

They Refused Obedience

Text: Jeremiah 11:7-11

Introduction:

1. These Scriptures, from Jeremiah, are taken from a part of history when the tribe of Judah turned their back on God (*again*). It was during the reign of King Manasseh, a king who began his reign at the age of 12 and reigned for 55 years.
 - a. When he became king an entire change in the religion of the kingdom transpired.
 - 1) Such as our country when it left the basic principles upon which this mighty nation was founded upon – the principles of Christianity and the true God of the Bible and the Holy Scriptures as source of **RIGHT** and **WRONG**. (Thou shall not murder, etc.) to the decadence murder of the innocent in the womb to name one.
 - b. Idolatry was again established to such an extent that every faith was tolerated except the old faith of Israel (which was the true religion).
 - 1) Such as our country today in which every religion and faith is allowed **EXCEPT** the one true religion and faith that will save mankind and that is Christianity with the true God – not some manmade god, nor manmade religion, nor some manmade faith.
2. Tonight we are going to look at some of the causes and the consequences of disobedience to God by the tribe of Judah and how we may become lackadaisical in our faith and fall into the same entrapment by Satan.

What was the cause and effect of disobedience according to these Scriptures?

I. Because They Refused To Obey: (v8)

A. By not inclining their ear. (v8)

1. They did not listen or study the word of God.
 - a) They did not want to hear that their sins would be exposed by the light of the Scriptures.
 - b) The same as for many today, they do not want to hear the Word of God taught nor preached, because the word of God will expose some sin in their life that they would rather keep and ‘*enjoy for a season*’.
 - a. *“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” –*

Hebrews 4:12

2. They put the Holy Scriptures on the shelf to collect dust or to be packed away and forgotten about.
 - a) The same as many today leaving a Bible on a shelf, never opening it to study, but to collect dust or letting someone else explain it to them without checking to see if it is the truth or not or if it is being taught within the context that God wants it to be.

B. By walking after their own imagination of their evil heart (v8)

1. They did whatever was right in their own eyes – not taking any responsibility for their actions nor caring about who or whom they hurt in the process.

- a) The same as for today, many have left the church to travel down a path that seems right in their own eyes, not caring that the Lord Jesus Christ **died for their sins to set them free** nor having any fear of The Mighty God.

- a. The Hebrew writer has told us, "*It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*" – **Hebrews 10:31**

C. By turning back to their iniquities (**v10**)

- 1. Returning to the gods of their forefathers – who could do them no good – their idol worship – their golden calves – their Baal worship.

- a) The same as for many today, they return to their former self-indulgence of unrighteous living doing what they want to do including the sins of their past.

- a. Even though God has told us, "*But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, And those who forsake the LORD will come to an end.*" **Isaiah 1:28**

D. By going after other gods (**v10**)

- 1. The tribe of Judah went after gods of surrounding kingdoms and welcomed them into their worship and welcomed them into their cities.

- a) The same is happening to us today and is very evident in our nation, where it is permissible to teach every type of religion in the school system except the One and True religion (*Christianity*) that was bought by the blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God and is the only One that will stand on the judgment day with all others going up in smoke and disappearing forever and thrown into hell damnation forever.

E. By breaking the covenant with God (**v11**)

- 1. They broke their vow with God, for they promised to follow Him until the end putting their trust and their faith in Him – which was for a short time when they were being persecuted, at war with other nations, needing Him to follow and pray to ask for help (which seems during the bad times in their lives they needed God – turning to Him for help when they needed help – but, when everything got better they forgot God and the vow that they had made with Him.)

- a) The same as for today for some who were in the church at one time have left – they were in the church when they needed something, but when they deemed it necessary that they no longer needed God in their lives, they left, not caring that they need God every day in their lives and they would be much happier, joyful and at peace with themselves, neighbors, family and most important at **peace with God.**

- b) Remember 911 how almost everyone turned to God in prayer – prayers being offered from the Nation's Capital steps – turning to God in times of trouble – but there was no repentance associated with the turn to God, therefore God was soon forgotten and the god of this world returned to being their god.

II. The Consequences Are: (v11)

A. Bringing disaster upon them (v11)

1. The evil of punishment for the evil of sin; and there is no remedy, no relief: the decree has gone forth and the sentence will be executed. For, this is what happened to the tribe of Judah – destruction of Judah and all of their gods and for those who were left alive taken into captivity by the Babylonians for seventy years and enduring the burden of persecution and slavery as their forefathers did in Egypt.
2. The same will happen today for us as an individual who has fallen away from the True Living God, the blessings that He supplies us with will be stopped, many things will happen in our lives from illnesses to loss of homes, jobs and disaster upon disaster, and due to our pride we do not realize that it is the chastening of the Lord to bring us to repentance that is happening to us. *“FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”* – **Hebrews 12:6**

B. No safety will be found (v11)

1. God told the tribe of Judah that there would be no protection for them IF they continued in their sinful state – they would run but they could not hide from their enemies or Him. It was very evident when they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians.
2. The same is for us today, when we go our own way, we step out from under the ‘*umbrella*’ of God’s protection and are open to all of the consequences of the vices and sins that are in the world that we participate in – we will indeed reap what we sow for God has told us so in **Galatians 6:7** *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”*

C. They will cry unto Me and I will not listen or hearken unto them (v11)

1. When everything comes down upon their head, ‘*so to speak*’ because of their disobedience to God, He will not listen nor hearken to them – they would be on their own to fight the battles which they would lose, they would have no one to turn to in the time of calamity, and it is all because of their unfaithfulness to the One who brought their forefathers out of Egyptian bondage, who supplied all of their means in the wilderness and watched over them giving them protection from their enemies – but, all of this is gone because of their great sin against God by telling Him they do not want to follow or trust in Him anymore.
2. The same is with us today, when we leave God and some great calamities come upon us, who can we turn to? – to those in the world, will they help? can they help? or do they want to help? Even if prayers are lifted up, all a person would get is **NO**. We would be left to flounder and sink in the miry muck that we made of our lives with no help – so foreboding, so helplessness, so hopeless, so lifeless – is this the way that we wish to go? Remember from where you came from!!

3. Remember and never forget: *“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”* **2 Peter 3:9**

Conclusion:

1. The Old Testament is full of examples of those who refused to obey the Great God of the universe – the consequences that were paid because of man’s pride – the penalties that were paid here on earth because of man’s total disregard for God and His trust.
2. For every action there is a reaction – the action of disobedience brings consequences here on earth while we live and the final consequence of damnation in hell forever separated from God in pain and agony with **NO** remedy to be had or found. Yes, sin has its consequences – as shown by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who was **without sin** *died for our sins* on that cruel old cross of Calvary.
3. But, we can be thankful today because we serve a risen savior and as long as we abide within His commands and put all of our trust in Him we will not have to pay the final penalty that many will when life here on earth is over, for Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount, *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* – **Matthew 7:13-14**
4. Knowing that we have eternal life because of **our obedience to Him**, *“And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,”* – **Hebrews 5:9**