



The Mission Trail

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"LIFT UP YOUR EYES, AND LOOK ON THE FIELDS; FOR THEY ARE WHITE ALREADY TO HARVEST." — JOHN 4:35

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The Goodness and Severity of God - - Part 5

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Good morning, friends. I am happy to be coming your way once again over the air waves and I sincerely hope that this message today will be an inspiration and a blessing to each listener. As we understand God better and his will for us we can serve him better. Once again here is the text, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." Rom. 11:22 For the next few moments I want to consider a very outstanding event in the history of the Jews. I want to show you that Christ foretold this happening, in other words, it was prophecy. I want to show you how the Jews really brought it on themselves, and then I want to show you the fulfillment of the destruction of Jerusalem and the wrath of God which was poured out upon this city.

Let us first go then to the scene of the judgment hall when Christ stood before Pilate. In Matt. 27 and beginning with verse 22 we find these words, "Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."

I seriously doubt if the Jews realized that day the significance of that momentous decision. Notice especially their words "His blood be on us, and on our children." Do you suppose they were unafraid of the visitation of their

own sins? Did they think the reaping would really be as severe as it was? Perhaps not. Perhaps they did not realize the far-reaching effects of so unwise a choice.

Now let's go back and pick up the words of Christ himself who foretold the destruction of Jerusalem. From Matt. 24:2 I quote, "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." He spoke there of the building of the temple which his disciples came to show him. One report is that the temple was built of white and green spotted marble. Josephus reports the stones were white and strong, 50 feet long, 24 broad, and 16 thick. So you see, friends, the temple was a building which took many years to erect. Let me again give you the words of Christ to show how this ancient city of Jerusalem had rejected

the saviour. In Matt. 23 and beginning with verse 37, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

Adam Clarke, the noted commentator, wrote, "The temple was destroyed 1st, Justly; because of the sins of the Jews. 2dly. Mercifully; to take away from them the occasion of continuing in Judaism: and 3dly. Mysteriously; to show that the ancient sacrifices were abolished, and that the whole Jewish economy was brought to an end, and the Christian dispensation introduced."

Now let me give you a little more detail of the magnitude of the destruction of the temple and also Jerusalem. The temple was burned Aug. 10, AD 70, the same day and month on which it had been burnt by the king of Babylon. Jerusalem was taken Sept. 8 in the second year of the reign of Vespasian, or the year of Christ AD 70. I refer you to the writer Josephus for the verification of these dates. Now this mighty destruction of Jerusalem came about by the dreaded Roman army.

And yet as strange as it may seem in the natural sense even after Jerusalem was besieged did you know that God allowed enough internal disturbances among the Romans to allow a brief respite from the siege at which time all the true believers in Christ escaped Jerusalem and were not there at the time of the awful destruction which came upon those who remained? Perhaps someone had remembered the words of our Lord which he said, "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into

the mountains: Let him which is on the house top not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes." Matt. 24:16-18 Here is another example of the goodness and severity of God. His mercy was shown to the true believers while the hammer which breaketh the rock into pieces fell upon the city.

There is another thing worth mentioning in passing. Do you remember the great image in Daniel representing the universal kingdoms of the world? The last one was the Roman empire. And even though this Roman army was striking a fatal blow to Judaism in the destruction of the temple and the offering of sacrifices, all the while moral decay was taking hold of the Romans. It was about this time when Nero, the great persecutor of Christianity, died. From here on the empire was divided and there was a decline in its universal authority. All of this, of course, representing the unerring fulfillment of the prophecies in Daniel showing that God would set up his true kingdom and church. It was Christ and his gospel or kingdom, the stone mentioned in Daniel, which smote the great image in the feet and caused it all to pass away like the chaff of the summer threshing floor. And Daniel goes on to tell us, "the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth". Dan. 2:35 That of course, my friends, is the true kingdom of God and his church which shall never be destroyed.

