15:22-23)

Disobedience, rebellion and stubbornness caused Saul to lose the throne, lose the fellowship of God and ultimately lose his life.

¹And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. ²And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. ³Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace. ⁴And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp. ⁵So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said. ⁶And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled. ⁷And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses."

(Leviticus 10:1-7)

These two young men thought they knew better. They would have observed their father on many occasions and have even participated in these ordinances themselves; but they probably got tired of the same old routine and wanted to spice things up a little. God told Aaron not to mourn for them or leave the tabernacle to attend their funerals. These young men are like some of our members today that get tired of the same routine and want to bring in all kinds of changes. But what God has ordained and put in place, we should not tamper with.

Dare you or I put our hands to interfere in God's business! God does not need your assistance for His work to prosper. God does not need my help for His work to prosper. Sometimes, people feel they need to give a helping hand. Some of us need to pray to God to give us more patience. *"In your patience possess ye your souls."*

(St. Luke 21:19)

God's presence dwelt with the children of Israel through the Ark of the Covenant which they carried around and placed in a tabernacle wherever they went. Only Aaron the High Priest and the rest of the Levites were to handle the Ark of the Covenant. God had ordained them and anointed them for the task: *⁵"And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering vail, and cover the ark of testimony with it: ⁶And shall put thereon the covering of badgers' skins, and shall spread over it a cloth wholly of blue, and shall put in the staves thereof."* (Numbers 4:5-6)

When it was time to move, they would pack up the tabernacle and carry it with them. Certain chosen men would bare the Ark of the Covenant: *"And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation."*

(Numbers 4:15)

This Kohath was a son of Levi, but the duty of all his descendants were as burden bearers for the tabernacle of the congregation in which was the Ark of the Covenant: *¹⁷And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, ¹⁸Cut ye not off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites:*

19But thus do unto them, that they may live, and not die, when they approach unto the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in, and appoint them every one to his service and to his burden: 20But they shall not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die.” (Numbers 4:17-20)

Even though they were Levites too, their duties were limited. They were not to see what was inside the tabernacle - lest they died. God has a system of order in His House which we need to abide by, lest we too die. **Let us abide in our calling.**

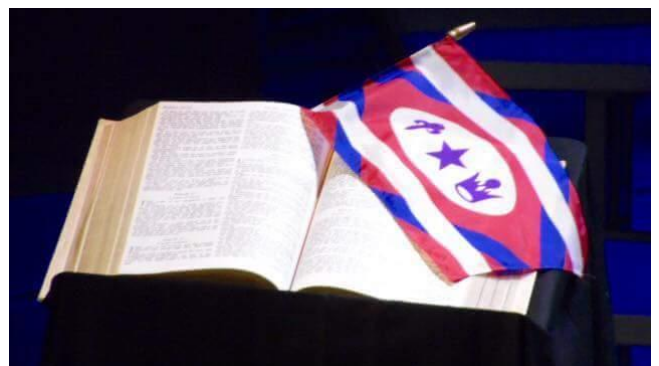
We have an account in the Bible where Eli's two sons took the Ark of the Covenant into battle against the Philistines. In a previous conflict, the Philistines had defeated the Israelites, God's people and slain four thousand of them (1 Samuel 4:2). Therefore, the elders decided to fetch the Ark of the Covenant from Shiloh to the battlefield. They knew not that God was departed from them. This resulted in the Ark of the Covenant being just another object. This is just like some people who boast in their church membership, but if we are not living right, being a member of The Church of God will not save us. The Ark was captured by the Philistines and later returned to Israel due to the devastation that it caused amongst their people. It dwelt in a place called Kirjathjearim for many years until David decided to bring it home: *“3And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. 4And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. 5And David and all the house of Israel played before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. 6And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.*

7And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.” (2 Samuel 6:3-7)

The children of Israel had been given instructions as to how to transport the Ark. The priests and the Levites were to carry the Ark by using two wooden poles inserted through rings on its sides. This would avoid them touching the Ark itself, which would result in death at the hands of God. The Ark had been in the house of Abinadab, Uzzah's father for many years. Perhaps he became familiar with it. **It is said, familiarity breeds contempt.** At any rate, he became careless and tried to help out God. God does not need our help. The result was that he lost his life.

It may seem harsh but God does not change His mind with time. His yea is yea and His nay is nay. If we keep going back to Him after He has given His decision on a matter, like Balaam the prophet, God may just remain silent. Some people take this silence to signify God's consent. However, when God stops speaking to us it is a dangerous time because we never know what He will do next. God can be very unpredictable.

Church of God, let us never get to that position like Balaam the prophet, but let us be obedient to all that the Lord has spoken.

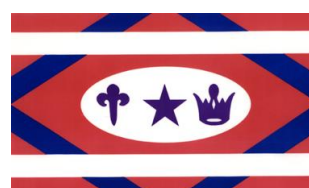


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From the Overseer's Desk

We give thanks to God for a wonderful National Convention. It was amazing how the Holy Ghost worked with all the speakers on the convention programme. The Bible said we would see eye to eye and all speak with one voice: *"Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion."* (Isaiah 52:8)

Even more amazing was the confirmation of much of what was said during our convention at the recent General Assembly. A number of speakers used our convention theme Scripture: *"Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."* (Hebrews 12:26-27)

God is speaking to us, to prepare for the shaking that is to come. In the final message to the churches of Asia, God warned: *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."* (Revelation 2:7,11,17,29 and Revelation 3:6,13,22)

As we start the new Convention and Assembly years, let us be attentive to the Spirit of God and do with our might what our hands find to do. When our Lord returns, He will reward us for all that we have done:

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

(St. Matthew 25:21)

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| National Ministers' Convention | - | Saturday 6 th November 2021 |
| National Family Camp | - | Monday 21 st to Friday 25 th February 2022 |

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The new general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:

'Treasuring the Truth'

(St. Matthew 13:52)

Greetings brethren! Time is winding up so fast, and it seems not too long ago we were given our 2020/21 General Sunday School theme. Here we are again with our new theme for this Assembly year.

