

Advantages

Ponder: What advantages do you have?

Scripture: "For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required" (Lk. 12:48, NKJV).

The Lord called the Northern Kingdom "backsliding Israel" and described her idolatry in graphic terms: "She has gone up on every high mountain and under every green tree, and there played the harlot" (Jer. 3:6). As a result, He "put her away and (gave) her a certificate of divorce" (v. 8a). What could be worse?

Yet the Southern Kingdom ("her treacherous sister Judah) bore even greater condemnation for the same sins (v. 8b). Why was Judah worse than Israel? For several reasons: 1) Judah saw the consequences of Israel's unfaithfulness as God allowed Assyria to take the northern kingdom into captivity. She should have learned from their mistakes. 2) Judah had a few good kings who tried to restore true religion. 3) Judah still had the Levitical priesthood, the Temple, and the Ark of the Covenant, all of which reminded her of her obligations to the one true God. Instead, she continued headlong into the same unfaithfulness which led to her own captivity in Babylon!

What advantages do you and I have? We have God's complete will revealed, confirmed, and recorded, translated into a language we understand. We have freedom to worship as God's word directs. We have education enabling us to read and study the Scriptures for ourselves. We have material wealth sufficient to own multiple copies of the Bible. Need I go on?

Are we making good use of these advantages? Let us not be like treacherous Judah, behaving like the wicked world around us while ignoring the blessings God has provided! Remember, to whom much is given, from him much will be required.

Hymn: "God Is So Good"

Prayer: Father in heaven, we thank You for blessing us so richly. Help us, we pray, not to take these things for granted, but to use our blessings to serve You and to help those around us to come to know You. In Jesus' name, Amen.