

Woe Unto You

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Amos 5:18, "Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light."

This verse speaks against the arrogance and pride of those who fancied themselves to be righteous and ready to stand before the Lord. How many times has God shown that he hates the prideful heart of man? No man is righteous before God and if we think that we're so good we will be in for a bad shock when standing before the Lord. Our faith and obedience as we live for God, by trusting in Jesus is how we become acceptable unto God.

Reading scripture we can see how those who were close to God bowed in awe when the Lord appeared, or sent an angel. Man realized his unworthiness in the presence of God and even Daniel fainted at the sight. At our best we come short of the glory of God and without his grace we would have no chance at all of seeing heaven. We can only be right with God and ready to go through his wondrous grace and mercy.

We will leave this life and see the Lord when he is ready for us and not before. He is the master and we that believe and obey are his servants. It is the master that decides when his servants come or go, not the servant. Let us be content to do what we can as long as we can in his service. To presume that we have done enough, suffered enough, and are ready to meet the Lord is to take too much on ourselves. That is a dangerous attitude to have for it points to pride and confidence in self instead of in the Lord.

While we may desire and look forward to heaven we know that we will get there at the right time. The Lord will decide not only when his children are called home, but who is really his children and ready to walk with him forever. Remember this, if we want to walk with him in heaven we have to walk with him here in this life. We can't live a life of sin here and expect to go to heaven.

Consider the Pharisees that opposed Jesus. Do you think that they would have thought that they were ready to go to heaven? They thought that they were closer to God than anybody else. **Isaiah 65:5** is said to be the creed of the Pharisees. It would seem that some of them, at least, did think that they were better than other people. To have such an attitude is to have an ar-

rogant way that is against the humble spirit that God calls for in his people.

Remember when Peter told the Lord that he would not deny him? Jesus said that he would, along with the rest of the apostles. Peter said that he would never do that and would even die for him. He was trusting in himself and thought he was ready to do it too. When the time came he failed for his faith was in the wrong place. He wept and was ashamed of himself. Those who feel that they are strong, good, righteous and ready to meet the Lord are following the footsteps of Peter. The end of such pride is to fail just as Peter did.

Throughout my life I have heard people say, "Pride goes before a fall." It is all through the bible that God resists the proud, self-righteous people. This was why God said by the prophet Amos that they would see darkness rather than light on the Day of the Lord. The Jews thought that since they were the chosen people that they had nothing to worry about. They were counting on who they were, not what they were. As they looked at themselves they thought that being children of Abraham they were pleasing to God. However the Lord looked at them and saw a nation that was disobedient and full of pride. **Proverbs 16:18** "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT

WITH PHARAOH TERRIFIED BY A PLAGUE, WHICH HIS PRIEST TELLS HIM IS DUE TO ANGERING ABRAM'S GOD BY TAKING SARAI AWAY FROM HIM, PHARAOH NOW SENDS IN HASTE FOR ABRAM....

...WHO IS HUSTLED, IN THE EARLY DAWN, TO THE PALACE BY PHARAOH'S GUARDS....

WHAT IS WRONG? WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

...HERE AT THE PALACE, ABRAM IS BROUGHT INTO PHARAOH'S WRATHFUL PRESENCE, QUITE BEWILDERED....

...HIS BEWILDERMENT INCREASES AS THE PHARAOH LAUNCHES INTO A TIRADE....

WHAT HORRIBLE THING HAST THOU DONE TO ME?! WHY DIDST THOU SAY THE WOMAN WAS YOUR SISTER, WHEN SHE REALLY WAS YOUR WIFE—I MIGHT HAVE MADE HER MY WIFE AND BEEN DESTROYED BY YOUR GOD! NOW, GO! LEAVE MY LAND!!

...AFTER ALL, ABRAM HAD NO DESIRE TO LOSE HIS WIFE—IT WAS PHARAOH WHO TOOK HER INTO HIS PALACE, BUT NOW....

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