The definition of 'treasure' is to keep or regard something as precious and to value highly. 'Truth' is an indisputable fact. Everyone treasures something in their lives, whether it is antiques, furniture, cars, jewellery etc. Some treasure their memories of loved ones who have passed on. Treasuring the truth means as Christians, our lives should testify of the truth of God's Word to others. Let us be encouraged by the theme as we explore it this year. God bless

Testimony from Sister Beverley Wilson, London Church concerning Sunday School:

First of all, I would like to thank God for the Sunday School department and those who work within it. Every single lesson has been a blessing and an encouragement throughout 2020. Although the lesson reprints from '**The cup of suffering and the crown of glory**', and '**On the battlefield**' were timely and prepared me for a very difficult year, the lessons which have remained with me the most have been from the new Teen Herald 3rd quarter edition.

We in the Wilson household have enjoyed these perfectly written, God inspired, brand new lessons thoroughly. The July-September 2020 theme was, '**Ships**'. We learnt so much about various types of ships and crew members. There were two lessons that still resonate with me; the first was '**Secret Destroyers**'. This lesson described the secret destroyers of The Church of God as spiritual submarines. '*They are well trained in the Word of God and are particularly useful in offensive and defensive manoeuvres. They do not go looking for a fight but they do not back down from one either. They go into a [season] of prayer and fasting sessions in order to tear down spiritual wickedness and strongholds.*' The Golden Nugget was 2 Corinthians 10:4: "**For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;**" and says it all.

The second was '**The Mighty Tugboat**'. '*The tugboats are vessels which move other boats because the boat cannot move, due to crowded situations or obstacles. They are extremely powerful for their size.*' In this lesson we learnt that the mighty tugboats '*are the church prayer warriors who penetrate the gates of hell on their knees. They assist others to victory and deliverance when those individuals are unable to push through on their own. They may be young or old, male or female but all are Spirit filled effectual prayer warriors who are not intimidated to go toe to toe with Satan on behalf of a soul in need, whether saint or sinner.*'

When I read these lessons way back in August 2020, it brought into remembrance those Golden Agers (including my Mum) who used to gather weekly to pray and fast. They sought God on behalf of the Church, their unsaved families and any situation that was laid upon their hearts. My thought at the time was how essential tugboats are in The Church of God. My prayer since has been, "Lord help me to be willing and able to be a tugboat, to fill the gap, and fast and pray like our Golden Agers of the past and present on behalf of souls in need.



VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

James Mwila - National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The general Victory Leaders Band theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:
'Worship Warrior – War-cry of the Redeemed'
(Judges 6)



Greetings to the mighty Church of God! I thank God for the Church and what she stands for.

I thank the Lord for allowing me to continue as the National VLB Co-ordinator for this Assembly year. The last Assembly year was challenging and we thank God that we were able to overcome. I would like to thank you for all your prayers and support for the department. May we continue praying without ceasing.

God knows and sees all things! Let us trust Him to lead us and see the Victory Leaders Band through another year.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and share with you OUR general theme for this Assembly year – 'Worship Warrior, War-cry of the Redeemed.'

I encourage us all to read through the book of Joshua, Chapter 6. I believe this is where the inspiration for the theme was taken from.

Let us continue marching forward for God and fight as soldiers ought. Don't give in or yield to sin because God is **MIGHTY** and we are bound to **WIN!** Continue praying for me as I continue praying for you.

66th National Convention, of The Church of God (England)

Theme: 'Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven' (Hebrews 12:26)

Our National Convention was held at The Church of God, Long Lane, Halesowen, Birmingham on 7th to 8th August 2021. Bishop Philip Bennett welcomed all who were gathered into a long awaited time of worship, fellowship and business.

On Saturday we were encouraged by messages from the CPMA, ABM, WMB, VLB and Evangelism National Coordinators. Their encouragements all had the same defining message of remembering who we are worshipping. A time of shaking will come and we do not want to be shaken out.

This theme was continued in the afternoon when we heard from Pastor Angela Clarke with her message '**They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed**' (Psalm 125:1). The Holy Ghost moved during her message as she told the congregation that we need to trust in God if we want to see growth in our churches. St. Luke 18:10-14, Jeremiah 17: 5-8, Psalm 125:2. Pastor Clarke declared that God should be our first and foremost in everything. We should not make Him our plan B and we cannot use God for our convenience when all else fails.

Sunday means Sunday School and we were blessed to hear and see what our local churches are doing in their areas. It was wonderful to see the Gleaner Band growing in numbers with the addition of their newest member - baby Grace Anderson.

Bishop Bennett preached on the topic of disobedience - '**Disobedience comes with consequences**'. '*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king,*' (1 Samuel 15:23). Brother Bennett stated God delights in obedience and is displeased when we are disobedient. Rebellion and stubbornness are sins because we are actually rejecting God's government and leading. God has a specific plan. What God has ordained, man should not tamper with. We cannot alter what God has already put in place. Brother Bennett said that sometimes we may think that the services are too boring and we need to change for growth, but we need patience and should wait for the leading of God.

It was a blessing to be together in the presence of the Lord. God spoke to us clearly, admonishing us to be obedient and to trust in Him.

Sister Beverley Wilson
National Reporter

Special Note:

The Chronicle is an official publication of The Church of God (England) with Philip C. Bennett National Overseer and Editor. Articles intended for publication in the next issue of *The Chronicle* should be received **before 30 November 2021**. These submissions will be for the October to December 2021 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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