Listen now to the words of Christ when he told of those awful days as he said, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until

the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24 According to Adam Clarke who often refers to Josephus, the number of those who fell by the sword was very great. Eleven hundred thousand perished during the siege. Many were slain at other places and at other times. Besides these many of every age, sex, and condition were slain in the war who are not reckoned. But of those who are reckoned the number amounts to upwards of 1,357,660 which would have appeared incredible if their own historian had not so particularly enumerated them. Many also were led away captives into other nations.

Dear ones, it is hard for us to imagine the atrocities that took place in those days. It is written that 11,000 in one place perished for want. It is also reported that Ceasarea, Titus, like a thorough-paced infernal savage, murdered 2,500 Jews in honor of his brother's birthday. What do you think of that as a way to celebrate one's birthday? Some Jews were caused to kill each other, some were thrown to the wild beasts, and others burned alive. And all this was done by a man who was styled the "darling of mankind"! Thus were the Jews miserably tormented and distributed over the Roman provinces. Surely, Jerusalem was according to the prediction of our Lord, trodden down by the Gentiles.

Remember the words of our Lord when he said, "Watch therefore". Be always on your guard that you may not be taken unawares and that you may be properly prepared to meet God in the way either of judgment or mercy whensoever he may come. This advice the followers of Christ took and therefore they escaped. The miserable Jews rejected it and were destroyed. Let us learn wisdom by the things which they suf-

fered.

Friends, here are 3 characteristics of a poor servant of Christ. 1. He has little or no faith in the speedy coming of Christ, either to punish for wickedness or to pardon and sanctify those who believe. It may be he does not outwardly profess this but he says it in his heart and God searches his heart and knows that he professes to teach what he does not believe. 2. He governs with an absolute dominion, oppressing his colleagues, and doing violence to the followers of Christ. 3. He leads an irregular life--does not love the company of the children of God but eats and drinks with the drunkards, preferring the tables of the great and the rich whose god is their belly and thus feeds himself without fear. O God! save thine inheritance from being ravaged by such wolves.

Let us pray,

Our father in heaven,

As we come to the end of this gospel message we pray that the Holy Spirit may bring it forcibly home to the hearts of the readers and the ears of the listeners. For the good which is accomplished we will give thee the praise through Christ our Lord. Amen

Here is a song, "Thou shalt be first". The singers are Lynn and Alma Carver, Arnett and Genevieve Carver.

Until we meet again this is Willie Murphy saying may God richly bless you, each and every one, and a very cheerful good-bye!

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"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. . . Watch therefore".

Matthew 24:36, 42

A NEW MEETING HOUSE

From Kentucky: "I have some more good news to tell you. About a year ago in April I felt burdened about us a new meeting house and I think I wrote and told you about it. Well a sinner man gave us 4 lots 50 X 200. Behind these lots the airport wanted the land. So it has been in court up until last month. He couldn't make us a deed until it was all settled as he owned the land in back of the lots too. Now that is all settled, and he is ready to make the deed. . . We are truly thankful for how the Lord has worked it all out. We also have about \$2,000.00 in our building fund to start with. We feel we can build it for around \$5,000.00. We heard from a brother in Oregon recently and he plans to leave around the 10th of April to come help us build it. Several has said they want to help on it. We are looking to the Lord to supply every need. He has never failed us and we know he won't now, if we will prove faithful to him."

--Sis. Verna Samons and family
222 N. 1st St., Danville, Ky. 40422

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From Mo.: "We are still rejoicing in his great love, and mercy to us. We trust you all are well, and encouraged in the service of God. We rec'd the little Mission Trail and enjoyed reading it so much. And we look forward to hear the message over the air on Sunday morning, as we have not been able to get out to services for some time. But hope we can before too long. We are so glad that God knows every heart and he judges every one right. We are having some beautiful snow today. God has made every thing so good. We are so glad we have learned to trust in him for all things. May the dear Lord bless you all in every way as you have need."

