

THE DANGER OF EVIL ASSOCIATIONS

BIBLE TEXT : Deuteronomy 7:1-26; II Corinthians 6:14-18

LESSON 122 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Blessed s the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Deuteronomy 7:1-26

¹ When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

² And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, *and* utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them:

³ Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

⁴ For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

⁵ But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

⁶ For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.

⁷ The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:

⁸ But because the LORD loved you,

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

A Separate People

The Children of Israel were God's chosen people, separated from the other nations among whom they lived, and the special object of His care. God loved His people, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee" (Jeremiah 31:3). God wanted to keep His people a separate people, and He pled with them again and again not to mingle with the people of the other nations who would lead them into sin and bring judgment upon them.

There were people living in the Land of Canaan who would have to leave when the Israelites came there. God did not want to destroy them before the Israelites came, because then all Canaan would look as a house does where no one lives. The grass would grow tall; the weeds would overrun everything; wild animals would multiply in the cities and farms; and it would be hard to bring civilization to the land again.

God's plan was to have the Israelites move across the border and battle with one nation at a time as they met them, utterly destroy all the heathen, and take their land.

Perhaps we think it was cruel to take their homes from the inhabitants of Canaan, but they no doubt had all been given an opportunity at some time in their history to serve God, and had refused; so God was letting judgment come upon them.

Iniquity of Amorites

God told the Israelites they were a "stiffnecked" people, and it was not because of their goodness that He would drive out their enemies. His reason was the promise He had made to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (**Deuteronomy 9:6** ⁶ Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou *art* a stiffnecked people). God told Abraham that the Amorites were one of the nations that the Israelites would destroy; but they were not overthrown at that time because, God said, "The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full" (Genesis 15:16). He gave them about four hundred years to repent, but instead they became more wicked, and so were doomed to utter destruction.

God is merciful to people today and gives them all a chance to repent, but if they refuse to serve Him He will let judgment come from which they will find no escape. He will not always strive with men. When final judgment comes there will be no more hope for forgiveness.

God gave the Israelites definite commands as to how to treat the Canaanites: "Thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them. . . . For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." Above all the people upon the face of the earth! That is what God thinks of His people. Today the true Christians are His children, and He considers them above all the people in the world.

and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
⁹ Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he *is* God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

¹⁰ And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

¹¹ Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

¹² Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers:

¹³ And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

¹⁴ Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

¹⁵ And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all *them* that hate thee.

¹⁶ And thou shalt consume all the people which the LORD thy God shall deliver thee; thine eye shall

They are the royalty of the heavenly Kingdom, ambassadors for the King of Glory.

God's "Princes"

Sometimes the sinners do not recognize God's "princes in disguise." They make fun of the person who lives for God and who has no part in the worldly amusements. But God is watching His own and He is happy to see His children keeping themselves from sin, living holy lives. He makes His people happy, too, right in the midst of the trouble that surrounds them.

The Psalmist answered the question, "Who is the happy man?" He said, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:1, 2). The Psalmist said that the man is happy who is not mingling with sinners nor doing as they say, but who loves God and enjoys doing what He tells them to do.

The Christian continues to live in this world with the sinners. Jesus does not take His people to Heaven as soon as they are saved. When He prayed for His disciples, He said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil" (John 17:14, 15). It is possible for the children of God to live in this world amidst all the sin and wickedness and yet be kept separate from the evil that contaminates sinners. The secret of being a Christian is being in the world and yet not of the world.

Divine Fellowship

God's people have a unity and fellowship among themselves that the people of the world know nothing about. There is inspiration in speaking of the things of God, and there is a love that binds their hearts together. "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name" (Malachi 3:16).

Many so-called Christians seem to feel perfectly at home in this world. They get along well with everyone, and think they are going to be a help to the sinner by associating with him. We hear the expression, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." But that is not God's Word. Rome was a very wicked city; one of its poets said, "All evil flows to Rome." Yet Paul could say when he wrote to the Christians in that wicked city, "Beloved of God, called to be saints"; not sinners — but saints, separated from the ways of the sinners. The spirit of the world is enmity against God; and we cannot feel at home among sinners unless we have some of their spirit in us.

No Sinning-Christians

Some people call themselves Christians and admit that they are sinners. They enjoy the amusements of the world. The Bible says, "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15). Many will pray to God, "Our Father," but He will not own them as His children if they are committing sin. When the scribes and Pharisees, the religious people of Christ's day, came to Him and claimed God as their Father, He told them, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do" (John 8:44). If they were the children of God they would obey all His commandments.

When a sinner repents of his sins and is saved, sin goes out

have no pity upon them: neither shalt thou serve their gods; for that *will be* a snare unto thee.

¹⁷ If thou shalt say in thine heart, These nations *are* more than I; how can I dispossess them?

¹⁸ Thou shalt not be afraid of them: *but* shalt well remember what the LORD thy God did unto Pharaoh, and unto all Egypt;

¹⁹ The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.

²⁰ Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.

²¹ Thou shalt not be affrighted at them: for the LORD thy God *is* among you, a mighty God and terrible.

²² And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee by little and little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee.

²³ But the LORD thy God shall deliver them unto thee, and shall destroy them with a mighty destruction, until they be destroyed.

²⁴ And he shall deliver their kings into thine hand, and thou shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before thee, until thou have destroyed them.

²⁵ The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold *that is* on them, nor take *it* unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it *is* an abomination to the LORD thy God.

and Jesus' Spirit comes into the heart. Jesus will remain as long as that heart stays clean; but should the convert go to a theater or a dance, Jesus will leave, and there will be no more Jesus in that person's heart.

God wants His people to keep themselves unspotted by worldly things. If a church tolerates sin, God says to the Christian, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters." Touch not the unclean thing! God's people are clean, and in order to keep clean they must draw themselves apart from sinful things.

Sins we call "little sins" may creep into our hearts if we do not watch and pray always: a little pride (pride is an abomination in the sight of the Lord, **Proverbs 6:17** ¹⁷ A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood), envy (thou shalt not covet, **Exodus 20:17** ¹⁷ Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's), hatred (he that hateth his brother is a murderer, **1 John 3:15** ¹⁵ Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him), telling or acting little untruths (he that speaketh lies shall not escape, **Proverbs 19:5** ⁵ A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that speaketh lies shall not escape*). Those sins do not sound so little when we compare them with the Word of God, do they? When such sins come in, Jesus goes out; and though a person has been a Christian, he is no longer one when he disobeys the Word of God. The only way he can again gain God's approval and have eternal life is to repent of his sins and ask forgiveness as he did when he was first saved.

We find that the Children of Israel did not obey God and keep themselves from the sin of the Canaanites. The sin they allowed to remain tormented them, and the former inhabitants of the land became "thorns in their sides." Instead of enjoying a land free from their enemies, they suffered the judgments of God, and finally were carried away captive out of that good land.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Why were the Israelites God's chosen people?
- 2 Who are God's people today?
- 3 How can you know who is a real Christian?
- 4 What things do Christians enjoy? What do sinners enjoy?
- 5 What were the Children of Israel to do to the inhabitants of Canaan? Did they do it?
- 6 Do Christians commit sin? Quote I John 3:8.

²⁶ Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: *but* thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it *is* a cursed thing.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.