
Sunday, September 10, 2017
Did You Know?

The Unthinkable

Rarely do we hear of the overtaking of a nation by another. It happened multiple times in Europe during Hitler's campaign. More recently, in 1990 Saddam Hussein tried to annex Kuwait, which led to the Gulf War. It would be unthinkable to imagine Canada or the USA or even a smaller nation in Central America being attacked and overtaken by an enemy. Of course, world history shows us that that unfortunate scenario has happened far too many times. National boundaries have been moved over and over again.

In the times of the kings of the Old Testament, it would have been impossible to fathom Israel/Judah and its capital Jerusalem to be overtaken by a foreign power. The Jews were God's chosen people. The inheritance of their land was part of God's promise to their ancestors. King David had established Jerusalem to be the nation's political and religious capital. He defeated all enemies and brought peace to the nation. Jerusalem, Zion was where the king's palace was, but even more importantly it was the place of the great temple of God that Solomon had built. Generation after generation, king after king, Israel felt secure believing God would never allow enemies to take over their land, let alone, overthrow their great capital, but the unthinkable, the unbelievable happened. Read the account:

¹So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. ²The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. ³By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat. (2 Kings 25:1-3)

Jerusalem had fallen! Can you even imagine similar headlines today? "London, Washington, Toronto has fallen." Why did God allow his city, his king, his temple, and his people to fall into the hands of the enemy? The answer is simple: SIN. God's highest concern is for his own glory, that his name would be made great among the nations. Israel had failed to do what they were created and called to do. They began to worship the foreign idols of their neighbors and practiced injustice among their own people. They refused to heed the word of their prophets and refused to repent and turn back to God.

What can we learn from this? Oh, so many things! 1) God is holy. 2) God will not be mocked. 3) God will not let sin go unpunished. 4) God calls us to devotion, love and obedience. 5) God judges, yet forgives -- for us, through the cross. 6) There will come a judgment that'll make the fall of Jerusalem look like the toppling of a sand castle. 7) We must avoid spiritual pride at all costs, and walk humbly before God. 8) Our mission is to call the nations to repent, turn to their judge and receive his gracious Gospel.

Soli Deo Gloria

Pastor Peter