

## **A HORRIBLE THING** **3-5-2017**

Jeremiah 5:30 A wonderful and falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

What exactly did Jeremiah mean, a wonderful and horrible thing?

The word wonderful means an astonishing thing, something that brings complete shock and amazement.

### HERE IS STRONGS HEBREW DEFINITION OF THE WORD WONDERFUL

8047 shammah, sham-maw'; from 8074; ruin; by impl. consternation:-astonishment, desolate (-ion), waste, wonderful thing.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

8074 shamem, shaw-mame'; a prim. root; to stun (or intrans. grow numb), i.e. devastate or (fig.) stupefy (both usually in a passive sense):-make amazed, be astonished, (be an) astonish (-ment), (be, bring into, unto, lay, lie, make) desolate (-ion, places), be destitute, destroy (self), (lay, lie, make) waste, wonder.

8186 sha`aruwrah, shah-ar-oo-law'; or sha-ariyriyah, shah-ar-ee-ree-yaw'; or sha`arurith, shah-ar-oo-reeth'; fem. from 8176 in the sense of 8175; something fearful:-horrible thing.

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### WHAT DOES JEREMIAH MEAN WHEN HE SAYS A HORRIBLE THING?

Strong's Definition of Hebrew word horrible:

----- Dictionary Trace -----

8176 sha`ar, shaw-ar'; a prim. root; to split or open, i.e. (lit., but only as denom. from 8179) to act as gate-keeper (see 7778); (fig.) to estimate:-think.

8175 sa`ar, saw-ar'; a prim. root; to storm; by impl. to shiver, i.e. fear:-be (horribly) afraid, fear, hurl as a storm, be tempestuous, come like (take away as with) a whirlwind.

And a Horrible thing is something that brings shock and fear. Something that would cause fright shock

Such a thing brings a sense of shock and horror. It is totally shocking.

And what is it that is so shocking about this?

Is it that the leaders of the nation are corrupt? Has that not happened before?

Is it that as Jeremiah observes the leaders consisting of the priests, and the princes of the land bear rule by their means, it suites them well to agree with the false prophets? The Prophets lie and the leaders agree to their lies so they may temporarily be at ease in their positions.

It matters not that it is all a lie that everything is fine and God is not going to judge them. All things will remain as they were and they are safe. It seems all they care about is the present and not the future welfare of the people or nation.

Yet in all this I don't think this is what horrifies and amazes Jeremiah. I think what really is amazing about all this is the reaction of the people to these leaders! **THEY LOVE IT SO!!!**

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

***He says and my people love to have it so?***

The people are in agreement with them. And what will ye do in the end thereof? They all will suffer for it. Many will be killed, the city will be plowed under, and the people of God taken into captivity.

Yet they do not care.

Now thousands of years later nothing has changed.

When the religious and political leaders of a nation speak lies, believe lies, and the people love to hear lies, what will the end of it all be?

It is the job of the church to speak the truth and warn people.

My Job as a pastor is given in Ephesians 4:

Ephesians 4:11 he gave some.... pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

It would seem that the churches today that draw the larger crowds are churches that are entertainment oriented, and it seems people want only a positive message. All is well, everything is ok. Something good is going to happen to you.

This is what horrible is, that this seems to be popular amongst the people, and in the short term it seems to be working!

Now let's examine the Bible this morning on this issue and see what God has to say about these matters:

The morality of our nation seems to be in a flux. There are no absolute standards of right and wrong. Good and bad. Moral and immoral.

We can no longer define marriage, life, the roles of a man in society, the role of a woman, the proper behavior for our children, or how to educate our children. Respect for authority is at an all time low. Care for others, the unborn, and the old is at an all time low. People are so opinionated that even when it would serve the welfare of the nation they would rather the nation be hurt than unify for any reason.

But be not deceived, there is a standard by which we can judge human behavior and it is not Pastor Bissol's standard, or the supreme court's standard, or our legislatures standard, nor the standard of the people, nor the standards or any religion or denomination.

That absolute standard is the Word of God.

We do not have to apologize for believing that this book is the standard for faith and practice, and even living. It defines right and wrong, good and evil, and how we should live.

***Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.***

Now it is a horrible thing when the spiritual leaders of our nation stop teaching this standard and when the rulers of our nation go along with these liberal teachers. But it is even more horrible when the people love to have it that way. That's the way it was back then in Israel and that is the way it is in our nation today!

#### ***CONSIDER WHY WOULD PEOPLE LOVE TO HAVE IT THAT WAY ?***

Why do people want to go to a church to hear someone preach and teach something other than the Word of God? Why would people want to have political leaders that follow the humanistic false teachings of these false prophets. These often are the educated ones, that have the title Doctor in front of their name. They are the so called authorities.

Now it is one thing to have false teachers and leaders. It is quite another to have people love to have them and willingly follow them en masse.

Let me give a few reasons that people would want to believe a lie rather than the truth. As Jeremiah says it is frightening but the people LOVE TO HAVE IT SO!

#### ***I. THEY LOVE IT SO BECAUSE THEY HATE THE TRUTH. TRUTH OFTEN HUMBLER YOU AND A LIE OFTEN BUILDS YOU UP.***

We are in such a sad state in our nation today, that even if someone tells a little truth they are hated for it.

As far as I am concerned, Donald Trump is not conservative enough for me. But he speaks the truth when he says we need to make America Great Again. Meaning, we were a better nation in the past so lets go back to some of those principles. For this and some other things he stands for he gets blasted. But again, I say he is not truthful enough, in my opinion. If he were I think they would outright stone him! I have never in my life seen such disdain for the leader of our nation. It makes absolutely no sense at all.

The fact that our nation is in trouble morally, financially, militarily, ethically, and in educational decline is a humbling thing. So someone says we need to do something about it and a great mass of people say I don't see anything wrong with the way we are going. I see nothing wrong with our morals, I see nothing wrong with aborting babies, I see nothing wrong in what's happening.

So that is not the message a lot of people want to hear.

When you lie to someone you often tell them what they want to hear. Yet what they want to hear is often not the truth.

Why was Jesus hated? Why did they want to kill him?

John 8:40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

John 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.  
John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.  
John 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.  
John 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

Most people do not want to hear the truth. The truth about yourself is a humbling thing. The nation Israel did not want to hear that they had sinned away their day of grace and were going to have to face the judgment of God. I hope that is not true for America but if we do not repent it will be true! This I do know.

You can't abort about 1,000,000 babies a year and expect God to bless your nation. Oh, the liberals brag that there were only 906,000 last year, they are down a bit.

You can't sanction and promote Homosexual marriage and behavior as normal and natural and expect God's blessings on a nation or else the Lord would have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah

On and on we can go with things that could and should bring God's judgment on our nation.

Israel did not want to hear about their sins and nor do we as a people.

They did not want to know that God had decreed that He was going to punish them and there was no changing His mind. They did not want to hear that they rebelled and rebelled until they totally exhausted the longsuffering of God.

Instead the false prophets came and said God is going to bless us, we are going to stand strong against Nebuchadnezzar, we will be great again. We can be strong, we can overcome these hard times.

But along come Jeremiah and says, you cannot win. God says accept your punishment. Humble yourself. Accept what God is doing, repent, and it will be better for you.

We live in a day and age where we do not believe in physically disciplining our children. God did. He said that He was going to give Israel a spanking as punishment for their rebellion against Him.

This idea has become so foreign to us that we don't even understand it.

You see, when my children were small and I told them they were going to get a spanking, if they kicked and fussed it went worse for them. If they were humble said they were sorry I went easier on them. But today in our society any form of physical discipline is evil.

In fact, recently in the news you heard about how evil Vladimir Putin is because he lifted a ban on minor offenses of domestic violence. What the news didn't tell you is that the law had a severe penalty in Russia for spanking your children in any form. And a case was brought to his attention where a parent lost custody of her daughter because she slapped her for stealing her mom's mortgage money. She went to police and complained that her mom slapped her and her mom was arrested and lost custody of her daughter even after the daughter repented and said it was her fault. Vladimir Putin heard the case and said he would take it to his Parliament. The Parliament decided to clarify the issue not to interfere with a parents right to discipline their children as long as there was no bodily harm. They decreed that respecting the family was more important than a minor infraction. It is a sad day when our nation has become more atheistic than a communist nation! An ex KGB agent has more sense than our media? We swallow a camel and choke on a gnat!

