

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" ([1 Cor. 1.18](#)).

Edifying the Body of Christ ([Eph. 4.10-16](#))

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Idolatry of A Nation Brings Death

Hear the Word of the Lord regarding the commands of the Lord God of Israel! The Lord Jesus Christ is **not** tolerant of sin, not now, not ever.

The Lord God of Israel does **not** "understand" disobedience for any reason. One of the Commandments is:

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Ex 20.3, 4). The Lord God goes on to say,

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of anything] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth.

The Children of Israel were in Egypt when a new king over Egypt "knew not Joseph." Joseph, who was imprisoned by the Egyptians, then promoted to second in command and saved the nation – was soon forgotten. That being said, Exodus 1.11 informs us that the Egyptians "...did set over them taskmasters to afflict [the Israelites] with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses," for four hundred years (Gen 15.13).

The Children of Israel wanted to be freed from the oppression of Egypt and cried unto the Lord by reason of their bondage (Ex 2.23), and God heard their groaning's (Ex 3.7-9). The Children of Israel wanted to leave Egypt to leave the taskmasters, the oppression; however, they wanted the gods of Egypt. Through their deliverance from Egypt and as they traveled through the wilderness, and all the miracles in the wilderness for forty years, **they believed NOT**. Through deliverances, **they believed NOT**. Their clothes did not wear out (Dt 29.5).

They believed NOT. Their feet did not swell (Dt 8.4). **They believed NOT** (Read Ps 106).

Numbers 16 makes clear they were a rebellious people whose idolatry extended to themselves, seeing themselves as holier than God's chosen vessels. They were rebellious and rose up against God's chosen leadership as they rose up to play while Moses was on the Mountain of the Lord responding to the call of the Lord.

People of God! What is going on? There is a God in heaven Whose wrath is soon coming. There is a literal heaven and a literal hell, and a living, risen Lord and Savior who calls us to live for Him Who died for us.

And **what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?**

And **what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?** for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore **come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord**, and touch not the unclean [thing]; and I will receive you,

And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty (II Co 6.15-18).

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess

Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.

It is important to note that in each instance the sin of idolatry, the sin of rebellion, and the sin of murmuring against the Lord was corporate sin. We are not talking about individual sins but rather the sin of the community, the nation at large, standing together against the Lord, Himself, standing in rebellion with an idolatrous heart. Numbers 16 tells us that the people thought they were coming against Moses and Aaron, when, in fact, they were coming against the Lord, Himself, by virtue of coming against God's chosen vessels.

Remember I Samuel 8.5 where the people wanted a king so they could be “like the other nations”? In verse seven, the Lord makes it clear that the people rejected the Lord, Himself, not Samuel, in their demanding a king.

Israel is not the only nation who has sought for a “king” and wanted to be like “all the other nations” with a sovereign power, an absolute ruler, a suzerain ... It is imperative that we read the Word of the Lord to take notice of what happened to Israel under the leadership of Saul, Solomon, and most of the other sovereign powers. When God's people do not long for the Lord Jesus Christ to rule their personal lives **and** their country, the inevitable will come.

Do not think, because you have not seen what you would call evidence of God's wrath, that all is well. Do not think – to do nothing will bring peace. Notice in Jeremiah where the false prophet said there was peace (Jer 28), and after the death of the false prophet, the near death of a nation came, and they had to serve Babylon (Iraq) and Egypt and ...

Paul writes in Romans that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom 6.23).

We have not listened; we have not **heard** the Word of the Lord. We have mocked the Lord with *cheap* grace that says we can sin and do whatever we want. Cheap grace says, “God is not going to touch us because of His love and mercy and grace.” **AWAKEN!** The time is coming and now is when God's wrath is visible to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Lord Jesus is saying in His Word, those who have a discerning heart that longs for more and more of Jesus. Satan is working on overtime because his time is short.

Hear the prayer in Daniel 9.16:

O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because **for our sins**, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people *[are become]* a reproach to all *[that are]* about us.

We can be forgiven when we repent, but repentance (μετανοέω) is to make an hundred eighty-degree turn in one's life, turning from sin, from Satan, to the Lord Jesus Christ and walking with Him on the *Via Dolorosa* all *The Way*.

There is one way and one way only that leads to eternal life in Jesus Christ; **there are not many ways.** **There is but one way.** When a nation that was established upon the Lord Jesus Christ sells out wanting a “king,” one who

makes decisions for them, and when those serving the “king” speak lies because of greed, because of not knowing the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, because they are weak, the Lord will once again “open the earth to swallow” those who have mocked HIM and walked in disobedience to His every command. And, like in the wilderness, “all” will perish. You say, “that seems harsh.” Right? Wrong! Those who did not take a stand for the Lord Jesus stood with those worshiping the “king” and all the false gods, false “priests,” and false shepherds; the false leaders were standing with them. Not to stand for the Lord Jesus Christ is to stand with the crowd – against the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation makes it clear that the Lord Jesus has given us personally and, therefore, this nation, warning after warning to repent; and the nation has not, but has waxed cold as did the Church of Thyatira. He speaks of committing adultery, being seduced by the doctrines of this world, being led into the sin of a worldly life that is rebellion against all that the Lord has commanded of us: a life of holiness unto Him.

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds (Rev 2.21, 22).

Sorrows are upon any nation who turns its back upon Jesus Christ, who walks with the world and the gods of this world. This is a grave time in the life of any who walk not after the God of Israel.

Remember when the crowd shouted, “Crucify Him”? Who among them cried out for His life, their love for Jesus Christ? **Remember:** Not to take a stand for Jesus Christ is to stand against HIM!

This is poignantly presented perhaps, but let us be aware of today and what is happening in an idolatrous nation. Oh, the Children of Israel attended the tabernacle – but how many sought the Lord in their hearts and wanted the Lord to use them and sought the courage and holy boldness to stand for Him in the midst of an idolatrous nation? How many church-goers **know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour** and are seeking the courage and holy boldness to stand for the Lord to use them in the midst of their friends, family, and government as did Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel to bring forth repentance. How many are hiding behind a pulpit while standing on a pulpitum (stage)?

How many of us are willing to stand with Queen Esther? How many are willing to stand with Mordecai – to obey the command given that the Lord's people might be saved?

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which *[is]* not according to the law: and **if I perish, I perish.**

So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him (Est 4.16, 17).