

Transforming Daily
“... *take heed to their way* ...”
1 Kings 2:4

First and Second Kings records the rule of Solomon, the kings of the divided kingdom, rebellion of the children of Israel, and the captivity and destruction of both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel. King David's death, after 40 years of service, is how First Kings opens up. Immediately, as usual with the life of David, turmoil ensues regarding the successor of the throne. Obviously it was to be Solomon, but Adonijah had other thoughts in mind, and set himself up as king. Bathsheba came to David before he died and reminded him of his word to her based on God's Word to him. So David remembered and established Solomon as king over Israel. The instruction that David gave to Solomon is for everyone to heed.

David specifically told Solomon, based on the Davidic covenant; God would see to it that “you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.” However, the promise was contingent. The contingency's conditions are at the heart of what every nation should heed (especially the USA). Basically David told Solomon that the contingency for his reign and the assurance that others would follow was based on the willingness for them to “take heed to their way, to walk before Me (God) in truth with all their heart and soul.” Oversimplified, David told Solomon to be a man of godly character and integrity.

There is only one way to be a person of godly character and integrity and that is to belong to God. One cannot belong exclusively to the God of heaven and all creation and at the same time belong to multiple gods or religions that include God with other gods or even have only one god that is not the God (of the Bible, not the Koran, book of the Mormon, etc.). I recently was witnessing to a young lady who said that she used to go to church, and that she even attended a Southern Baptist Church for years. But she was now a Buddhist. The whole conversation started because I noticed the Hebrew word for God tattooed on her forearm. So I asked her if she was Jewish. She said partly on her mother's side who was a member of a Southern Baptist church and used to drag her there when she was younger. I asked her if she knew what the word tattooed on her arm meant and she said yes, but that Buddha was in her heart. She also said that she believed in Jesus and all that stuff in the Bible too.

Believe it or not, I have similar conversations like this all the time. Many people are just like her. They have God tattooed on their arms, but Buddha living in their heart. Meaning they don't know what they truly believe or why they believe it, or conversely they don't believe in God and don't know why they don't believe in Him. Our country is full of young people, both men and women, more specifically, sons and daughters that no longer believe in God or honor their parents. Is it any wonder that our country, if the direction doesn't soon change, will be just like all other countries who have turned their back on God so as not to have trained their daughters and sons to live before God in biblical truth with all their heart and soul and to take heed to their way.