

Matthew 18:7 The Judgment of God on an Offending World

Introduction: In this text Jesus speaks of the judgment of God on an offending world. The kind of offense Jesus speaks of here is the offense committed against the believer in Christ. See V. 6.

I. The world as an offender - "because of offenses."

- A. It is characteristic of the whole world to persecute Christians.
 - 1. In Noah's day, the world ridiculed Noah.
 - 2. In Abraham's day the world persecuted Abraham and Isaac.
 - 3. In the day of the old testament prophets, Israel persecuted the prophets.
 - 4. In the day of Jesus, the world rejected Him and crucified Him.
 - 5. Jesus would have His disciples to know that they would suffer.
 - 6. Jesus has now gone and all the anger of an unbelieving world is turned on the Christian.
- B. It is not just a few who would offend, but virtually the world.
 - 1. It should come as no surprise when a non-Christian nation declares a "holy war" against Christians as Ayatollah Khomeini did in Iran.
 - 2. It should come as no surprise when any communist country closes its borders to missionaries, imprisons church leaders, and persecutes Christians within her borders.
 - 3. It should come as no surprise when, even in so-called Christian nations, many government officials use their office to persecute Christians. (Last year in United States one sheriff brazenly padlocked a church and arrested the pastor.)
 - 4. It should come as no surprise that the TV and movies belittle the Christian and makes heroes out of villains.
 - 5. It should come as no surprise when unbelievers in the press and news media attack the Christian.
 - 6. It should come as no surprise when the so-called intellectuals in education attempt to use the school system to undermine the influence of Christian parents.
- C. It may come as a surprise to learn that some of the bitterest persecution of Christians has come from some who likewise claim to be Christians. (Hold to heretical view.)
- D. The declared goal of the communists, secular humanists, and certain other radical groups is to wipe Christianity off the face of the globe. (And these are not small insignificant powerless groups.)

II. The world to be judged - "Woe to the world."

- A. The world is not going to get better and better until it becomes a paradise; it is going to get worse and worse until God destroys it.
- B. The day will surely come when the world is going to be destroyed, II Peter 3:10.
- C. Woe to the world because of the coming of the great tribulation that will come before the end of the world.
- D. Woe to the world because the end of the world will come.
- E. Woe to the individual who rejects the Christ and persecutes the Christian. (text)
 - 1. Woe to him because he will suffer ten fold for every pain he brings the Christian.
 - 2. Woe to him because he fails to repent and believe the gospel. (What a tragic failure!)
 - 3. Woe to him because he will be shut out of heaven.
 - 4. Woe to him because he will burn in hell.

Conclusion:

- 1. Are you saved? If not it is time now to turn to Jesus and trust Him before it is too late.
- 2. If you are saved, are you ready to suffer for Jesus? You should be. He suffered for you. Join with this church and live for Jesus. You will be glad you did.

Preached at Pleasant Hill M.B.C. 3-10-85 A.M.