"Education To Restoration"

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The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight."

Few events in all of history have had an impact of greater magnitude than the translation of the Bible into the English language. By making the Bible accessible in English, Wycliffe and Tyndale unlocked the door that permitted untold millions to enter into the life and mind of Christ. For the first time in history, the Kingdom of Heaven, through the "washing of water" <sup>2</sup> and "renewing of the mind" <sup>3</sup> by the Word of God became available for the common person. No longer was the reader deceived by false interpretation, but rather now they knew "that good and pleasing and perfect will of God." <sup>3</sup> And God's will, became sought after, so that it would be "on earth as it is in Heaven." <sup>4</sup>

Throughout history there are many examples like the one above, where in order for His Kingdom to come, He required first a turning to His Word. Take John the Baptist, who came in the Spirit of Elijah, <sup>5</sup> who prepared the way by calling hearts in the wilderness to the Word and will of God. Consequently, the Greatest of All, Jesus, followed and His Truth has now set us free.

## The Schools of Samuel (The Prophets Sons)

The days of the prophet Samuel were in many ways like the days we live in now, the nation omitted Godly education and moral degradation followed. God's solution through Samuel; create companies (schools), at least 6 of them, throughout Israel in order to restore the "knowledge of God in all subjects; arts, music, science, history, law, poetry, and literature," to name a few. The result, in 20 years this form of Biblical education assisted in restoring a nation to God and His ways of life. 6

## Why Schools of Prophets?

There are two questions I think it would be wise to investigate regarding this cultural breakthrough. First, why is it that Samuel chose schools of prophets instead of another school like schools of priests or teachers? After all, Samuel was all three. And second, why did he choose the school format?

Samuel realized that in order to restore a nation to God it was necessary to release the prophetic voice throughout every area of the culture, thereby revealing God's plan for every area of life. Farmers, herdsmen, and potters attended merchants. prophetic school and then returned home to speak God's Word on every aspect of living. 6 The restoration of Israel proceeded, even up to the governmental level. Charles Ellicott, in his Old Testament Commentary, suggests King David was a student of one of these prophetic schools. Perhaps that explains why David loved God's Presence so much. ©

Furthermore, by establishing schools, Samuel accomplished three goals; 1) he created an atmosphere where individual could establish their Biblical identity, 2) he modeled for his students a method of Godly education leading to restoration that could then be used by his students to help others in their walk of life, and 3) he personally restored people from throughout the culture to Biblical living.

## A Prayer For Schools

As we shape the country we live in today, may God give us the strength to establish Biblical schools, like Samuel, that will train children, including our own, and send them forth as prophets into their stations in life.

- $^{1}$  Matthew 3:3
- <sup>2</sup> Ephesians 5:26
- <sup>3</sup> Romans 12:2
- <sup>4</sup> Mathew 6:10
- <sup>5</sup> Luke 1:17

- <sup>6</sup> Adams, C. The Noah Plan Self Directed Study of The Principle Approach, Chesapeake, VA, p. 48-50, 2003.
- An Old Testament Commentary edited by Charles John Ellicott,
  D.D., Cassel & Company, Limited, London, 1887, Vol. II,
  p. 290.