

What Will Destroy the Church?

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest unto me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God” (Hosea 4:6).

As the Prophet Hosea wrote, concerning the cause of Israel’s destruction, i.e., “destroyed for lack of knowledge,” he also identified the cause of their lack of knowledge, saying, “thou hast rejected knowledge.”

Israel’s lack of knowledge did not come from unavailability: it was not because they had to travel extensively to obtain it. Moses said, “For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not too hard for thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, and make us to hear it, that we may do it?” (Deuteronomy 30:11-13) Hosea said, because, “thou hast rejected knowledge.”

When an individual goes before a judge of the land, the judge will render a verdict based upon the law, not based upon an individual’s rejection of available knowledge: law requires that those under the law validate their rights, or obligations, and so it is with the laws of God. When Jesus was being tempted, he said, “It is written.”

When Jehovah appealed to Jerusalem, through the Prophet Jeremiah, he said, “To whom shall I speak and testify, that they may hear? Behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of Jehovah is become unto them a reproach: they have no delight in it” (Jeremiah 6:10-11).

Solomon, the son of David, personifies wisdom, and issues a warning to those who despise her, saying, “Wisdom crieth aloud in the street; She uttereth her voice in the broad places; She crieth in the chief place of concourse; At the entrance of the gates, In the city, she uttereth her words: How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And scoffers delight them in scoffing, And fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: Behold, I will pour out my spirit upon you; I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man hath regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, And would none of my reproof: I also will laugh in [the day of] your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as a storm, And your calamity cometh on as a whirlwind; When distress and anguish come upon you. Then will they call upon me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me: For that they hated

knowledge, And did not choose the fear of Jehovah: They would none of my counsel; They despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, And be filled with their own devices. For the backsliding of the simple shall slay them, And the careless ease of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell securely, And shall be quiet without fear of evil” (Proverbs 1:20-33).

Israel “rejected knowledge” therefore they were destroyed for a lack thereof. David said, “Teach me, O Jehovah, the way of thy statutes; And I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; Yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart” (Psalms 119:33-34). Do you have a longing for Jehovah to teach you?

Remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah, saying, “Therefore as the tongue of fire devoureth the stubble, and as the dry grass sinketh down in the flame, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust; because they have rejected the law of Jehovah of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 5:24). Ret