

OLD TESTAMENT TIMES
BROOKLYN
TABERNACLE
BIBLE STUDIES

PROPHECY SMOOTH THINGS
 Jeremiah 26

"The Lord is my Light and my Salvation, whom shall I fear?"—Psalm 57:1.

OUR last study related to the times of King Josiah and his reformation. At about that time the Prophet Jeremiah began to speak in the name of the Lord. Josiah was succeeded by his son, who proved himself another bad son of a good father; and we remark here that between the ages of twelve and eighteen would appear to be the time when the majority of boys reach some mental decision respecting the future which has much to do with their after lives. So far as we remember, the majority of notable great men have confessed to reaching a decision of character during this period. Likewise it is said that the majority of criminals make their start in evil-doing at this early age.

We urge again upon parents and guardians the importance of this period in human life and the wisdom of giving proper care and counsel that the blossoming manhood and womanhood may be directed in proper channels and be a blessing to themselves and others.

Prophecy Against Jerusalem

Under the evil rule of King Jehoiakim, Jeremiah, under the Lord's guidance, foretold the coming destruction of the city and temple. The effect of such a prophecy should have led the people to self-examination, prayer and fasting, and a full return to loyalty to God. But, according to Jeremiah's account, it was a time of great moral delinquency. He pictures a terrible condition of the people—a prevalence of dishonesty, of slander, of murder, adultery, false swearing and open licentiousness.



The priests led the people in an angry attack upon the Prophet. He was arrested, charged with speaking evil of his city and declaring its forthcoming destruction. How foolish! Could merely the Prophet's declaration bring the thing to pass? And if he were the Lord's Prophet could their assault upon him turn aside God's purpose?

It is noteworthy that it was the priests and the false prophets who, on this occasion, called for the death of a true Prophet. And alas! this has not infrequently been the case. Nearly all the persecutions of Jesus and His Apostles and followers throughout the Age have come from professed servants of God. What heart searching this should bring to everyone of us lest, peradventure, we should be similarly overtaken in a fault and be found fighting against God, and should bring upon ourselves severe condemnation.

Let Us Not Fight Against God

As Jeremiah told them of the time of trouble nearing, so some today are declaring that the greatest time of trouble ever known in the world's history is probably but a few years off—that it will mean the most terrible anarchy, the only relief from which will be the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom in power and great glory. There are some today so foolish as to think that the trouble could be put off or avoided altogether by silencing those who call attention to the Word of the Lord (Daniel xii, 1). Let us not be found fighting against God. He is mighty and will prevail, and all of His purposes, He assures us, will surely be accomplished.

Jeremiah impressed the princes of his people. He reaffirmed every word he had uttered, and declared himself ready to die if need be; but he urged reformation. The princes, more just than the priests and false prophets, acquitted Jeremiah although his words condemned them. So



It has been at various times in the history of the truth; if it had not been for the moderation of the civil power, many a reformer would have been put to death.

Every child of God, however, faithful to his consecration, is a servant of righteousness and should be a foe to sin in its every form. Such must be prepared for the finger of scorn and the lip of sarcasm and slander. Such may take to themselves the words of our text and rejoice, saying, "The Lord is my Light and my Salvation; whom shall I fear?"

These trials would evidence that God found them worthy of shaping and polishing for His service, whereas others without such persecutions would have every reason to doubt that they were in preparation for the Kingdom. Such should rejoice and be very glad. They should realize that there will be different grades of honor and dignity in the Kingdom and that the more they suffer for righteousness' sake, the higher and greater will be their reward when all these afflictions are past.

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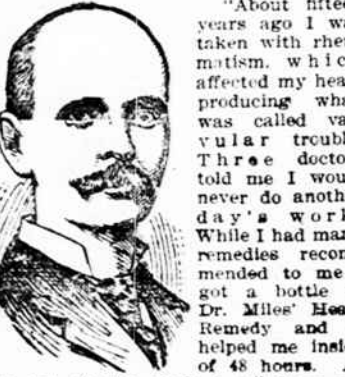
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