

## **THE BED IS TOO SHORT AND THE COVER IS TOO NARROW**

*Billy Bland*

"Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which is in Jerusalem. Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves: Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place. And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning shall it pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report. **For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it**" (Isaiah 28:14-20).

Israel had departed from God and was comfortable in her sins. God sent a warning by the prophet Isaiah to warn Israel relative to their sinful condition. They had made a "covenant with death" that the destruction that was coming would not affect them. God, however, had "disannulled" their covenant. Relative to their condition, God said; "For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it" (Isaiah 28:20).

The bed was too short and the cover was too narrow! Have you ever tried to sleep on a bed that was so short you could not stretch yourself upon it? Have you ever tried to cover yourself with covering that was too narrow? Now, have you ever had both of these conditions at the same time? It would be a cramped and cold situation! Judgement was coming upon Israel. Within in few decades of Isaiah's prophesy, Assyria came against Israel and took them into captivity.

There is another judgement day coming. This is the final judgement in which all the nations will be gathered together before the judgement seat of Christ. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matthew 25:31). "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2Corinthians 5:10). Many will realize their bed is too short and their cover is too narrow. Who are some of these?

### **THOSE THAT DO NOT BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Atheists do not believe in God and consequently do not believe Christ is God. God had the Psalmist to write; "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Psalm 14:1).

Many of the Jews, though they believed in God, did not believe in Christ. John wrote; "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11). In fact, they

had Christ crucified. But Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God! Their bed is too short and their cover is too narrow.

### **FAITH ONLY ADVOCATES**

Many are the preachers who tell people believe in Christ and accept Him into their hearts and they will be saved. While the Bible does tell us that **faith** is essential to salvation, it is not the only condition for the remission of sins. Jesus tells us that we must also "**repent**." He said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). One must **confess** Christ, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10). And, one must "**be baptized**" in order to be saved. The Bible records, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost"(Acts 2:38). Jesus says; "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Those that have not obeyed what the Lord has said will find that their bed is too short and their cover is too narrow.

### **NOMINAL CHRISTIANS**

"Nominal Christians" are those who are Christians in name only. Such "serve" Christ when it is convenient for them. These have no true convictions or dedication relative to serving God. They attend worship services when they want to instead out of deep devotion to God. They live lives that make them a "good - ole Joe", but not a faithful child of God. Such people need to be converted. Following Jesus requires surrender: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). Every branch in Christ that doesn't bear fruit will be cut off, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:1-2). Nominal Christians will find that their bed is too short and their cover is too narrow.

Let's make sure that our bed is made according to God's specifications. Then, and only then, can we lie down in peace and sleep. "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8).