Now here is the problem. We have raised a generation that has no understanding of how a loving parent could physically discipline their children in love for their own good. So when we talk about the lord chastening those who He loves these verses make no sense to this generation.

***Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.***

Note what the word scourgeth means..

mastigoo, mas-tig-o'-o; from 3148; to flog (lit. or fig.): -scourge.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

mastix, mas'-tix; prob. from the base of 3145 (through the idea of contact); a whip (lit. the Roman flagellum for criminals; fig. a disease): -plague, scourging.

I believe the proper use of the rod is to use a switch. A switch will sting but not cause any permanent bodily harm to a child. This was the rod the Bible talks about. When you use this kind of rod you will die beating the child before the child would die. It will just sting.

The Bible says:

***Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?***

***Hebrews 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.***

In reading this passage it is assumed that any natural father that cares for His children will want to chasten, lead, and teach his child. He will also want to correct him in a biblical manner. When there is no pain there is no gain.

***Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.***

Because we have rejected this truth we have reared up a nation of people who cannot understand a God who chastens His people.

God loved Israel and now He was going to chasten them but they added more rebellion to their sin by rebelling against His true prophets and rejecting the truth and not repenting of their sin! So the reason they believed the lies of their leaders was because they refused to repent of their sins! They refused to be humbled.

If a child rebels under the chastening hand of their parent, the parent should increase the chastening and not let up. So too, Jeremiah warned that it would be worse for them if they listened to their false prophets and hireling Shepherds and leaders! But instead of listening to Jeremiah they chose to listen to the false prophets and leaders!

Now this was an amazing thing, and horrible, and horrific. Astonishing beyond comprehension. We can only ask why would these people do this. The only answer is they hated the truth and wanted to believe a lie!

***WHY ELSE DID THEY DO THIS HORRIBLE THING?***

***II. THEY DID SO BECAUSE THEY LOVED THEIR EVIL WAYS MORE THAN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S WORD***

*John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

*John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

*John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

When the actions of people make no sense at all look for the sin in their lives. Sin makes no sense at all. Why people want to commit sin makes no sense at all.

They do things that are going to destroy them but they do these things anyway.

They make choices that ultimately will hurt them but they make those choices anyway!

They oppose themselves and will not hear the truth.

While we were away we listened to a lot of talk radio while we were driving. There was this one commercial for a rehab center for addiction. In their commercial they said addicts have but three choices. Death, Jail or Recovery. Yet why do so many addicts not pick recovery?

They just don't want to believe that death or jail is ahead of them.

I am thinking of a lady who came to me for help many years ago. She was so addicted to alcohol that when she was drinking she looked sober and when she was sober she looked drunk. I tried to get her to go some where to get help we tried to help her until one day she came to church and said, "who is to say that you need water to live and I need alcohol to live." "I am just going to accept the way I am." I never saw her again. I am sure she is dead today.

I had a relative that was a heroin addict. My mother called me one day when he was strung out in an apartment we rented to him. She told me to come get him before my father found out because she was afraid my father would kill him. He was in and out of jail and in and out of jail. One day when they let him out of jail they found his body beside the Delaware river with a needle beside him. That saying is true, an addict has three choices death, jail or recovery. And in fact, I believe the only permanent recovery is repentance and coming to the Lord. So to me the three choices are death, jail, or salvation!

Look sin is the same way. The nation was so set in their ways and they were not willing to hear the truth about the error of their ways. They loved their sin. They claved to their sin like an addict claves to his drugs, and there was no turning back for them. They refused to repent.

It is like the Devil himself. He knows he has lost but he keeps fighting to the end. Some sinners know that their sin will be their destruction but they will not turn to the Lord. Instead they find people who will agree with them. There are always some who will say you are ok. HOW SAD!

***Which brings us to the third reason I see they LOVED TO HAVE IT SO.***

***III. They Loved to have it so because they found comfort in the fact that the majority of people agreed with them.***

***Don't be deceived, God's true people, most of the time in history, have been a remnant. Today it is no different:***

I Kings 19:18 Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

Isaiah 1:9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Matthew 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

**NOTE OUR LORD'S WARNING CONCERNING THE END TIMES:**

Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

As you read about the end times, we read in the Bible that more and more people are going to go into error. That crowd is going to get bigger.

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

Note what the Bible predicts concerning the end times:

Iniquity will abound.

The love of many will wax cold.

Men shall heap to themselves false teachers.

So for those who are looking to fit in with the majority, they are fair game for false teachers and false leaders.

Let me remind you that a majority does not dictate right or wrong good or evil.

It doesn't matter what the majority say.

They Majority were wrong in the days of Noah.

They Majority were wrong in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

What if everyone does not believe? The same is true.

Public opinion can be manipulated by the media, education, and even the government. Just because the majority say it is right or wrong does not dictate what is right or wrong.

So these Jews grew confident in the fact that their leaders and their prophets all agreed that everything was all right. God was not going to punish them. As if by everyone agreeing, that makes it true.

Remember it was that mob that was organized by the great community organizers of their day that cried out CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM! Boy how is it that all those people turned out at just the right time to make that political statement before Pilate. They had just the right words to say when he said, "SHALL I CRUCIFY YOUR KING.." They all read the same script.. "WE HAVE NO KING BUT CEASAR..."

It was a Mob that Jezebel hired to stone poor Naboth.

It is so easy to stir up a mob to recruit a crowd, and the beat goes on.

So it seems with all these crazy ungodly laws that are being pushed through to deteriorate biblical morality in our society. It would seem the mob wants all these crazy things.

Abortion has come to us through the ungodly courts and manipulation of lawyers. A woman they claimed was raped wanted an abortion later came forward and said she was never raped and never realized her case was going to be taken to the supreme court. It was all bogus. Read the History of Roe verses Wade. A wicked woman by the name of Madalyn Murray O'Hare took Bible reading out of our public schools, but no one mentions how she was murdered and how

her son that she sought to protect from Bible reading became a preacher and rejected her atheism. Manipulation, manipulation, and the people love to have it so!

Homosexual marriage was the same way. The media manipulated public opinion and made it look like everyone was for it. When our local News station had a opinion poll up on the internet they asked for public opinion. I went on the site to voice my opinion against it and because I didn't have a facebook account they wouldn't let me vote. So I asked Ken to voice an opinion against it and make a comment. He did and so I went on line to see what he said and it was not there. They erased it. So I decided to go on the site and use my wife's facebook account and note I was upset because they erased my friends comment and vote and asking how can their poll be fair if they do that. Then I noticed they erased my comment.

I have prayed that God's judgment would come on this wicked media for what they do. By the way, the media is furious because their opinion poll plots failed to keep Trump from getting elected. Maybe that is going to be God's judgment on them?

Has anything changed through the years? Jeremiah was ridiculed and ostracized for sharing his unpopular but true message. BUT THE TRUTH PREVAILS!

Why are we surprised that when people hold positions that are ungodly and not true, that they will stoop to underhanded and ungodly methods to get their way and further their cause.

Look at those 66 women who dressed in white to oppose trump at his speech. 66 a real godly and pure number,. They should have been dressed in bloody red to represent their support of abortion. More community organizers!

How can any pure woman be for killing the unborn babies of America. We wouldn't need illegal immigrants to do these lower paying jobs if we had not killed those millions of unborn workers.

Here on one hand we kill the unborn and say we are concerned for the lives of refugees. We kill the unborn and punish parents for spanking their children?

What confusion, and there is no talking sense into people like this. Just like there was no talking sense into these people who loved hearing the false prophets lying and their leaders leading them astray. They just loved it to be so!

You can't vote in right and wrong. Only God makes those decisions.

RIGHT IS WHAT GOD SAYS IS RIGHT.  
WRONG IS WHAT GOD'S SAYS IS WRONG.

You say, well how do we really know what God says?