--F. E. and Ellen Wilson

From Minn.: "Greetings of love in Jesus precious name to all the dear saints every where. Received your Mission Trail paper and was so glad to get it and enjoyed it so very much. My brother Elmer Olson gives me his when they are through with it. . . Yes, I do know dear Brother Kirschner. He is at a rest home here in Austin. It is quite far from me so I haven't got to see him yet. He called me yesterday and ask me to pray for him as his son or daughter was going to take him to the hospital in Rochester. He said his ear was so sore and he did not know what was wrong with it. I love Jesus he does so much for me and I'm so thankful for all his wonderful blessings he has shed upon me. Praise his dear name for ever. Please pray for me as I have been feeling pretty bad at times with my heart. Some times I have a hard time getting my breath. Enclose you will find a small free offering for the Lord's work."

--Sis. Pearl Whitcomb

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From S. C.: "This writing finds me still pressing on to make heaven. I have so many things to thank the Lord for. I cannot express it all. So I am glad of one thing--that God knows the heart. He does not look at the outer appearance of man, but looks at the heart. . . the time is short according to God's word. So I by His help want to be ready when He returns for His saints that lived up to His word. I sure do enjoy reading the testimonies from the saints. Brother Willie, pray much for me that I will be doing something for Him when He returns back for His faithful few. . . may God bless you and your family in this work for your reward is waiting in heaven for you. Your brother in the one body of Christ standing for the whole truth of God's word,"

--Eddie Driggers

From Pa. : "Greetings in the precious Name of our Lord. I got to witness to a young man. He said he tho't God had turned his mind to come to Mother's house, for he was in tears when he left and I pray God will save His soul. I read in your Mission Trail about Mother. Well, she is a miracle patient. She has revived and has been crocheting some again, so we are glad for God's goodness to us and she is still giving out His word. Her mind is strong to do that, but getting very weak otherwise and her body is weakening."

--Eva Cox

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From Ill. : "God has been so good to me! I know that it is impossible for me to ever thank Him as I should. What a privilege it is to be a Christian and to serve a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God! I would not trade places with anyone in the world! The world may look down on me, and deign to pass me by, but that doesn't trouble me a whit--for I am a child of the king, and they know it not. . . I used to have an inferiority complex when I was in sin, and you know how hateful such a complex can make some people act! When I got saved, that cured my complex, thank God! I'm glad God is no respecter of persons, that He loves the poorest, the basest, the most ignorant, and died for them all, and would have all to be saved, if only they would! The world didn't recognize the Saviour as Lord of lords or King of kings either. They chose to pass Him by; set Him aside as naught --(one of no consequence)--oh, how they will weep and mourn when they see Him returning and we shall rise to meet Him in the air. I'm so glad I acknowledged him as my Saviour and am not ashamed to confess Him before men, nor bow upon my knees to praise and worship Him!" --Thelma Sprague

From Wisc. : "Greetings once again in the Master's wonderful name! I'm so glad that all of our desires can be spiritual and that we can have victory over tho't, word, and deed, and live in blessed harmony with God! He has been blessing me and supplying all of my needs for which I praise Him. . . Pray for me as I pray for you all."

--Sister Myrtle Baerenwald

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From Ga. : "I want to thank you for the Mission Trail. I can not get the radio broadcast here. We must all be about our Father's business, soon that great day is coming and who will be able to stand before God. It is so easy to get careless and get carried away with the toils and cares of this life. The writer of the Philippian letter said, Let this mind be in you which all so was in Christ Jesus. Phil. 2:5 He minded not fleshly things. . . May God bless you all in the work for him. May we keep low and little in his sight."

--Frances Godfrey

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From Calif. : "The Lord has been good to me. I get some real tests then the good Lord gives me the victory in soul and body. I hope you are well and encouraged in the Lord. . . Remember me in prayer as I think prayer means every thing. Will close with love. . ."

--Bro. Guy Littrell

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From Okla. : "Greetings in Jesus name. Thanksgiving for the goodness of God toward us all. I think it is wonderful to be able to publish the gospel of salvation over the radio and by the printed page. The Lord God bless this good work that you do for his name sake's. I am looking to God to bless us here with rain to his glory. Pray for us and for precious souls that we are looking unto God for their pardon and healing."

--Sis. Eva Penner

