

REASONS TO BE SAD FOR THE JEWS (1 Thessalonians 2:15-16)

I. Their reaction to God's messengers.

- A. God sent His only begotten Son to the Jews and their response was to kill Him.
 - 1. The apostles made sure that those present on Pentecost understood what they had done (Acts 2:23).
 - 2. Jesus foretold what they would do in parable form (Matthew 21:37-39).
- B. This was a group of people that had, nearly from their beginning, despised God's messengers.
 - 1. They wanted to kill Moses and go back into Egypt (Exodus 17:1-4).
 - 2. The Jews of Paul's day were simply carrying on the tradition handed down from their forefathers.
- C. They killed the prophets.
 - 1. The word "own" indicates a special relationship.
 - 2. These were men who were sent from the Jews to the Jews, so there was a special relationship between the Jews and the prophets.
 - 3. This did not stop the Jews from killing them.
 - 4. The Lord accused them of this very thing also in parable form (Matthew 21:33-36).
- D. Their history of killing prophets did not end under the Mosaic Law, just as Jesus prophesied (Matthew 23:34-35).
 - 1. One of the spiritual offices of the infant church was that of prophet (Ephesians 4:11-12).
 - 2. The Jews killed many Christians and some of these were prophets.
- E. Not only that, they severely persecuted Paul, his companions and all apostles.
 - 1. They persecuted Paul at Iconium, Derbe, Lystra, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth and Jerusalem.
 - 2. They sought to kill him in Damascus and other places.
- F. One can see who a person truly is when the gospel message is presented to them.
- G. The Jews showed themselves to be murderers and haters of God in reality.

II. Their relationship with God.

- A. The word "please" carries the idea of a relationship having existed before behavior has begun.
- B. As mentioned earlier, the Jews had a unique and tremendous relationship with God.
- C. However, they became displeasing to God by their actions resulting in a fractured relationship with God.
 - 1. Their killing of His Son showed their attitude towards God.
 - 2. Their killing of the prophets showed their attitude towards the

message of God.

- D. The tense of the word indicates a continuous displeasing of God.
 - 1. Their actions didn't stop.
 - 2. They continued on the course of displeasing God.
- E. They did this by being contrary, or antagonistic, to all men.
 - 1. This is specifically referring to Gentiles.
 - 2. There was a deep hatred for Gentiles in the Jewish world.
- F. They showed this hatred by forbidding Jews who had been converted to preach to Gentiles.
 - 1. Though after this letter was written the events recorded in Acts 22:21-22 show their attitude.
 - 2. They felt Paul was not worthy to live because he had preached to the Gentiles.
 - 3. Peter was confronted by Jewish Christians for having preached to Cornelius, recorded for us in Acts 11.
- G. The only way a Gentile could be saved, in their minds at least, was to become a Jew by proselyting.
- H. To go from such a closeness with God to such a rejection of God is mind boggling.
- I. Their relationship with God was adversarial to say the least.
- J. They stood in complete rebellion to God and it destroyed their relationship with Him.

III. The result of their actions and attitudes.

- A. Paul told the Thessalonians that the Jews filled up their sins.
 - 1. The words "fill up" denote the amount of something.
 - 2. In this case, their sins were filled to the brim.
- B. The result of this was that wrath was going to come upon them to the uttermost.
- C. This is an example of something being said to have happened that had not as yet occurred.
 - 1. It was settled in the mind of God that His wrath was going to be poured out on them completely.
 - 2. It was as if the action had already taken place in God's eyes.
- D. It was less than 20 years later that Titus, the Roman general, would lay siege to Jerusalem, killing thousands, and virtually destroying Judaism.
- E. As Barnes noted, the destruction of Jerusalem was an outward expression of the displeasure God had towards the Jews in His omniscient mind.
- F. Their sins resulted in their destruction.