

MISSING GOD'S BEST **(Exodus 19:5-6)**

Matthew 7:7-8 It seems that everything in this natural world we live in goes from good to bad, and from bad to worse. Nothing ever gets much better without a lot of effort on our part. The same is true not only in the natural world but in the spiritual world also.

Jeremiah 29:12-13 When the Lord spoke these words Israel had been devastated. Jerusalem had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and most of the nation was taken into captivity to Babylon. Thoughts of peace and prosperity was surely the last thing on their mind. Why did this happen?

GOD'S BEST

Jeremiah 29:11 God has wonderful thoughts and expectations for His people. Whether it is Israel or the church God is always wanting the best for us. However, there must be obedience on our part.

Matthew 6:31-33 God promises to take care of our needs whether it is food, clothing or shelter the promise is sure if we will put Him and His program at the top of our priority list.

Philippians 4:6-7 We have a great promise of having an inner peace throughout our lives that no lost person can have regardless of our financial or physical state if we will pray and give Him thanks and not keep our problems to ourselves but bring them all to Him.

Psalms 84:11 What a promise from God who cannot lie!! He promises that He will not withhold any good thing from us if we would just walk according to His will and not our own.

Ephesians 1:11 Because we are His children through faith in Christ there is an inheritance waiting for all those who belong to Him and it cannot be taken away by anyone at any time.

Hebrews 6:10 Not only does God have an inheritance for all His people but there are rewards (bonuses) that can be won by all believers that will serve Him with the right motives.

LOSING GOD'S BEST

Jeremiah 5:21-25 God is speaking of His people living like the world. No fear of God and taking advantage of people in every way possible. Sin, no matter how small or large keeps us from God's best.

Psalms 81:10-12; Proverbs 3:5-6 We see Israel as well as the church of today having God offer us His best but His people would not listen to Him and went their own way according to their hearts desires.

Proverbs 13:15; Hebrews 12:6 God's ways don't always please our carnal mind, however, when we follow the course of our own self will we will discover the loss of God's best and be chastened as well.

Luke 12:47-48; Revelation 3:17-19 The most obvious reason believers have missed God's best for their lives is because we take God for granted: freedom, health, wealth and security as we live in this blessed country. However, most believers have lived for self and pleasure instead of living for God.

II Chronicles 16:9 The experience of Israel's King Asa could be the story of our family or our country. God wants to give us His best when we do right but Asa did foolishly and lost God's best.

II Chronicles 14:1-4 Just like Asa America had a good start, just like Asa many believers start well.

II Chronicles 16:1-8 During a crisis time Asa relied on his experiences, his smarts, and his wealth in order to get himself and Israel out of trouble instead of relying on God. Asa lost God's best for Israel.

II Chronicles 16:12-13 King Asa never got over being chastened by God and did not repent or serve the Lord until he died a crippled old man. Just as Asa lost God's best for himself and for Israel our country and also we as individuals will never get the best God has for us until we repent of all our sin and come to God in a humble contrite way.