

The Lord Takes Away

“For behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, Takes away from Jerusalem and from Judah The stock and the store, The whole supply of bread and the whole supply of water; The mighty man and the man of war, The judge and the prophet, And the diviner and the elder; The captain of fifty and the honorable man, The counselor and the skillful artisan, And the expert enchanter. "I will give children *to be* their princes, And babes shall rule over them. The people will be oppressed, Every one by another and every one by his neighbor; The child will be insolent toward the elder, And the base toward the honorable." When a man takes hold of his brother In the house of his father, *saying*, "You have clothing; You be our ruler, And *let* these ruins *be* under your power," In that day he will protest, saying, "I cannot cure *your* ills, For in my house *is* neither food nor clothing; Do not make me a ruler of the people." For Jerusalem stumbled, And Judah is fallen, Because their tongue and their doings *Are* against the LORD, To provoke the eyes of His glory.” (Isaiah 3:1-8 NKJV)

God removed His hand of protection and blessing from Judah and Jerusalem. The result of this judgment left Judah without provision and leadership.

The powerful and wise were replaced with babes. This resulted in a society where children were insolent and no one had the wherewithal to lead.

How similar is our day! Last year while out with my son a young man, just a child, was using the vilest language that I had ever heard for no apparent reason. Obviously, this speech was part of his normal vocabulary, as he was not being provoked. I suggested to him that such language was harmful to his life and future. Well I might as well been a dog taking a beating as he accosted me with a barrage of vulgarity. If he were an adult, I would have feared for my life. Oh, how times have changed.

Our children are insolent and babes are leading us. This is likely the result of our turning away from God. Judah was under this condition because their tongues and doings were against the Lord. They had provoked Him and he was responding accordingly. There should be no surprise in our condition as a society. We need to pray for God’s blessing and intercede for our leaders.

However, on a personal level we need to recognize the signs of God’s chastening. His pulling away should be our first indication of His displeasure. David prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalms 51:10-11 NKJV).

Does the Lord seem distant to you? Do you struggle to have fellowship with Him? If so, then evaluate your time.

Do you seek the Lord daily? When you read do you seek to know Him better, or is your reading mechanical? Are you praying? If not, return to Him and He will fill you with His Spirit.