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What Have I Done?

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WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Jeremiah 8:1-13

600 B.C.

Subject: God's appraisal of Jerusalem and nation of Israel.

INT: Setting: God is pouring out prophecies and judgments for sin.

S tory: What can happen to a people when spiritually lazy.

Confident: This can happen to us in this country too.

I. JERUSALEM WAS AT HER LOWEST SPIRITUAL LEVEL.

A. Gripped by perpetual backsliding. General apathy. V. 5.

ILL. 1. Symptoms of backsliding are discernable. Knt. P. 30 (over)

B. Refused to recognize paralyzing deception. V. 5 and 8.

ILL C. Would not even question their course of action. V. 6.

GEO. D. Covetousness was strangling the land to death. V. 10.

BENJ. 1. No greater economic hazzard. China perfect illustration

E. No capacity for shame. Could not even blush. V. 12.

F. Had become incorrigible; gone to point of no return. V 5.

ILL. LOG JAM. MOVE ONE. FLOWS. SIN! KNT. 29.

II. HOW DID THE JEWS GET THIS WAY? All of a sudden? Gradually?

A. Any nation, town, church or family is what leaders are!

B. People got lax, then slipped a little and fell! Vs. 5.

C. Priests and Prophets also dealing falsely. Vs. 10.

D. Scribes guilty of "doctoring up" the law of God. Vs. 8.

E. General, step at a time, deception campaign led them astray

4. 1. We can't fall! But if should, can get up again! Didn't!

2. Wouldn't enjoy this if it was sin. Deceived. Did!

3. We are wise because of our amended laws. Perverted. Not!

4. We have peace! But there was no real peace. V. 11.

CHALDEANS COMING. 597 B.C. 3 YRS.

III. THE QUESTION THEY WOULD NOT ASK THEMSELVES. "WHAT HAVE I DONE"

A. Plenty of people today are afraid to ask this question too

B. Some reasons they will not examine their lives.

1. Know will find sin there which needs removing now.

2. Know will jar them out of backsliding. Too satisfied.

3. Know it will expose a deceived heart. Too honest to let such a condition continue to exist always.

4. Might cost them financially, socially, physically.

C. Head-strong like horses charging into battle. V. 6.

1. Set mind one way. Unthinking, careless, reckless, doomed.

2. Once battlehorses started, no turning around. Trained!

3. Like Israelites, even God cannot reason with them. V 9.

4. Will wake up too late and ask "What have I done?"

D. (KNT. P. 517) NOT SAFE TO WAIT. MOTHER. DAUG. PREACH

THE SWALLOW, STORK AND CRANE ACT WISER THAN MEN. 1YA. 6 MO. ER. 3 Mo. HAW.

Birds follow the laws of nature in migration for safety. 7

- B. Men knowingly work in opposition to God's material and especially His spiritual laws of safety.
- C. God ready to bring punishment upon the incorrigible.
 - 1. Enemy dig up bones of buried rulers in highest expression of contempt and hatred. Vs. 1-2.
 - 2. Wives and fields will become spoils of war. V.10.
 - 3. Death preferred to treatment of Babylonians. V. 3.
- D. How much better could the Lord describe those who refuse year after year to obey His commandments?

INV: Our prayer: That we will ask ourselves "What have I done?" before the question will be idle words in eternity.

B-R*C-B.

Backsliders: Admit need of God's guidance today and cease to sin as a horse that rushes headlong into battle.

PROBLEM:

Ill. old Chaplain R-P on R.R. station WW II, Soldier Reading John 3:16. "Dark light." "ONLY FORGOTTEN SON"

Dr. Payson SYMPTOMS OF BACKSLIDING *u? neglected?*

"The symptoms of spiritual decline are like those which attend the decline of bodily health. It generally commences with the loss of appetite, and the disrelish for wholesome food, prayer, reading the scriptures and devotional books. Whenever you perceive these symptoms be alarmed! Your spiritual health is in danger. Apply immediately to the Great Physician for a cure."

..... Gospel Herald.

MT 10-10-76 PM Q