



Bible Reading and Words of Encouragement

Elder Carvel Bennett

*Interim Director, Christian Education and
The Center For Afrikan Biblical Studies @ First Afrikan Church*

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2 Chronicles 7:13-14

- Several years ago while conducting a tour for our overnight guests as a Lead Instructor at Zoo Atlanta, a little girl asked me “are you a Christian?” Slowly but contemplatively I responded, “yes”. She then continued, “so that means you don’t believe in evolution, right?” Before I could think about my response, the words “God made evolution” came out. She walked back to the adults chaperoning the group, perplexed. She, like so many of us, failed to realize that God is in everything - science, nature, war, pandemics; The Good, the Bad, the Ugly; The best of times, the worst of times.
- Today’s biblical narrative I think, illustrates this point. God is in this pandemic as I maintain God is in evolution, just as God was in the booming economy just before the economic collapse caused by this pandemic. Verses 1-11, Solomon dedicates the Temple at Jerusalem, and the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord (vs 4). Yahweh appears to Solomon and accepts the Temple as “a house of sacrifice” (vs. 12). Verses 13, 14 tell us that if Yahweh sends pestilence or other national judgement(s) on the nation (the body of believers) it is because they have “sinned”. Perhaps like, poisoning, polluting and pillaging the earth’s resources; exploiting, dividing and enslaving each other; ignoring the “least of these” amongst us; worshipping other God’s like technology, money, fame, and power.
- National mercy is promised when we (1) humble ourselves (2) seek Yahweh’s face, pray (3) turn from our wicked ways and return to Yahweh. We, like the little girl I mentioned earlier, ought to see God in everything, even in this pandemic. The text did not suggest that a certain group (the priests, the Levites) pray for national mercy, what it suggests is that the entire nation prays and humbles itself before God.
- Because God is in the pandemic, let us humble ourselves, pray, love one another, turn from our wicked ways, and return to the God of our foreparents - The God of Love, Light and Liberation.