

Settled In Your Ways — 08/08/21

TEXT- Zep 1:12 *And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.*

INTRO – Lees

(Heb. *shemarin*), from a word meaning to keep or preserve. It was applied to “lees” from the custom of allowing wine to stand on the lees that it might thereby be better preserved (Isa 25:6). “Men settled on their lees”

(Zep 1:12) are men “hardened or crusted.” The image is derived from the crust formed at the bottom of wines long left undisturbed (Jer 48:11). The effect of wealthy undisturbed ease on the ungodly is hardening. They become stupidly secure

Jer 48:11 *Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.*

The idea is leftovers or less than the best.

It is a spirit of indifference or mediocrity.

The zeal for God was missing.

I. Complacency

A. The accusation

The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil

B. The problem

Preacher said the problem with today is ignorance and apathy – Man responds “Frankly I don’t know and I don’t care.”

Rev 3:15-17 *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

Israel was complacent

Amos 6:1-6 *Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came! 2 Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border? 3 Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near; 4 That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall; 5 That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of*

musick, like David; 6 That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

They trusted in the mountain of Samaria. The city was deemed impregnable, and it kept the Assyrians at bay for three years before it was finally taken **2 Kings 18:9** **Shalmaneser king of Assyria besieged the city and after three years overtook it.**

Where is our passion?

II. Convenience

The word “Convenient” means, “favorable to one’s comfort; easy to do, use, or get to; handy.”

If it doesn’t cost it doesn’t count.

2 Sa 24:24-25 *And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25 And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.*

The Northern Kingdom set up temples to worship in the north

A sacrifice is our giving up something that is precious or important to us to obtain something of higher value. It’s giving up some sleep or TV time to pray and read God’s Word so we can get closer to God.

We can’t afford to wait to serve the Lord.

III. Compromise

Mediocrity misrepresents God

Compromise demands concessions

Where there is darkness there is compromise

Jehoshaphat made an alliance with King Ahab to fight against Ramoth-Gilead

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Dan 3:12-13 *There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. 13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.*

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