

- Editorial -

Must It Happen Again?

"O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee?" (Hosea 6:4)
 "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim?" (Hosea 11:8)
 Here is the sob of a broken-hearted God over the sins of a disobedient nation, Israel, the chosen nation of God, had wandered from the law of Jehovah.

Listen to the story:

"There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the Land."

"By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood."

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

"As they were increased, so they sinned against me."

"They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity."

"They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains; and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good."

"Ephraim is joined to idols."

Such conditions were a grief unto God. His people had turned their backs upon his love. Violence and corruption filled the whole land. Thus God cried, "O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee?" While his love yearned for fellowship his justice cried out for judgment.

The warning of impending doom was loud and clear:

"Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Bethaven, after thee, O Benjamin. Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be."

"Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me."

"For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind."

(See Hosea, chapters 4-8)

Hosea expressed God's desire to redeem in 7:1 when he says, "When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered." God was willing to forgive, but his forgiveness was rejected. God said, (14:4-5) "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon."

The conclusion to the story is a sad one. Israel did not repent. Justice and judgment began to flow (See Amos 5:24). The "whirlwind" of God's wrath was furious. In 721 B.C., under King Hoshea, Israel fell to the Assyrians under Sargon II. Samaria, Israel's capital city was destroyed, and the history of ancient Israel, the northern part of the Divided Kingdom, ceased forever.

If All That We Say

If all that we say in a single day
 With never a word left out,
 Were printed each night in clear black and white
 'Twould prove queer reading, no doubt.
 And then just suppose, ere our eyes we would close
 We must read the whole record through;
 Then ought we sigh, and wouldn't we try
 A great deal less talking to do?
 And I more than half think
 That many a kink
 Would be smoother in life's tangled thread
 If half that we say in a single day were left forever
 unsaid.

—S. S. Banner

DR. H. H. HALLEY, NOW 90 YEARS OF AGE

Dr. Henry H. Halley, author of the famous Halley's Bible Handbook, of which there are now more than one million and a quarter copies in print, will celebrate his 90th birthday on April 10th of this year. Dr. Halley has devoted his life to the writing and distributing of this popular handbook, which is now the companion and guide for more than one million Bible readers.

Throughout the years, Dr. Halley has kept his Bible Handbook up-to-date, enlarging it with each edition. Now in its 23rd edition, what started out as a 16 page booklet 40 years ago has grown to a volume of 968 pages, containing an abbreviated Bible commentary, a summary of the books of the Bible, a resume of Bible history, a section of selected Bible verses, and information on many other Bible related subjects, including archaeology and church history.

Halley's Bible Handbook was born almost by accident. Forced to leave the pastorate because of ill health, Dr. Halley used his spare moments to memorize entire books of the Bible. One Sunday morning, after being invited to fill the pulpit in a church just outside Kalamazoo, Michigan, Dr. Halley determined to speak only words from God—none of his own. Decisively and without hesitation he quoted from memory the Sermon on the Mount as well as other related gospel passages. The response to this unique presentation was spontaneous and far-reaching—the beginning of a nation-wide ministry.

Before reciting the Scripture, Dr. Halley made it a practice to give background instruction regarding the Bible passages he was about to recite. To facilitate matters, Dr. Halley eventually compiled this information into a 16 page booklet, "Suggestions for Bible Study," of which he gave out 10,000 copies during its first year of publication. The next year he expanded the booklet to 32 pages and distributed an additional 10,000. From this small beginning the volume has grown to its present size, a veritable library of Bible knowledge within the covers of one book.

Despite his advanced age, Dr. Halley is still vitally interested in Bible study and related subjects. He and Mrs. Halley now make their home in a delightful Chicago lake front apartment building, designed especially for senior citizens. It is a stimulating experience to meet and talk with them about the history and present ministry of Halley's Bible Handbook.

The King's Highway

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