

Teachable Moments

Have you ever considered why Solomon named the two columns Boaz and Jachin? Now I am not referring to the standard answer found in the work. I am certain you are aware that Boaz represents the land of Judah, and Jachin represents the land of Israel, and when united by the lintel "Yahweh" the two would have stability.

We should look for the deeper meaning, and what we can learn and apply today. During Biblical times, parents spent a great deal of time considering a name for their children. They would research what the name meant and make their selection accordingly. Boaz, whose name means "Lord of Strength", was a relative of Elimelech who took his wife Naomi and their sons to the land of Moab to escape a famine that was in their homeland of Bethlehem. While in the land of Moab, their sons married women from that land. Through the lapse of time, Elimelech and his sons died leaving Naomi and her daughter-in-laws alone.

Naomi, determined to return to her homeland, told her daughter-in-laws to remain in Moab. One daughter-in-law, Ruth, refused to leave Naomi and said "Entreat me not to leave thee..." Through divine providence Ruth would marry Boaz and from this union came a son Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was the father of David, who was the father of Solomon.

The children of Israel were always looking for what was referred to as "teachable moments" where they could relate their past experiences to the present, thereby gaining strength by recalling God's faithfulness to their children. Fathers, would retell these oral traditions to their families. Solomon would have heard the story of Ruth and Boaz countless times, of how, through God's grace, his family had relied on the "Lord's Strength" to deliver them in times of trouble.

Jachin, whose name means "Establishment", was the fourth son of Simeon. He was one of the priests who returned from exile, little else is known of Jachin, other than how God took a man and established in his life, and the lives of his descendants, his faithfulness. Perhaps Solomon named one column to remind everyone of the Lord's Strength and how he is long suffering. He may have named the other after an ordinary man known only to his family thereby establishing God's faithfulness to all mankind, the high, the low, the rich and the poor.

You do not have to walk between Boaz and Jachin to be reminded of the Lord's strength or establishment. That can be found in a rainbow, a sunrise or even in a child's smile. When we attend Lodge and look at the two columns, we can recall our own life experiences, how those that have come through the storms of life gain hope through the "Lord of Strength". Yes, God has "Established" a history of faithfulness to all mankind in each of our lives. So, when the world seems to be closing in, we would do well to recall those "teachable moments" in our lives when God established a blessing in the storm. "Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have a storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are you better than the fowls?"

When you cannot hear the sparrow sing... and you cannot feel a melody..., there is an established place that is full of grace... there is a blessing in the storm.
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