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Jehovah will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues — great and prolonged plagues — and serious and prolonged sicknesses. Moreover He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will Jehovah bring upon you until you are destroyed. You shall be left few in number, whereas you were as the stars of heaven in multitude, because you would not obey the voice of Jehovah your God. And it shall be, that just as Jehovah rejoiced over you to do you good and multiply you, so Jehovah will rejoice over you to destroy you and bring you to nothing; and you shall be plucked from off the land which you go to possess” (Deuteronomy 25:59-63). Because they did not honor God who had honored them far above what they could ever deserve, Israel suffered worse than other nations.

So it will be for those in the church who rebel.

Peter wrote to Christians, telling them, *“You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy”* (1st Peter 2:9-10). Special or not, there will be Christians populating hell someday. The apostle John testified, *“If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”* (Revelation 22:19). Life in Christ is a blessing that can be forfeited.

“If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries” (Hebrews 10:26-27). Sin’s sacrifice, that is Christ’s blood, has no effect on the one who persists in sin after being saved. Not only does the Christian who falls away lose his salvation, but he actually faces punishment worse than if he had never been saved. *“If, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning”* (2nd Peter 2:20).

God did it before when He overthrew Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians and He will do it again with the soul of every Christian who reverts to his worldly ways.

WHEN A MAN MARRIES AN UNBELIEVER

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Since Christians married to unbelievers are not required to repent of their marriages, but are urged to remain together (1st Corinthians 7:12), it would be an exaggeration to say that marrying a non-Christian is sinful. Nevertheless, it is decidedly unwise, as Paul wrote, *“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?”* (2nd Corinthians 6:14-15).

When a man marries an unbeliever, he hinders prayer. Peter commanded, *“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered”* (1st Peter 3:7). There is genuine risk that prayer will be rendered ineffective by a dysfunctional marriage and a functional marriage is based on *“being heirs together of the grace of life,”* but in a marriage between a believer and an unbeliever, they are not joint heirs.

When a man marries an unbeliever, he disqualifies himself for church office. Since *“those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus”* (1st Timothy 3:13), it is honorable for a man to prepare himself for this office. Moreover, *“If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work”* (1). Godly men should want to oversee God’s people in the church. However, the man who marries an unbeliever has already disqualified himself from either of these offices because *“their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things”* (11). The woman who is not a Christian is hardly faithful at all, much less in all things; therefore, her husband must not serve as a deacon or lead as an overseer. When a Christian chooses a wife who is not a Christian, he distances himself from *“a good standing”* and from a *“good work.”*

When a man marries an unbeliever, he guarantees his future offspring will be spiritually conflicted. Children need *“fathers... [who] bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4), as well as mothers and grandmothers who make *“known the Holy Scriptures from childhood”* (2nd Timothy 1:5; 3:15). While a child whose parents are not religiously united may grow up to be faithful (Acts 16:1), he will face difficulties that would otherwise be avoided (2-3).

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"People get upset when you teach the Bible instead of what they think is in the Bible."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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**"SUCH HAS NEVER BEEN DONE AS WHAT HAS BEEN
DONE TO JERUSALEM"**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Nearing the end of the seventy-year exile of the Jews in Babylon (Daniel 9:1), Daniel prayed intercession for his people and acknowledged to Jehovah the severity of the punishment inflicted against them, saying, *"under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem"* (12). The God who said, *"I will destroy kingdoms"* (Jeremiah 51:20), and who most assuredly has done so throughout all ages, brought down the fiercest of all His wrath upon Jerusalem. Jehovah declared, *"Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there"* (1st Kings 11:36). It served as the capital of Israel, concerning whom He said, *"For you are a holy people to Jehovah your God; Jehovah your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth"* (Deuteronomy 7:1). The wrath of God came down heaviest on the city in which He put His name, which served as the capital of a nation He chose as His own special treasure.

Why the Almighty would afflict His own people worse than the gentiles is no mystery. He foretold what would befall them before ever installing them in the promised land. *"If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, JEHOVAH YOUR GOD, then* – Continued on page 2 –

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

505-864-0282

rgvcoc@gmail.com

Box 989, Belén, NM 87002

www.RGVChurchOfChrist.org

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist