

GOD'S ADMONITION IN DAYS OF PERIL  
Jeremiah 9:23,24

Beloved of the Lord:

National decline and disaster can be attributed to the people disregarding and disobeying GOD! This was so in Jeremiah's day and it exists in our midst today! Note the basic causes in the nation of Judah long ago: -

- 1 - SPIRITUAL BREAKDOWN began with the leadership, "priests, pastors (shepherds) and the prophets"-see Jer.2:8. They were responsible to lead for God's glory and Judah's blessing.
- 2 - THE INEVITABLE FRUIT - "backsliding, bitterness, wickedness" abounded. The failure of the leaders affected the nation, for they forsook God, "the fountain of living waters" for "broken cisterns that can hold no water" - see Jer.2:13 and 19.
- 3 - MORAL INSENSIBILITY FOLLOWS - SIN ceased to be recognized; moral and spiritual blindness hardened their hearts as all callously said - "I AM INNOCENT"-Jer.2:35 and all the time they continued doing wrong in the midst of their defilement-Jer.5:29-31.
- 4 - APPLICATION TODAY - (1) - NATIONALLY - When national downgrade sets in, the momentum increases! Sin and wrong doing by leaders becomes the fashion among the people. Note Isa. 24:2; Hos.9:9-"like people-like priests". When nation and people dishonor God by denying Him, they degenerate into defying Him! Judah's sad condition was due to their apostasy from the true God. Today, politicians flounder over secondary problems, over policy, and disregard the root problem - SIN! Yet God will have His final word - Jer.44:28.

(2) ECCLESIASTICALLY - There is a strong analogy in the Christian profession. Instructed believers confess that the general condition is very far from God, a shattered ideal in comparison with its beginning. The leadership has failed in precept and example as declared in Scripture-Heb.13:7; 1Pet.5:2,3. Every period of history when God has endeavored to guide His people, each dispensation ends in apostasy. The present Church time is no exception! One of God's servants once said--"You cannot stop apostasy!" Yes, God's Word confirms it.

5 - GOD'S ADMONITION TODAY - It is in a three-fold direction from Jer. 9:23,24.

a - "Let not the wise man glory in HIS wisdom". God says, "the world by its wisdom knew not God"-1 Cor.1:21. Yet human wisdom is greatly used by the Christian profession today and glorified!

b - "Neither let the mighty man glory in HIS might". God has written - "Not by MIGHT, nor by POWER, but BY MY SPIRIT, saith the Lord of Hosts"-Zech.4:6. Yet today, more human power is in evidence, forgetting the words of Paul - "I know that in me, (that is in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing"-Rom.7:18. The power of the Holy Spirit is missing!

c - "Let not the rich man glory in HIS riches". There is more material wealth involved in the Christian profession today, than probably in all Church history! Summarize the facts - HUMAN WISDOM, MIGHT, WEALTH - though esteemed by man, ARE NOT WORTH BOASTING ABOUT! When will we ever learn this? If all were seeking to KNOW GOD as we should, then the fruit of "loving kindness, discerning judgment and righteousness" - would be known among us!

6 - GOD HIMSELF IS TO BE KNOWN - "Let him that glorieth, glory in this, THAT HE UNDERSTAND-ETH AND KNOWETH ME". To know GOD as far as HE can be known, is the noblest aim of human understanding" -John Dick. Paul said - "That I may KNOW HIM"-Phil3:10. In these days of peril (2Tim.3:1)- Collectively and individually we are losing our objective -TO KNOW HIM!

Beloved, the Judgment Seat of Christ will reveal our failure and we should realize very prayerfully each one of us will stand before our blessed Lord to be appraised for our testimony for Him on earth! It will be either "good or bad" - 2 Cor.5:10. The time is short, but we conduct ourselves as if it was along way off! May God search our hearts today!

Faithfully yours in Christ, J.W. Bramhall