

THE MEASURING REED OF GOD

Ezek. 40:3,8;42:16

by Walton Weaver

Introduction:

A. Definition of a "reed".

1. *A plant growing in watery places* (Job 40:21). These were numerous on the banks of the Nile in Egypt(cf. 2 Kgs. 18:21).
 - a. A reed was given to Christ in derision instead of a sceptre (Matt. 27:29).
 - b. Christ asked concerning John the Baptist, "What went ye out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken with the wind?"(Matt. 11: 7). This was to show he was not one who was unsettled and unfixed.
2. *A Jewish measure*. In round figures a reed is thought to have been about six cubits. There was a greater cubit which was measured from the elbow to the end of the middle finger (a little over 2 feet), and the ordinary cubit which was from the elbow to the wrist (about 21 inches).
3. *A measuring reed*. Used to measure houses, etc. (Cf. Rev, 21:15). Some say a measuring line was used for longer measures (cf. Zech. 2:1; Jer. 31:39), but this is uncertain. The measuring reed is used quite frequently as an instrument used to measure the temple (Ezek. 40:3ff.; 42:16; Zech. 2:1; Rev. 11:1).

B. It is important that we measure correctly in everyday life and much more so in spiritual matters. Two things are important to obtain a correct measurement: a correct standard and fairness.

I. GOD'S MEASURING REED IS HIS WORD

A. It can be depended upon.

1. With regard to its durability.
 - a. It will endure forever (Isa. 40:8; Matt. 24:35).
 - b. It is quick and powerful (Heb. 4:12).
2. With regard to its authority.
 - a. Christ has all power and authority (Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 7:28-29). He proved this in His resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:4; 2 Cor. 13:4).
 - b. This power was given to the apostles (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 4:7; Acts 2.)
 - c. The same power and authority was incorporated in the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 1 Thess. 1:5; Heb. 4:12).
3. With regard to its trustworthiness.
 - a. It is inspired of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 1 Cor. 2:13).
 - b. It is faithful (Tit. 1:9).

B. We must learn to love and respect it as God "perfect law of liberty" and His only measuring reed by which we can clearly distinguish between the holy and the

profane.

1. With regard to the temple, the church (Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16). Its foundation, organization, etc.
2. With regard to the altar, the worship (Heb. 13:10; Rev. 11:1). Its items of worship, the attitude of the worshippers, etc.
3. With regard to the stones in the temple. Their name, character, attitude, etc.

II. OUR RESPONSIBILITY IN USING GOD'S MEASURING REED

- A. Must become familiar with it, know how to use it (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15).
- B. Must be fair in our use of it.
 1. Must rightly divide it (2 Tim. 2:15).
 2. Must not add to it or take from it (Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-9).
 3. Must not wrest or twist it so as to make it impossible to get an accurate measurement (2 Pet. 3:16)
- C. Must fully understand that it alone is the measurement by which we are to evaluate ourselves and others, and that it will be the only standard used in the judgment (Jno. 12:48; 2 Cor. 13:5; Jas. 1:23-25; 2 Cor. 3:18).
 1. We will get an incorrect measurement by comparing ourselves with ourselves (2 Cor. 10:12). Cf. 2 Cor. 3:1.
 2. Must not measure ourselves with others (Gal. 6:1-5).

Conclusion:

- A. We must seek to make our lives conform to God's measuring reed, not to change His standard to fit our lives.
- B. We will either meet the measurement and be included within the temple, or else we will be ruled out. Its one or the other.