

BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL

1. In 722 B.C. Israel had lost their desire and wonderment of the grace of God and therefore they are negative to the Word of God (Isaiah 1).
 - A. They have only one year to survive before the 5th cycle of discipline comes upon them.
 - B. Assyria is on its way to destroy them (721 BC).
2. They are negative to the Divine attitude of God in creation and in the plan that He has for their lives.
3. Positive volition of the believer pursues the knowledge of God (appearance in Bible class, then believing it, applying it) but the negative believer pursues self interests. He does not pursue Bible doctrine but uses doctrine to promote self.
4. The Jews in Isaiah's day refused to assemble to hear Isaiah teach them doctrine in the temple.
 - A. The ones that did not assemble were only making footprints in the court and not allowing doctrine to make imprints in their souls, Isaiah 1:12.
 - B. Believers may assemble to hear but if they do not believe and use doctrine, meditate on the Word, then they are making footprints in the courts only.
 - C. They take notes and gain a lot of information but no wisdom and as a result, in time of pressure they "GROPE ALONG THE WALL." Isaiah 59:10, "We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes; we stumble at noonday as the night; we are in desolate places like dead men."
5. Jesus Christ will use the negative volition of Israel in the Northern Kingdom to destroy them in 721 BC by means of the Assyrians.
 - A. The tribe of Judah will witness the destruction of the Northern Kingdom and changed their attitude towards Isaiah and other prophets before they too were destroyed.
 - B. Therefore the Lord Jesus Christ changed Judah's history from one of certain

judgment to blessing and gave them another 105 years of freedom. In 586 BC Judah was in reversionism and the Lord judged them with the 5th cycle of discipline by the invasion of the Babylonian army.

PRINCIPLE: Your personal history is determined by the attitude you have towards doctrine, the mind of Christ. You will either survive a national disaster through believing God's Word or you will die the sin unto death due to rejection of God's Word.

PRINCIPLE: Bible doctrine either delivers you in times of pressure or causes judgment upon you when doctrine is rejected. The negative believer gropes along the wall in darkness without solutions to his problems.

6. The carnal believer is influenced by human good and evil. He slips into the stages of reversion that inhibit and damage his DESIRE for TRUTH (Isaiah 1:24).
 - A. He tailspins into reversion and deeper spiritual darkness. He will black out his soul with the saturation of evil doctrines and will die the sin unto death.
 - B. In times of national reversionism, the Lord allows some negative believers to live in order that they can persecute grace oriented believers and help them to become strong in the faith.
 - C. The Jerusalem church in the days of Paul were negative to the grace gospel and therefore legalistic. The Lord allowed them to remain until 70 AD so that the positive believers would be tested by their criticisms. That seems to be the only purpose of negative or critical believers in life.

PRINCIPLE: The Lord can keep you alive to grow and glorify Him by using doctrine or He can keep you alive as a curse to others. Criticism and negative volition expressed towards positive believers enables them to apply doctrine and grow to maturity.