

## Cause & Effect

### I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Middle School Camp. Church Baptism. Wave Waterpark.
- B. Tanzania Update: Dan & I a 3-day pstr conf in Dar. A 1 day conf up north at an AG/BC.
  1. Steve & Shawna Nauert did an awesome job, setting up & leading our team... on top of all the businesses/micro-loans etc they set up & checked on. Dennis Strittmatter joined us.

### II. Slide5 Intro:

- A. As chapter 4 was the cause of sin, now ch.5 is the effect (judgment).
- B. Behind the scenes... a little history of what was happening at this time in their history.
  1. Slide6a,b Sryo-Ephraimite War (732bc). Ephraim (northern Israel) wants to take down Judah's king (Ahaz)...so they align with Syria for help. So Judah makes a union with the dominant Assyria.
    - a) So Assyria came to Judah's rescue, relieving the pressure, by attacking Syria.
    - b) Assyria captured Damascus/Syria (732bc). 10 years later captured Ephraim (722bc).

### III. Slide7 THEIR DEEDS (1-3)

- A. Priests, the People, & Political Power heads.
- B. (3) I know Israel & it's actions (the whole northern kingdom)...but it does not know Him. (4).

### IV. Slide8 THEIR DEEDS KEPT THEM FROM GOD (4-7)

- A. (4-7) NLT *Your deeds won't let you return to your God.*
  1. They are being held by their deeds, like the 2 jaws of a vice.
  2. Slide9a So that's what God meant way back in Ex.23:33 of the importance of why the *pagan people groups* needed to be gone from the land He was leading them into... *They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.* (caught in a snare)
  3. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the LORD.

- B. **Slide9b** Why do you think that **their deeds** didn't permit them to return to God?
1. Because they were still living in sin.
- C. **Slide9c** What do we mean then when we say, *come just as you are*?
1. We infer that **repentance** from old deeds is part of the equation. **Come, in the spirit of repentance, not come while keeping your sin.**
- D. Here starts the downward spiral.
1. **Their deeds** kept them from God (4). **So** God **withdrew Himself** from them(6) And **God would wait there** (in His place) **until** they would admit their guilt (15).
- E. **Slide9d** (6a) This was **a hypocritical quest** through sacrificial ritual/duty.
1. **i.e. with their flocks & herds.**
- F. (6b) **They shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find him** - The people mistook Yahweh's blessing for **that of their idols**, **so** He will withdraw that blessing.
1. Great reminder for us to **seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.** Is.55:6
  2. **Rich Mullins's song Hard to Get** speaks to **the silence of God.**
    - a) Do you remember when you lived down here where we all scrape.  
To find the faith to ask for daily bread?  
Did you forget about us after you had flown away?  
Well I memorized every word you said.  
Still I'm so scared, I'm holding my breath,  
While you're up there **just playing hard to get.** [He's not *playing hard to get* here!]
  3. All of God's saints, if allowed to live long enough, are led into the lonely, disorienting, weary wilderness. **And** while there, we lament. And since laments are often better sung than said, it's always been the poets and songwriters who help us most.
    - a) Job said, *I cry to you for help and you do not answer me; I stand, and you only look at me.* (30:20)
    - b) King David said, *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.* Psalm 22:1,2
- G. Sometimes God plays **the waiting Father.**

1. Can you think of a NT example of that? (prodigal son story) The father *waiting, back at his house*. But, as soon as the son appears on the horizon the father reveals his heart in *running to* him with rapid forgiveness.

H. Slide9f **God withdrawals** that we may **want** Him.

1. Have you ever felt God was **withdrawing** from you (or was being **quiet**) in order to help you **value Him more?** (of course *He'll never leave you or forsake you*)
2. We've all said, *you don't know how much you miss something until it is gone*.
  - a) Home from the mission field...it's Mexican Food, In-n-Out, cold milk, or ice cubes.
  - b) On a more serious note, *the death of a loved one*.

I. *A new moon will devour them* - probably indicates that Israel's observance of *new moon festivals in honor of Baal* will lead to their downfall.

V. Slide10 **THE LION, THE WRATH, AND THE WARDROBE (8-15)** *Narnian title*

A. Slide11a **THE WARDROBE** (moth) (8-12)

B. Slide11b (8) This verse reads like a battle cry.

1. All 3 cities were part of the tribal territory of Benjamin. (*Beth Avon/house of wickedness*, most likely a derogatory name for *Bethel/house of God*)

C. Slide11c (9) *I make known what is sure* - (*sure* = reliable to depend on) *He speaks what is reliable*.

D. Slide11d (12) To sinning Israel God is *like a moth*. To sinning Judah God is *like rottenness*.

1. Why do you think God likens His judgement/wrath to *a moth* or to *rot*?

- a) Slide11e This **Moth** is known for **destroying** clothes. Job on a bad day said, *Man decays like a rotten thing, Like a garment that is moth-eaten*. 13:28
- b) Slide11f **Rot** usually is in reference to *slow progressive decay*.

E. Slide12a **THE LION** (13-14a) *photo cred Dan*

F. (13) Where did Israel go to try to find a *substitute* for God's help?

1. Slide12b **Assyria** – Can you identify your own **Assyria in your life?** Where do **you** turn to, to find help? (your friends, your \$, your *can do* attitude)

2. Slide12c Acts 26:20 (Paul explaining to Agrippa what he was sharing w/Jews & Gentiles) *...that they should **repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.***
  3. Slide12d Martin Luther, *That little bird has chosen his shelter; above it are the stars and the deep heaven of worlds; yet he is rocking himself to sleep without caring for tomorrow's lodging, calmly clinging to his little twig and leaving God to think for him.*
  4. Slide12e *The more we **depend on God, the more dependable we find He is.***
- G. (14a) From moth to raging **Lion**. *A Lion because of its fierceness.*
- H. Slide13a **THE WRATH** (14b-15)
- I. Slide13b (15) Here the Lion retreats to His Lair - **Share**, *missed kill on Safari* (returned to her lair at end).
  - J. Slide13c **Till** - is a great word. ***Till** they acknowledge their offense. **Till** they seek My face. **Till** they seek Me.*
    1. Ps.86:5 *For You, Lord, are good, and **ready to forgive**, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.*
  - K. Slide13d God **withdraws** so that we may ***realize** what we are missing & **want Him to come back** to us again.*
    1. Not that God *always* works this way, **but** we see sometimes He uses affliction in our lives to draw us unto Him.
      - a) *It is God's merciful waves that wash us upon the rock of our salvation.*
  - L. **Affliction** = pain, suffering, any cause of suffering. (even emotional)
  - M. Slide14a **When afflicted...**
    1. **Pray for Personal Revival.** Ps.119:107 *I am afflicted very much; **Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.***
    2. Slide14b **Remember His Faithfulness.** Ps.119:75 *I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in **faithfulness** You have afflicted me.*
    3. Slide14c **Pray for His Knowledge.** Ps.119:71 *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may **learn** Your statutes.*

4. Slide14d Pray for **Obedience**. Ps.119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.*
- N. Slide15 Spurgeon, *Losses & adversities are frequently the means which the great Shepherd uses to **fetch home** His wondering sheep.*
- O. If the chosen soul won't come to God **full-handed**, it shall come **empty**. If we fail to honor Him on *the pinnacle of riches*, He will bring us to *the valley of poverty*.
- P. Recognize today the loving hand which *chastens* and say, *I will arise & go unto my Father*
- Q. Is.7:9 *If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.* Faith Topic