READ HIS BOOK.

God gave Moses a moral law that is as good for us today as it was 4000 years ago.

**Honor your father and mother.** It is sad when a communist country is more worried about making a law to disrupt that than our nation is.

**Thou Shalt not Kill.** Killing a baby is murder is it not?

**Thou Shalt not commit adultery.** When you read the Bible, the laws of adultery included all the sexual sins outside of the marriage bed. When this commandment is amplified in LEV 18:22 we read Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

**Thou shalt not lie.** Ever note that someone has to be lying in our political arena and no one seems to care what the truth is.

**Thou shalt not steal.** Do you realize that our national debt is so great that we are stealing away the welfare of our children?

**Thou shalt not covet.**

These last two sins would clearly address our national deficit.

Soon our National Debt will reach 20 Trillion dollars. It was about 10 Trillion when Obama took office in 2009. It has almost doubled under his administration.

To give a perspective with 2012 figures

\* U.S. Tax revenue: \$2,170,000,000,000

\* Fed budget: \$3,820,000,000,000

\* New debt: \$ 1,650,000,000,000

\* National debt: \$14,271,000,000,000

So since 2012 the debt went up by 6 trillion dollars.

\* Budget cuts in 2012 were: \$ 38,500,000,000

***Lets now remove 8 zeros and pretend its a household budget:***

\* Annual family income: \$21,700

\* Money the family spent: \$38,200

\* New debt on the credit card: \$16,500

\* Outstanding balance on the credit card from previous years: \$142,710

\* Total budget cuts: \$385 for the year

\* And in 5 more years instead of paying down your debt would add to that debt by 60,000 more to become \$202,700

Now with all this going on, this family decides to borrow more money to give to some worthy causes.

\$200 for global warming research.

\$200 gift to Nasa to see if their is alien life on other planets.

\$100 to help educate people about virtues of gay marriage.

\$100 to planned parenthood.

\$500 for a Christmas party for all my friends.

\$100 donation for Mexicans who can't afford health care.

\$200 to the UN to help 3rd world countries.

To pay off this debt in 2017 every man woman and child would have to come up with \$64,000.

But our 66 pure women in white are saying don't take away Obama Care which now makes everyone in America to pay for free abortions for women.

Don't cut this, don't cut that.

What is the problem? Stealing and covetousness.

A people have lost touch with right and wrong, just and unjust, equity, righteousness, judgment.

ALL THESE VIRTUES THAT COME FROM READING AND BELIEVEING ONE BOOK!

Jeremiah 5:30 A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land;

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Why do people cleave to that which will destroy them?

They love it so because they hate the truth.

They love it so because love for their sin and hatred for Christ.

There is a sense of false security in numbers.

They love it so because they have rejected God's standard of right and wrong.

Jeremiah 5:30 A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land;

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

AND WHAT WILL YE DO IN THE END THEREOF?

Well what we are going to do is conclude this message.

Look, just as the commercial said, an addict has three choices:

Death, jail, or recovery.

A sinner has only two choices.

If you continue in your ways nothing will get better.

If you reject God's salvation it leads to death or hell.

Or you can repent and receive Christ's forgiveness for your sins, and receive a new start, a new life, and in fact, eternal life with Christ forever.

But if you hate the truth you will not come.

If you love your sin and darkness you will not come.

If you listen to the world and the majority you will not come.

BUT IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE YOU WILL COME..

**Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.**

**Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

**Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

This is the answer to America's problems.

This was the answer to Israel's problems. They needed to come to Jehovah. Their Yeshuah, and our Jesus.

**BEING PART OF THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE THIS HORRIBLE THING!  
3-5-2017 Evening Sermon**

**Jeremiah 5:30 A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land;  
Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means;  
and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?**

**Just how discouraged can a servant of God become? Jeremiah got pretty discouraged.  
At one point he wrote:**

**Jer. 20:8 For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the  
word of the Lord was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.**

**Jer. 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his  
name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I  
was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.**

Wasn't Elijah discouraged when Jezebel threatened his life?

How about John the Baptist when he sent a messenger to Jesus and asked if He was the one to come or should we expect another?

