

ISRAEL'S WICKED LEADERS

By Keith Greer

"Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them."
{Ezekiel 22:26}

Whenever one reads the history of the children of Israel, one can see vividly many things leading towards God's displeasure with them. Yet, one point I believe is overshadowing all others – Lack of leadership!

Remember God's word unto them? "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?" {Deuteronomy 4:7} Truly, these people were blest beyond any people on the earth. What greater leader could one have than Almighty God?

So the lack of leadership was not at the top. Where was the problem then? "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. " {Ezekiel 34:2-4}

God had given directions to the shepherds to lead and guard the flocks. The priests, leaders that God gave to lead the nation, in the laws and commandments that He had given them. Yet, in this task they failed miserably! What was the result? "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me;" {Hosea 4:6}

God blessed them above all other nations with a good law, good land, and good promises. Yet, in the end they gave it all up. Why? One reason again – lack of leadership! Sad ending to the story isn't it?

Truly, it gets sadder. Today, God's people are in danger of making the same mistakes of old. Why? Lack of leadership! Let me explain, if I may.

Reading thru the many writings of my brethren, I'm quite worried. Here are some suggestions concerning preachers approaches to be successful today offered by many: "Positive preaching", "Preaching the man, instead of the plan", "Stay away from controversial subjects", and "unity in diversity teaching". We are not heeding and learning from the mistakes of the past!

Preachers need to take heed and preach the whole counsel of God! "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the

whole counsel of God." {Acts 20:26,27} Preaching needs a balanced approach—negative and positive. Preach what they need, not what they want! Can we do less? Dare we do less?

Looking at the world it's getting more wicked not less. Churches drifting into error and following the "examples" of the religions of the world are becoming more prevalent. How can less distinct Bible preaching be the answer? Sadly, I've attended meetings in the last few years where men might use two or three scriptures and the rest of the time is filled with fanciful stories. Some are more concerned about the time than the content. What those lost in sin need, what the members need to be edified, is the pure simple gospel of Jesus Christ! Preach it brother! ***