

FOXWARREN JAN. 14th 1968.
ORDER OF SERVICE WESTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH.

ORGAN PRELUDE..

CALL TO WORSHIP...

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. 336 h-v

~~SANCTUS~~ INVOCATIONAL PRAYER.

HYMN OF PRAISE.....6 .

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON.

ANTHEM

1 Kings 12: 1-13 & 16

~~SOMEONE~~ Reading Psalm Reading 705

Job 12: 1-13

HYMN.....514

Sermon : SEEKING WISDOM IN 1968.

LIFE AND WORK.

OFFERTORY AND DEDICATION PRAYER *No singing*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING.

HYMN.... 490.

Benediction.

*All things come from thee
O Lord & of thine own have
we returned thee. Bless
these gifts to thy use
and us to thy service
Amen*

Sermon Foxwarren. Jan 14/68
Seeking Wisdom in 1968.

There are times in the lives of most of us when we find ourselves surrounded by conflict. We are usually totally unprepared. Unarmed before an enemy that seems to be everywhere at once.

An enemy that cannot be seen or touched. An enemy that frustrates us no matter which way we turn. An enemy that leaves us restless, unhappy, and sensitive to the smallest trials. As the years advance and conflicts pass, as they do we become aware that this enemy, this other self is none other but ignorance. And if we will admit it none other than our own stupidity or wilfulness in pursuing our own way regardless.

Job. Go out on a limb. His
faith in God. Take a chance for what
one feels is right. Here mind division
of neighbors!

2 In our scripture reading from 1st
Book of Kings we find the story of
the final split up of the Jewish
Kingdom. Solomon had started
it with heavy taxation not only
to build the temple but also to
support several hundred foreign
women in luxurious ease, and
eventually building altars to their
foreign gods.

In our reading we find Solomon's
son Rehoboam surrounded by an
uneasy and fretful people. Inheriting
a kingdom whose subjects had been
taxed to the limit to build the most
wonderful building in the then known
world but who were also taxed to
keep foreigners and foreign idol
worshippers in extravagant ease. This
then the dilemma - what to do
to keep peace? So we have Rehoboam
turning to the elders of his
country for advice. His father

Solomon had already alienated Jeroboam whom ^{Solomon} he had made ruler over all the house of Joseph, and Jeroboam had fled to Egypt taking many of the people of Israel with him. People that were still loyal to the house of David and who still worshiped the one God Jehorah. Now on the death of Solomon Jeroboam returned and with his people added his voice to the demand that taxes be reduced and the people governed with less severity. Our reading tells us all the story, how after consulting with the elders of state Rehoboam turned to the young men of his own age and asked their advice. We can almost hear the chorus of advice he received. "Are you not king? Have you not power? Are you going to listen to a gathering of old has beens" Old

Men muttering behind their
beards. You are young, like us,
all your life before you. Tax these
grumbling dogs heavier still
that will quieten them. They'll
be so busy finding the tax money
they'll have no time to complain?
Are you a King or just a
barnyard chicken. We are all
behind you in this. This is a
new age. Those old men don't
realize what has happened the
past years, what wonders your
father wrought in Israel. Look
at the great wealth you have Do
you want to throw all that
away? One can hear them yet
down through the centuries in
Canada in 1968.

As Israel of old we stand
on the threshold of a new era.
We have celebrated the passing of our

5 first century and have managed, with a great deal of thunder about our achievements, to conceal many of the blunders that have been made from 1867 - 1967.

Solomon was dazzled by his achievements so much so that with the passing of time he forgot the one True God and began to worship the idols of his many foreign wives. His wealth came to mean more to him than his God.

Have we during the past century moved from a God fearing nation to a prestige or wealth loving nation. At what altars do we worship. Is it at the altars in our many churches or is it at the hardwood altar of the bankers desk! Or the metal altar of space.

Fragmented nation.

Danger!

Captive Audience. Politics from pulpit.

6/ vehicles or the fiery altars of the hydrogen bombs, or the thundering altars of loud mouthed cannon or the most deadly altar of all that of pure unadulterated common greed.

It would seem to be the latter if we judge by promises made by those we elect to do the business of our nation. We are now being promised things we never asked for and if once we do get them may be as difficult to get rid of as "The Old Man of the Sea".

If we would seek wisdom in 1968 it behooves all of us to set Canada out in perspective with all of us as Canadians not as two countries, but as one; not as a dependant of either Great Britain or the United States but what we are, a nation within the comity of nations. A nation

What can we do. What can I do?
Individual initiative. Job was not
afraid to speak out. He says in the
12th Chapter + 5th verse "He that is
ready to slip with his feet is as a lamp
dispersed in the thought of him that
is at ease. Job wasn't afraid to speak
out regardless what his neighbors thought
of him.

Within the boundaries of our
world. A nation whose
neighbors watch anxiously to
see what her decision will be
as to what part she will play
in the world today. Whether she
will set her house in order and
face the world as one nation
as Jeroboam hoped the Israelites
would do under Rehoboam or
whether the call again comes
"To your tents O Israel!" "How
see to stone our house David!"

In a recent letter of the Royal
Bank series the writer has this to
say of elderly people who are retired
or about to retire and I quote:

"Canada should be making full
use of the vast reservoir of thought
talent and skill represented by its
two million people who are over sixty
years of age.

All through their active vocational
life they have been using knowledge.

4 borrowed from their predecessors and their colleagues. Now, upon retirement, they are in position to repay the obligation by passing it along, with interest to others.

Knowledge gained in school and university has to go through the refining fire of experience, where it is transformed into the practical wisdom which retired people have.

We could use and organize groups of senior consultants, all of whom would be kept intellectually alive by confronting problems concerning which they would be expected to offer counsel. End quote.

In looking for guidance and wisdom to carry us through the onrushing years we should never ignore those whose years have caused them to give up actual physical work but whose minds are alert and keen as ever about everyday affairs. Surely we can make use of some of this knowledge that experience has proven to be of value. Surely Canada can produce someone out of twenty million people who is willing to listen to experience however young

It may be. Surely after a century
passing over us Canada can produce
someone who is not forever saying
I, I, I, someone who can with his
colleagues say "we". If in the
ensuing century Canada is to become
a country worshipping the cult of
the individual and panders to the
loudest mouth that can shout "I"
then two wars in which Canadian
blood was spilled all over Europe will
have been in vain and like Jeroboam
of old the call will ^{come} ~~be~~ again "To your
tents O' Israel!" ^{1st} Now see to thine own
house David!!"

When a nation looks up to God
with a steadfast hope and loses
the national ~~will~~ ^{will} in the ~~will~~ ^{will} of
God then and not until then
will the people of that nation
be free in the truest sense of
the word. All else will fall into
place.