

Spiritual complacency

(Free yourself from it)

March 15, 2021

ZEPHANIAH 1:12 NLT – (12) I will search with lanterns in Jerusalem's darkest corners to punish those who sit complacent in their sins. They think the LORD will do nothing to them, either good or bad.

The prophet Zephaniah gets right to the point in his prophecy of judgment contained in the first chapter of the book bearing his name. Although he states that the Lord will bring judgment on all creation, he quickly turns his attention to the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem. Zephaniah describes the reason that these inhabitants of Jerusalem were in such a poor spiritual condition.

The people were "stagnant in spirit" and the New King James says that they "are settled in complacency." Speaking either literally or figuratively, it is obvious that the conscience of these people has not been exercised for a long time. When wicked men are allowed to go to long without disturbance they become set in their sensual ways and they sink so far into moral degradation that it is often impossible for them to recover.

The great symptom of their indifference was that they didn't think that the Lord cares, rewards or punishes. To borrow a phrase from the prophet Amos, they are "at ease in Zion," (**Amos 6:1**). They were at ease not because of what they know, but because of what they ignore. These are not atheists in profession; yet are atheists in practice. They don't take the time or effort to deny God in thought and work out a philosophy of it, they just live like it doesn't matter. They live in complete disregard for the Creator who showers them with life and all blessings. So they rest at complete ease in their evil.

God promised to come and search His city and people as with a lamp (or a candle) and reveal all that was going on there. But these men were so spiritually blind that they didn't see their destruction coming. Even though God warned them over and over again, they didn't believe that it would happen. But eventually the day came and God sent an army to destroy them. Such a tragic cost in human life and property could have been avoided if they would have given heed to God's numerous warnings.

God's word and the history of His people teach us that all evil men will be found out and punished. Many of them may ignore the presence of God, but God does not overlook a single one of them for sin cannot go unpunished. Not then, and not now. So examine your own heart and conduct. Realize the light of God searches both your actions and your conscience.

Rather than be complacent, and let your sins stack up, continually have the attitude of David: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way." (**Psalms 139:23-24**)

SCRIPTURE READING

PSALM 10:4

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Complacency is a dead foe of spiritual growth.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"