How about Job as he sat in the ashes?

How about the disciples after Jesus was crucified?

In this life when we are faced with an over whelming crowd of people that love the wickedness that prevails we might find ourselves wishing to die under a juniper tree like Elijah!

**I. CONSIDER HOW TO DEAL WITH DISCOURAGEMENT AS A CHILD OF GOD!**

**RESOLVE HOW TO DEAL WITH THE HORRIBLE FACT THAT WE ARE  
QUICKLY BECOMING A REMNANT FOR GOD IN THIS WORLD AND MAY  
NOT HAVE ALL THE "SUCCESS" WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE.**

ONE OF THE GREATEST REASONS WE GET DISCOURAGED IS BECAUSE WE HAVE FALSE EXPECTATIONS FOR WHAT THIS LIFE HOLDS.

Reminds me of what the Lord said to Baruch in the days that he also wrote the text that we are preaching from. Remember he said:

JER 45:2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch;

JER 45:3 Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest.

JER 45:4 Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, that which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land.

JER 45:5 And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.

We need to resolve that as a Christian we may not have as much so called "SUCCESS" or Prosperity in this world system as those who are part of this world.

That is not to say that God can't make exceptions and do as He wishes. He did make a Samson who was the strongest of men, a Solomon who was the wisest and richest of men, He did raise up queen Esther the most beautiful of women and a royal queen. Yet these great saints of God were an example of His great power and not generally what we should demand for our lives.

He can do as He chooses but I think we need to think soberly about where God has placed us or else we may become discouraged. We need to be optimistic pessimists when it comes to what we will become in this world.

Remember the words of our Lord:

John 15:19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

John 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

I John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

Why will you try and be accepted of a world that just is against Christ. If you were of the world the world would love it's own. As a Christian we have the scent of Christ written all over us. Don't even try to be accepted of the world. The Lord told us to come from among them and be ye separate. We cannot reach the world by being like the world. This is what we are seeing today. Under the guise of seeking to reach others more and more Christians are being conformed to the world.

Consider the admonition of the Psalmist Asaph.

The Psalmist wrote:

Psalms 73:1 {A Psalm of Asaph.}

Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

Psalms 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

Psalms 73:3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

Psalms 73:4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

Psalms 73:5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

Psalms 73:6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

Psalms 73:7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

Psalms 73:8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

Psalms 73:9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

Psalms 73:10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.

Psalms 73:11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

Psalms 73:12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

When we get our eyes off the Lord and onto the peoples of the world we can get tripped up in our spiritual walk. The Psalmist observed the prosperity of the wicked, and how everything seemed to go well with them.

Psalms 73:13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence.

Psalms 73:14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

Psalms 73:15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.

Psalms 73:16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

Notice how Asaph was troubled and discouraged as he meditated on this reality. Why do the wicked seem to prosper so in this life when God's children seem to be so troubled and plagued? What he observed was about to destroy his faith until the following happened.

Psalms 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Psalms 73:18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

Psalms 73:19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Psalms 73:20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

Psalms 73:21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

Psalms 73:22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Psalms 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Psalms 73:24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Psalms 73:26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Psalms 73:27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

Psalms 73:28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

The Psalmist came to his senses when faith in God's promises kicked in and he realized the end of those who reject salvation in our Savior.

***1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?***

Yes we are troubled and plagued and go through difficulties but what is our end compared to the end of those who reject the gospel. The Psalmist had to rebuke himself when he thought on these things.

Many years of ago when I was in Bible College a fellow student Charley Ware and I were hired to do some lawn work for a wealthy family in Waverly area. As we took a break from working in the yard the maid showed off the house to Charley and I. She showed off the beautiful China and looked at Charley and said "isn't this beautiful," he said "Yes Mam it is.", then she showed some beautiful kitchenware and she said isn't this something. Charley said "yes Mam it is." Then she showed us the beautiful carved furniture and figurines and said wouldn't you like to own all this? And Charley, without hesitation said, "No Mam I wouldn't..." You see, Charley knew he couldn't own all that and serve Christ. So without hesitation in essence he said "I am not even going to lust after all these things that would sway me from my calling in Christ."

