

We Shall Reap as We have Sown!

Galatians 6:7-8

Introduction.

1. God deals with people & nations, as they have dealt with Him and other people (Prov. 14:34; Psa. 9:17; Rev.18:4-5). Amos 2:4-9, “4 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked: 5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem. 6 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes; 7 That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name: 8 And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god. 9 Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath.”
2. God will not forget our work & labor of love! (Heb. 6:10; Mat. 6:1-6).
3. God also deals with individuals as they sown, behaved, lived, done, etc. (Gal. 6:7-8). “For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head” (Obadiah 15).

Aim: Let us so live in the way that we treat others & in our relationship to God, that He will bless & save us now & in eternity. “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Rev. 22:12).

- I. Haman in the Book of Esther.
 - A. He had dealt deceptively regarding the Jews.
 - B. He had conspired against one of God’s children, Mordecai.
 - C. He had ordered a gallows built whereon to hang Mordecai.
 - D. In the end, He was hung upon those same gallows: Est 7:9-10, “9 And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon. 10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.”
- II. King Herod (Acts 12).
 - A. He persecuted the Lord’s church (Acts 12:1-2).
 - B. He had James the brother of John killed with the sword (Acts 12:2).

- C. He had Peter imprisoned (Acts 12:3-4), but God delivered him (vs. 5-12).
- D. Herod accepted worship (Acts 12:21-22).
- E. God smote him with worms, that he died, a most painful, agonizing, and humiliating death: “21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. 22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. 23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. 24 But the word of God grew and multiplied” (Acts 12:21-24).

III. The King of Assyria (Isaiah 36-37; 2 Kings 19:1-37).

- A. He was a powerful world ruler, destroying many nations.
- B. He came up against all the defenced cities of Judah & took them (Isa. 36:1).
- C. He sent Rabshakeh to Jerusalem to intimidate the people & to cause Judah to surrender to Assyria.
- D. He reproached God’s people in a most ungodly way: Isa.36:12, “But Rabshakeh said, Hath my master sent me to thy master, and to thee, to speak these words? (hath he) not (sent me) to the men that sit upon the wall, to eat their own dung, and to drink their own water with you?” (i.e. urine).
- E. He put Jehovah, the true & living God on the level with the false gods of the nations that he had conquered: “18 Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? 19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arphad? where are the gods of Sepharvaim? and have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? 20 Who are they among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?” (Isa. 36:18-20).
- F. He failed to realize that there is only one true and living God! Isa 45:20-22, “20 Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Isa. 45: 20-22, “20 Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. 21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. 22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”
- G. King Hezekiah of Judah looked to Jehovah God for deliverance (Isa. 37:15-20). “15 And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying, 16 O LORD of hosts,

God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth. 17 Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God. 18 Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries, 19 And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. 20 Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only” (Isaiah 37:15-20).

- H. Isa. 37:27-38, “27 Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up. 28 But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me. 29 Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest. 30 And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof. 31 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward: 32 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this. 33 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. 34 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. 35 For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. 36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. 37 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. 38 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.”

IV. Onesiphorous (2 Tim. 1:16-18).

- A. He is only mentioned here & his house (cf. 2 Tim. 4:19.)—Ephesus.
- B. He would be rewarded according to his good works, in the Judgment (v. 18).
- C. His house (family) would be blessed because of his faithfulness (v. 16; 4:19).

- D. He often “refreshed” the beloved apostle (v. 16). A.T. Robertson, “First aorist active indicative of anapsuchoo (NT:404), an old verb, to cool again, in the Septuagint and Koine often, here only in the New Testament, but anapsuxis (NT:403) in Acts 3:20. In the first imprisonment or the second. If he lost his life for coming to see Paul, it was probably recently during this imprisonment.”
 - E. He was not ashamed of Paul (Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8; Luke 9:26).
 - F. He served Paul in many things at Ephesus (v. 18). Mt. 23:11!
- v. Alexander the Coppersmith (2 Tim. 4:14-15).
- A. Possibly the one in 1 Tim. 1:20. (Acts 19:33?).
 - B. Unlike Onesiphorus, he would receive favor of the Lord, Alexander would be punished by Him! He would receive according to his works (v. 14).
 - C. We should not seek to get even, God will repay! “Rom. 12:17-21, “17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”
 - D. Alexander would be rewarding according to his works. He did one of the worst things one could ever do, and that is withstand the word of God! (v. 15; John 12:48). “WITHSTAND,” anthistemi NT:436, "to set against," is translated "to withstand" in Acts 13:8 (middle voice); in the intransitive 2 nd aorist, active voice, Eph 6:13; 2 Tim 3:8 (1 st part; middle voice in 2 nd part); 4:15. (Vine).
- vi. The Shunamite Woman (2 Kings 4:8-37).
- A. She was hospitable & mindful of God’s true servants: 2 Kings 4:8-10 “8 And it fell on a day, that Elisha passed to Shunem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread. And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread. 9 And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually. 10 Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.”
 - B. God blessed her with a child: “14 And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Gehazi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old. 15 And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door. 16 And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid. 17 And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Elisha had said unto her, according to the time of life” (2 Kings 4:14-17).

- c. Luke 6:38, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Mat. 7:2; Mk. 4:24).

Conclusion.

1. One day we will be repaid by God, according to the life that we have lived on this earth. If we have lived a life of obedience to Him, and love and kindness and well-treatment of our fellow-man, we shall be rewarded accordingly. Yet, if ours has been a life of disobedience and ill-treatment of our fellow-man, we can expect punishment from God Almighty (cf. Mat. 25:31-46).

Col. 3:22-25, "22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: 23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

2. Those who have ignored, neglected, or refused to obey the gospel of Christ, will be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thes. 1:7-9; Heb. 2:3; James 4:17).
3. Those who have turned back from Christ will be rejected! [2 Pet. 2:20-22].
4. Let us therefore, be faithful & obedient! [Reve. 2:10; Heb. 5:8-9].
5. The Plan of Salvation: Acts 18:8; 8:32-39; 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-5. The erring: James 5:16, 19-20; Acts 8:22-24; 1 John 1:9.