The Downfall of Israel

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INTRODUCTION

- Trying to see what's been done in the past, avoid mistakes, and replicate the successes.
- The pages of the Old Testament are full of Israel's failure to live up to that covenant that they had with God.
- We fail miserably if when we look at Old Testament Israel, we don't think of ourselves. That's us. We're God's chosen people.

1 They Forsook the Law of God

Isaiah 30:9; Hosea 4:6; Hebrews 5:11–14

- Law is an embodiment of the lawgiver. When we look at a law, it tells us about the one who gave that law.
- That this is a rebellious people, lying children who will not hear the law of the Lord.
- Although maybe it was read in their hearing, and maybe even they could quote portions of that, they failed to make it a part of who they were.
- My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.
- Is God's law, God's word a part of your daily life? Does it truly guide and direct everything that you do? If not, we like Israel will fail.

2 Failure to Worship God as God Demanded

Isaiah 1:10–20; Malachi 1:7–10; Psalm 89:7

- To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to me, says the Lord.
- God will never accept our worship if it is not in accordance with our everyday life.
- The second lesson is that our worship must be offered sincerely.
- Who is there even among you who would shut the doors so that you would not kindle fire on my altar in vain?
- God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints and to be held in reverence by all those who are around him. That's worship.
- Worship at its very base is an action of the heart. And Israel failed to see that.

3 Idolatry: They Put Something Else Above God

Jeremiah 25:4–9

- You want to know why that happened? One word. Idolatry.
- Because you have not heard my words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, says the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, my servant.
- Paul would say covetousness is idolatry.

- Throwing off the shackle of the condemning form of idolatry demands that we accept the fact that there is someone outside of myself who gets the right to tell me what I can do.
- We live in a culture who is bowing down at the idol of self.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Will you listen to the word of God this morning and worship at His altar and not your own?**

MY NOTES