Brother Charley Ware is now the President of the Cross Roads Bible College in Indianapolis Indiana. He was on the road to pursuing greater riches than these earthly trinkets.

How many a Christian's feet have slipped because they want to fit in with the world or compete with the world? Or desire and lust after the things of this world?

We need to pray and say as the wise writer Agur did in the book of Proverbs:

***Proverbs 30:7 Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:  
Proverbs 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:  
Proverbs 30:9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.***

- 1. God warned his people of copying the wordly idolatrous activities of the world which cannot bring glory to God. Remember the Golden calf of Aaron.***

Don't lust after these things:

God told the Children of Israel to burn the idols of the Canaanites:

Deuteronomy 7:25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 7:26 Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

What is sad is that Aaron fell back into the heathen practices of Egypt under the pressure of the people. The world will pressure us to be like them. Note what happened below:

Exodus 32:2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

Exodus 32:3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

Exodus 32:4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 32:5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

Whatever got into Aaron's brain to think that it was ok to make this golden calf? No doubt the people came out of Egypt, but Egypt did not come out of the people.

Why do we think God is any more pleased when we use the methodology of the world to try to worship Him today? The golden calves are still among us.

Notice what Aaron said:

Exodus 32:5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

Tomorrow is a **feast to the LORD** of Israel. Whenever you read capital LORD it means Jehovah. He dedicated this calf to Jehovah the God of Israel. And the people loved it. They danced, they sang, they had a good time, all in the name of the LORD. Except that the Lord was not in it.

## ***2. We Cannot Use Satan's Methods and expect to get God's blessings:***

Today we have a lot of churches building golden calves and saying praise God let's worship Jesus. NOTE: Sensual activities: dancing, music, rolling on the floors.

What was Satan's method for the Garden?

Satan will circumvent authority. So Moses was away and Aaron took over.

Satan went to Eve to get to Adam. So when the cats away the mice will play!

The Bible is written with headship in mind. It is patriarchal in character and in nature. God goes to the head of the household to get to the household: Satan comes around the back door and lies in wait seeking who he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8

Why do we follow Satan's methods to get God's blessings? Peter went to Cornelius, and his whole house was saved. Today we would skip Cornelius and pick up the kids and Mrs. Cornelius for Sunday School and never get the father. Why do we do that? We sometimes do it because it is easier, but really, does it produce long lasting fruit? Most of the time it does not. How often we lose the whole family anyway?

That's not how Peter did it and that's not how Paul did it:

Acts 16:31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. The Apostle Paul addressed the man of the house and everyone got saved.

This does not mean we never seek to win women and children, no! It means we go to the head of the house first, and then down the line.

God said there is a logical order in presenting the Gospel. It was to be first preached to the Jew and then to the Gentile. So today it should be preached to the head of the house and then if rejected we should reach who we can with the gospel.

Today we would address a crowd of people how?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

Bible times they would say BRETHREN; or Men and Brethren.

You say where are the ladies? The Lord expected men to lead their wives. Yet today our culture dictates otherwise. Let me suggest to you that our culture is wrong.

Genesis 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. God addresses them both Adam and Eve as Adam. Adam means man. When there is a multitude of men we say BRETHREN! This shows headship. Where was Eve before she was created? She was in Adam.

Speaking of headship Paul puts it this way: Now I know that in Christ there is neither male or female as the apostle Paul said.

GAL 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ

I Corinthians 11:11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

I Corinthians 11:12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

In other words a man has his place as directed by God and woman has her place as directed by God. We should not argue about how God made us, both positions are sacred to God as long as we accept them. We should humbly accept the way God made us and play our part well, realizing in eternity all that will matter is if we have followed and obeyed Him. However this thing of women demanding all their rights I believe has gone overboard. Those 66 rebellious Jezebels that made a shameful show at the inaugural address was a disgrace.

How can anyone say that woman in our country are treated unfairly? It has become so perverted that now they demand the right to kill their own unborn if they choose. This is no freedom for women. This is plain abusing the sacred role of every woman to be a mother and nurturer of our young. And they have the audacity to wear white to make this outrageous statement. Every one of these women should be voted out when election time comes!

