

Iniquity Abounds

by Wayne Goff

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matthew 24:12 KJV)

Jesus made this statement concerning the city of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. when it was destroyed by the Roman army. The Jewish people had become horrifically sinful, and seemed not to realize it! When John the Baptist came preaching repentance to the Jewish nation, he observed many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism. He called them a “*brood of vipers*” (Matt. 3:7) and asked them “*Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*” In God’s typical fashion of longsuffering, John even encouraged these “snakes” to bear fruits worthy of repentance (Matt. 3:8), or else their nation would be destroyed!

“And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire”(Matt. 3:10). **The axe is laid to the root of the trees?** What does *that* mean? When an axe is laid to the root of a tree, it is to cut it down and burn it up! Sometimes an axe is used to prune the dead limbs from a tree. But John’s analogy is that these “*unfruitful*” Jews are going to be destroyed if they do not repent! **Strong language, by a strong preacher, needed for a time calling for a strong warning!**

One wonders how long our nation will stand with so many abounding in the sins of the flesh — rampant fornication and adultery, homosexuality, transgenderism, etc.? God is abundantly longsuffering, but when the day comes for America to be punished, it will be swift, certain and complete. I hope and pray that I do not live long enough to see that day coming. ***“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people”*** (Proverbs 14:34).

Dear reader, do you know what specific sins the Bible condemns? Can you clearly define the “***works of the flesh***” in Galatians 5:19-21? If you cannot, then how do you know whether or not you are sinning? It is high time to awake out of sleep!

332901