

How Many Do You Count Me?

Author Unknown



When Antigonus was ready to engage in a sea fight with Ptolemy's armada, the pilot cried out, "How many are they more than we?"

The courageous king replied, "'Tis true, if you count their numbers, they surpass us; but for how many do you value me?"

When our enemies come upon us like a flood, threatening to devour us with rage and fury, let us remember that though we are few, and they are many; our God is the God of salvation, and He must be counted far more than all that are against us.

The Hand of God ...

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✠ The wicked high priest Caiaphas condemned Christ for fear of disobliging the Romans. He was turned out of his office by the Roman governor, whom he had sought to oblige.

✠ Ananias was the high priest that persecuted Paul and ordered him to be smitten on the mouth (Acts 23:2, 24:1). He was slain, together with his brother, by his own son.

✠ Domitian persecuted the Christians and was said to be the one that threw John into a cauldron of boiling oil. He was later banished to the isle of Patmos and murdered by his own people.

Retaliation?

Sunday

Seth Joshua, one of the leaders of the great Welsh revival of generations past, once arrived in a town where he was scheduled to preach and found placards everywhere announcing the "Great Seth Joshua". They told all about him, but were in reality advertising a stage imitation of the minister at a local theatre that night. Grotesque drawings promised much fun at the expense of the servant of the Lord.

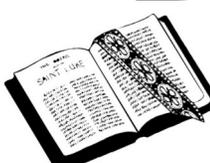
That night the theatre was packed and the crowd cheered as the actor came on the stage in perfect imitation of preacher Joshua. The actor raised his arms as he circled the stage burlesquing the Bible and the evangelist.

The third time around the actor fell with a thud and a hushed audience soon discovered that he was dead. God does not hold his wrath forever.

"True justice brings joy to the righteous and fear to the evil."

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"... They Shall Know That I Am The Lord."

Bill Brinkworth

While reading the book of Ezekiel, a phrase that occurred 24 times made me curious. It is the phrase "...they shall know that I am the Lord". Although Ezekiel's warnings and prophecies were to the Jews before and after the fall and capture of Jerusalem (around 587 BC), today we can also learn from God's warnings to those people. What angered God then, if repeated today, will also anger Him now.

My first query when I encountered the phrase was, "How did they know God was judging them?" The context around those phrases revealed what happened to them when the wrath of God was upon them. Here is a summation of how they suffered when God used circumstances to teach them a lesson:

✠ Their land became unprofitable and a waste land. In comparing what wayward Israel suffered, I see many similarities in what is happening to America today. Our country is not

providing what it once did. Not very long ago, our country provided much for other nations. Today our country relies on too many things from other countries. It may not be long until God's wrath allows us to be more desolate. Lack of jobs and failure of the economy also happened to Israel. (Ez. 6:14, 29:9)

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The Hand of God Was Against Them

C. Buck

Many say it is presumption in pronouncing calamities of sinners are particular judgments of God. A study was made of many of the cruel persecuting tyrants who delighted in tormenting their fellow creatures. The study revealed that they died not the common deaths of most men. They suffered plagues and deaths that were horrible and strange. Even a skeptic would be moved at the evidence and would be apt to suspect that the hand of God was in their demise. Here are some biblical-related examples:

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“... They Shall ...”

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☞ They reaped what they had sown. (Ez. 7:27) When any country, be it Israel or America, turns against God and does not follow His principles and precepts they cannot expect God's hand to bless and protect them.

☞ God scattered them among the nations and dispersed them in other countries (Ez. 12:15). Today we also have battles all over the world and have our soldiers dispersed throughout the lands. Some work forces are dispersing their employees to other countries to work.

☞ Men and women suffered from the sword (Ez. 26:6).

☞ God sent pestilences and allowed violence in the streets. (Ez. 28:23) We have helped countries battle pestilences, and now we are fighting them in our own land. Growing police forces and overpopulated prisons prove violence is increasing today.

☞ God enabled an enemy to act against them (Ez. 30:25).

☞ The enemy would infiltrate their own country (Ez. 30:26).

☞ A fire was sent to devour them (Ez. 28:18).

☞ They lost their freedom. Today our freedom is legislated away, and we, too, are slowly

being enslaved by the government.

My next question when encountering the phrase “...They shall know that I am the Lord,” was what was it they were doing that God would not tolerate? Since God has not changed, what He would not tolerate then, He will not tolerate today. Here are some of the things He would not tolerate and judged His people because of their commissions of these violations:

☞ Idolatry, which is the worshipping of other “Gods”. The “god” of certain religions is not the God of the Bible. The false teaching that there are many ways to get to the same heaven is not biblical and encourages many people to allow idolatry, even if the religion is labeled “Christian”.

☞ They were rebellious against God (Ez. 12:9). They were not obeying His commands.

☞ They spoke against God's people (Ez. 25:8, 26:2). Although these verses were prophetic, lately we can see governments taking sides against God's people, Israel and Christians.

☞ They defiled His sanctuaries (Ez. 28:18) by not worshipping the way God expected them to worship. Are we not doing simi-

lar things by changing His Word, worshipping Him the way we think we should worship Him, mocking and cursing His name, and justifying away His creation and plan?

☞ They boasted against God (Ez. 35:13) and spoke against God. This is done by many today telling others how to treat God, and how to live. Every man is doing what seems right in his own eyes.

☞ They had evil ways (Ez. 36:31) and personal sins. Our nation can also be judged for our own personal, contagious sins.

Ezekiel certainly cannot be summed up in so few words. However, it does contain warnings. We can learn from these warnings against people that were doing wrong, so we do not repeat what they did.

It appears, however, that history is repeating itself, and all through the world people are doing very much the same things that Ezekiel warned ancient Israel of. The people of Ezekiel's day did not get away with their sins, and we certainly will not. We can stop the vicious cycle by changing our lives, and doing what God wants us to do — today

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☞ Herod, the Great, attempted to destroy the baby Jesus Christ Himself by ordering

“Man is unjust, but God is just; and finally justice triumphs.”

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

the deaths of all the male children that were in and near Bethlehem. The historian Josephus reported that Herod had a long and grievous fever, a voracious appetite, a difficulty of breathing, swelling of his limbs, loathsome ulcers, violent torments and convulsion; so much that he endeavored to kill himself. The Jews thought his evils to be Divine judgments upon him for his wickedness.

☞ Herod Antipas beheaded John the Baptist and treated Christ contemptuously when He was brought before him. Herod was defeated by Aretas, an Arabian king, and had his dominions taken from him. He was sent into banishment, along with his wife, Herodias.

☞ Herod Agrippa killed James the brother of John, and put Peter in prison. The angel of the Lord soon smote him, and he was eaten of worms and died.

☞ Judas, that betrayed our Lord, died by his own hands.

☞ Pontius Pilate, who condemned Jesus to death, was, not long afterwards, deposed from his office, banished from his country, and died by his own hand.

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Galatians 6:7-8