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible speaks of male leadership:  
When Paul addressed his people he said..

Acts 2:22 **Ye men of Israel, hear these words;**

II Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same **commit thou to faithful men,** who shall be able to teach others also.

Women in leadership position as preachers and in placed of political leadership I believe violates Scripture. Maybe you would say Biblical culture. But I just say Proper Scriptural Culture.

Catering to this radical women's lib movement I believe is a violation of Scripture.

I would encourage you to read Russ Carmen's new book .. "FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS" I and going to put it in our bookstore and in our website book store. The book shares how it is even against the very way God made us, the way women are trying to be dominant over men. All of this is just producing an effeminate society and leading to the break down of the sexes in our society. It is all part of the judgment of God on a nation that rejects the Word of God. Isaiah said it this way..

Isaiah 3:11 Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Isaiah 3:12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Anything that weakens the leadership and pattern of leadership on the home is a violation of Scripture:

It is amazing that the modern Church growth movements are strong on separating the families.

There often are no Children in their services.

The contemporary Church growth movements separate the family. We should be pulling them together. We do not force anyone to put their kids in a nursery, it is there to help not oppress the family. The reason we leave the back of the church open is so families can sit with their children and train them to sit in the service.

### **III. Why Do These Unbiblical Methods seem to be working?**

***II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;***

These teachers cater to the lusts of the people.

People like to draw attention to themselves. Carnal pleasures like the children of Israel in the wilderness. The Bible said He made them naked to their own shame. Nakedness in the Bible is a picture of sin and shame.

These rebels danced to the images, and made themselves naked before the images. It was almost like a Mardi Gras.

Compare that to what happens when people in so many praise worship services in our day.

***Doctrine needs to be endured: Not an instant gratification, it requires, thought, requires work, change, and may make us feel uncomfortable:***

Lust is self satisfying for the present. It is an escape, not a permanent fix to your problem but it is an escape from the reality.

Bars are packed with people who want to escape reality and feel good. Churches are catering to the same lustful passions as the bars are.

A person who seeks to have their feelings aroused, and passions ignited, will seek after it again and again, so people will keep coming to these entertainment oriented Churches.

Drinking lets us forget our problems for a little while.

Drugs, sex, music of world, so these things become addictive and we want more and more of them.

Contemporary religion is becoming a sort of drug to many people.

It is a clean and wholesome drug? I think as a drug corrupts the body this drug will corrupt our spirits.

THE PEOPLE LOVE IT THIS WAY:

Jeremiah 5:30 A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land;

Jeremiah 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

#### **IV. WHAT DO WE DO IN LIGHT OF THESE TRUTHS:**

##### **1. Be content to be the Remnant God wants you to be and don't let the devil confuse you or discourage you!**

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

*The spiritual warfare for the most part takes place in the arena of our minds. We need to cast down false imaginations and every thought that is not biblical.*

##### **2. Be grounded in sound doctrine:**

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

##### **3. Be Wise As Serpents and Harmless as doves:**

The World cannot understand nor accept the standards of the Bible: No use parading them before people who will just cast them under foot:

The world does not need to hear about our standards of Holiness they just need to hear about how they can come to Christ and be new creatures in Christ. The rest will follow. As we live a holy life before them that will be all they need to know about that issue.

## **DON'T BE IGNORANT OF HIS DIVICES:**

Should not go beyond the Bible or below it in seeking to reach others for Christ.

What we need is people who are willing to be spent and serve.

We need to be more creative in the way we administrate the Church so that we don't offend but we still maintain standards of separation.

No one was holier than Christ, yet he did not let his standards of separation from sin cause a disrepute to his main goal to draw people to himself.

We should draw lessons from God on how He dealt with the carnality of the people of Israel and their carnality, yet God himself was untainted by sins.

So we should be like Him in this world. He walked among sinners but He himself was sinless. He was a friend to sinners to bring them to salvation. But He was separate from sin in his personal life and walk.

Bottom line is as God's remnant we should not fall in line and love what is going on. We should resist the downward spiritual slope that abounds in our day.