

Isaiah 17,18

8-12-04

“Double Trouble!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Albert Camus (Twentieth-century writer and philosopher), “I shall tell you a great secret, my friend. Do not wait for the last judgment. It takes place every day.”¹
- 1.2. C.S. Lewis, “The ancient man approached God (or even the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock (the accused place in court). He is quite a kindly judge: if God should have a reasonable defense for being the god who permits war, poverty and disease, he is ready to listen to it. The trial may even end in God's acquittal. But the important thing is that Man is on the Bench and God in the dock.”

2. **SYRIA & ISRAEL! (17)**

- 2.1. Double Trouble! (1-3)
- 2.2. The Northern kingdom of Israel had allied w/Syria.
 - 2.2.1. Both would fall to the Assyrians.
 - 2.2.2. The will of God is your greatest security!
 - 2.2.3. “If the people you trust do not trust the Lord, their judgment may become your judgment.” (Warren Wiersbe)
- 2.3. Damascus (capitol of Syria)
 - 2.3.1. Naaman lived here (cured of leprosy)
 - 2.3.2. Paul was re-born on the road there.
- 2.4. Glory departed – Like when Phinehas’s wife called her child Ichabod (*glory has departed*) when her father-in-law (*Eli*), husband, & bro-in-law (*Hophni*) died, & especially...the ark of the Cov was taken.
 - 2.4.1. Ichabod!
- 2.5. 3 Pictures of judgment! (4-6)
- 2.6. [1] Like a Setting Sun!
 - 2.6.1. Q: Is the glory fading, or getting brighter in your life?

¹ Albert Camus, Leadership, Vol. 7, no. 2.

- 2.7. [2] **Like a Person in Poverty!**
 2.7.1. **Fatness to Leanness** – Met this morn with Rabbi-Yosef Hillbrant, of the “Jewish Christian Unity Congregation” (a Local Messianic fellowship) Larry Phlaum is the cantor there(chief singer in the synagogue). He said, “**come over, after the service some of the Jewish mothers would love to fatten you up a little bit!**”
- 2.8. [3] **Like a Fruitless Field!**
- 2.9. **It takes an Invasion!** (7,8)
 2.9.1. When they are invaded by the Assyrians they would “**look**”, “**have respect**”; “**not look**”, “**not respect**”.
- 2.10. **If only** they had turned to God **before** the **Sun Set**, **before** their **disease** wasted them away, **before** the **blight** destroyed the harvest!
 2.10.1. **But, they trusted their idols & not the true God.**
 2.10.2. “**How easy it is to put confidence in the work of your own hands & not in the God who made those hands!!!**” (www)
 2.10.3. **Trusting in idols, & trusting in God, is the difference between a babies **pacifier**, & a **bottle of milk**.**
 2.10.3.1. A baby is good with a **pacifier** for a while!...
But it doesn't: Taste, nourish, or really help anything,...it only pacifies temporarily!
 2.10.3.2. **If left in too long it can:** push in teeth, it only produces saliva, it makes an amusing ring around the lips, & just plain looks funny!
 2.10.3.3. **There must be a call mature Christians to “*Abandon all Binkey's!*”**
- 2.11. **Look to your Maker** – They must have been looking at **someone** or **something** else!
 2.11.1. Ps.123:2 “**Behold, as the eyes of servants **look** to the hand of their masters, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes **look** to the LORD our God, Until He has mercy on us.**”
 2.11.2. Is.45:22 “**Look** to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”
- 2.12. **Beyond Hope!** (10,11)
 2.13. (10) **He is the God** who can save you! & **The Rock** that can hide you!
 2.13.1. Which of these 2 ways would you like Him to reveal Himself to **you** this evening?

- 2.14. (11) If we depend upon **temporal things** to bring us security, we will reap 2 fruits: **grief & pain!**
 2.14.1. **Turn** from these false allurements & **trust** in God!
- 2.15. **3 more Pictures of judgment!** (12,13)
- 2.16. [1] **Like Houses before a Flood!**
 2.16.1. Israel could have had the **quiet waters** of Shiloh(8:6).
 2.16.2. **Instead** they chose the **turbulent waters** of Assyria.
 2.16.3. **Q:** Have you made any similar swaps?
- 2.17. [2] **Like Chaff before the Wind!**
- 2.18. [3] **Like a Tumbleweed before the Whirlwind!**

3. **ETHIOPIA!** (18)

- 3.1. (1,2) **Ethiopia**(ancient Cush) - present day southern Egypt, Sudan, & northern Ethiopia.
- 3.2. They sent ambassadors to Israel, hoping to form a strong alliance against Assyria, but the venture was doomed to fail.
 3.2.1. God wasn't in it. All of man's clever ideas are worthless if they run contrary to the will of God.
 3.2.2. 1 Cor.3:19,20 "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."
 3.2.3. **1st find His will. Then do it!**
- 3.3. **Nile River** – about 4000 miles long.
 3.3.1. It was the lifeblood of Egypt.
 3.3.2. It was worshiped as the Egyptian deity "Hapi".
 3.3.3. In ancient Egypt the Nile **overflowed** its banks (June-Oct.)
 3.3.4. Jan-arch the fields would dry & bear bumper crops.
- 3.4. (3,4) L.B. says, "God will watch quietly from his Temple in Jerusalem—serene as on a pleasant summer day or a lovely autumn morning during harvesttime"
 3.4.1. What a great picture of God remaining quiet & watching.
 3.4.1.1. **This is the stillness of God!**
 3.4.2. **Q:** If you had to draw a picture of this what would it look like?
 3.4.2.1. (reclining on the floor of heaven; sitting on heavens porch)

- 3.4.3. **Q:** Can you think of other bible stories where this same picture is painted? (**God waiting & watching & not responding?**)
- 3.4.4. **How about** when **Jesus watched** His disciples straining at the oars through the stormy night?
- 3.4.5. **How about** the time Jesus waited when his best friend was dying, & in his last stages of terminal illness? He let him succumb to death & even be buried in a rocky tomb.
- 3.4.6. **Q: Is the Lord being quiet with you?**
- 3.4.6.1. Nevertheless, He is **attentive!** - He still **sees everything**.
- 3.4.6.2. His finger is on your pulse & is **extremely sensitive** to the slightest change.
- 3.4.6.3. He will come to save you when the **perfect moment** has arrived.
- 3.4.6.4. However **slow** He may appear He is never a **confused** or **fearful** Savior.
- 3.4.7. O troubled soul, beneath the rod, Your Father speaks, be still, be still;
Learn to be silent unto God, And let Him mold you to His will.
O praying soul, be still, be still, He cannot break His promised Word;
Sink down into His blessed will, And wait in patience on the Lord.
O waiting soul, be still, be strong, And though He tarry, trust & wait;
Doubt not, He will not wait too long, **Fear not**, He will not come too late.²
- 3.5. (5) At the right time he would **reap the harvest!**
- 3.6. (6) He would **leave the corpses** to the scavengers.
- 3.7. (7) They should have come to Jerusalem with a gift to the Lord.
- 3.7.1. They should have been **humble worshipers** & not **haughty negotiators**(www).
- 3.7.2. They should have trusted the **Almighty** & not their **armies**.
- 3.7.3. Ps.20:7 "**Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.**"
- 3.8. **A present will be brought to the Lord of hosts** - & one was!
- 3.8.1. It was brought by an Ethiopian eunuch in **Acts 8:27, & 37**.
- 3.8.2. It was the gift of **worship**(27) & the gift of his **heart**(37).
- 3.8.3. **Baptism class** – room 107 (not upstairs)

² L.B.Cowman; Streams I the desert; pg.276,277