

THE CANOPY OF GOD (The Ozone shield of God)

Notes only. Audiotape available of full sermon.

Covering, Ozone Layer, Canapé, Covering shield, Shadow. Isa. 51:16 *"I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand --- your are my people."*

Ozone in New Zealand. (effect of sunlight on oxygen = ozone)

Attacked by certain chemicals --- e.g. CFC (Cloro-fluro-carbons) in aerosol. This summer largest hole ever!

Without an Ozone layer all life on earth would be destroyed. (Just a little of UV for vitamin D)

Destroyed from beneath!

Spiritually NZ is being exposed hourly to the deadly ultraviolet rays of evil.

There is a covering that brings blessing and there is a covering that brings sorrow. (Better said, "Uncovering" brings sorrow.)

This began with Satan the covering Cherub -- Ezk. 28:14,16.

Operating on earth thru' the serpent "shinning one" and the weakness of a woman!!

The vital point is that Adam did not shield her!!

He uncovered the race. Cosmic conflict entered earth's arena!

1. Satan knew all about covering!
2. Jealousy in leadership brings cracks in the covering.
3. Walk outside of your place in God is dangerous!

Now the heritage of God must be covered.--- Read: II Cor. 11:3- 15 "As Eve so false apostles....." Opportunists.

Bewitched from simplicity & purity of Christ.

Every -Individual, Family, community, city, nation, movement of churches should be covered by fathers (plural).

If fathers are defective then all is at risk. Clinton! >>>> Letter by 16 year old attached. *If he had uncovered his sin God could have covered & the nation protected from defilement.*

OT Kings did evil -people lost their way. Abused power.

Manasseh led them astray and the nation did evil. See 2 Kings.21:9

The kings (or on our case leaders) took advantage of their position.

Hezekiah brought restoration and covering to Israel even when the Assyrian attacked, 2 Chron. 29:1-10; 32:1,31 or 2 Kings chps.18-20.

The city safe when listening to Isaiah the prophet.

Later Hezekiah uncovered the nation thru' allowing Babylon spies (not seekers) into the house of God *Sympathy letters beguiled him -beware when the world speaks well of you.*

(God withdrew from him to reveal what was in his heart) 2 Chron.32:23, 25-31

Covering requires the:

1. Prophet bringing the mind and mood of God
2. Priest bringing cleansing and purity
3. King bringing godly rule and authority

David uncovered his family 2 Sam 12:10-12 and later a nation thru' his weakness - lust, pride. 2 Sam. 24:1, 10 ,15.

FAMILY:

Eli uncovered his family thru' neglect (no restraint) I Sam. 2:

e.g. A defective family - unreal religiousness - kids a mess.

Lot's neglect --- Pitched tent just outside Sodom. Was soon influenced by Sodom and then entered Sodom.....family tragedy resulted.

Fathers can bring tension thru' perfectionism, unreal expectations and control.

Authority brings covering - not control.

Fear doesn't cover, faith does - building a strong hold of protection - health and safety.

Goodness can never be imposed by external means.

Fathers and mothers cover thru' prayer - e.g. Judge Kermit Bradford was covered by a godly praying mother; saved him from and plane crash. Then she died, he was on his own --- this sacred him to becoming a Christian. (Full story on the tape)

e.g. How we intercede for our children; constantly pray for them by name.

Fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much - stops rain, starts rain.

My testimony near Dannevirke - sexual temptation risked uncovering my family. His grace prevailed.

LOCAL CHURCH:

One man can fall, but if others handle it wisely the church is protected.

Covering must be plural - elders covering -- seated in the gate of the city. Established in every city - see Acts churches.

Darby's famous article - "The Notion of a clergymen a sin against the Holy Spirit."

James Taylor (a prominent leader of Exclusive Brethren) weakness -- whiskey, exaggerated in following generations and brought many tragic results !

When I as a leader are not on form spiritually it affects the whole church. That is the solemn side of fatherhood illustrated throughout scripture.

Wisdom covers, righteousness covers, prayer covers, humility covers, holiness covers, teaching covers. When people sit under your teaching or leadership do they say, "this feels safe"?

I'd rather be in a church of 50 that covers than a church of 5000 uncovered. *It is not a mover and shaker that covers, its fathers with care and covenant.*

Leprosy in the walls. Unresolved issues from long ago uncover a church; time doesn't take such issues away.

Covering is not thru' putting walls (laws) around your people, it is thru' your holy life (modeled), thru' teaching, thru' bringing the presence of God, having prophetic edge, the constant covering of prayer.

e.g. The health of our church was like a rainbow of promise and blessing over the people.

Division in leadership uncovers.

Insecure fathers create insecure churches or families.

A Father who provides atmosphere where faith flourishes, because he believes in the people - doesn't scold when they fail. Must create an 'eco-system' where life flourishes and is self-perpetuating.

Spiritual warfare not just in prayer - it's a life.

Fathers --- gather under their wings:

Jesus wanted to gather Israel under his wings, but they refused.

A good covering, but a rebellious people. " I would gather you, but you would not."

It is not only what fathers are, but also how those under them regard them.

Ham uncovered Noah's weakness. Gen. 9:23.

Uncover the person above you and you will uncover those beneath you. Ham cursed. (Darkened thru' UV rays.)

Fathers may not be perfect, but they have been established thru' covenant. When Peter Morrow (a true father and national leader) wanted to step down I did everything to keep him in, why? Not because of what he did, but what and who he was.

Talk about them carefully, but don't step over the line or there could be an issue between you and God!

Abraham - mention that name and I feel safe! UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT! God will not revoke it.

My experience when starting the church: I wanted to run. Describe the first meeting. God reconfirmed His covenant.

Then a false prophet came prophesying division. This had to be refuted or it could be self-fulfilling.

Don't let big shot ministers fleece your people. No shepherd lets another shear his sheep let alone skin them. (E.g taking up huge collections.)

