LIKE A WALL ABOUT TO FALL

The Characteristics of Rebellion

 **DATE: 6/2018 Wed.**

**TEXT: Isaiah 30:13,14** (read and explain the context)

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue to study the book of Isaiah, we find that God is often dealing with the issues of people’s hearts

In fact, the word ***“heart”*** appears in 36 verses of the 1292 verses found in Isaiah

It is interesting to note that as the heart is described in this book, spiritually speaking …

We see it getting progressively worse

For Example …

-- In **Isaiah 1:5** we see a Faint Heart

A Heart that is spiritually weak

***“Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint”***

-- In **Isaiah 6:10** we see a Fat Heart

A Heart that is Insensitive, Dull, and Numb

***“Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes,***

***and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed”***

-- In **Isaiah 7:2** we see a Fretting Heart

This is a Heart that Shakes, Trembles, and Totters

To Fret is to be in a constant state of worry

***“And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind”***

-- In **Isaiah 9:9** we see a Flaunting Heart

This Heart is Arrogant, Proud, and Full of Self

***“And all the people shall know, even Ephraim and the inhabitant of Samaria, that say in the pride and stoutness of heart,”***

-- In **Isaiah 21:4** we see a Fearful Heart

***“My heart panted, fearfulness affrighted me: the night of my pleasure hath he turned into fear unto me”***

This Heart, like the Fretting Heart is in a constant state of worry, but to a greater extent

-- In **Isaiah 29:13** we see a Far-away Heart

The Far Away Heart has drifted from God

***“Wherefore the LORD said, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour Me, but have removed their heart far from Me,”***

-- And in **Isaiah 30:1** we see a Formidable Heart

The Formidable Heart is Gripped by Rebellion

***“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of Me; and that cover with a covering, but not of My spirit, that they may add sin to sin:”***

This Progression goes from bad to worse

In the 30th Chapter of Isaiah we see again God dealing with His people

In this chapter, Isaiah Describes the rebellious person, the Consequences of rebellion, and the Chance that the rebellious has to Change his life

**vs. 13 & 14** state that the life of the rebellious is like a wall that is about to fall and the pots that are destroyed when the wall falls on them

Nothing good comes from rebellion

In fact, we are told that rebellion is so serious that it is equated with witchcraft

**I Samuel 15:23 a – *“For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry”***

Rebellion leads to *deception, delusion, desperation, depression, disruption, destruction, and* *disintegration*

It is a life that is a *no-win* situation

This brings me to this question …

*When it comes to your relationship with God, are you*

*… being rebellious?*

Most people don’t think they are

The word *rebellion* reminds us of people like …

Satan, Cain, Nimrod, Absalom, Judas, Delilah, Ahab, Jezebel, Absalom, Samson, and Korah

Every single one of these folks had mega-problems because they were rebellious

In most cases, their rebellion led to their destruction

But the question isn’t whether we can identify the Rebels in the Bible

But whether we can see the areas of Rebellion in our own hearts

So, are you rebellious? / Most would say no

*I would never be rebellious toward the Lord*

*Rebellion is something that young people do*

*I love the Lord and have been in church a long time*

*I'm too old to be rebellious*

Oh, really!

Let me remind you that the Bible is also full of so-called good people who demonstrated Rebellion

Many of these individuals were people who were close to God or served Him in important positions

Yet, they struggled with rebellion

They were like Walls that were about to Fall

 -- Jonah was a prophet but rebelled against God's Will

-- Samson and David rebelled in the matter of their lust for Women

Samson would not heed his father's command and David disobeyed God's commands concerning adultery

-- Solomon and Aaron rebelled in the area of Worship

Aaron fashioned a golden calf and Solomon erected idols to please his pagan wives

-- Moses rebelled against God's Word by smiting the rock for water

-- Demas rebelled because of his love for Worldly Ways and abandoned the Apostle Paul

These men all served in important positions for the Lord

Yet, they struggled with rebellion

If they struggled with it, then don't you think that sometimes, we might have a problem with it, too?

The answer is Yes (Do this, it will help)

What this chapter is going to reveal to us is the fact that we ALL struggle with rebellion at some time or another

We are all rebels

Sometimes we don't see our own rebellion because it has never been pointed out or described for what it really is

That is what the prophet Isaiah has done in this chapter

(And the reason is because when someone attempts too,

we push back, and deny it and insist that we’re not)

It is behavior that leads to instability, insecurity, and sudden destruction like a flimsy, cracked wall that crashes and smashes clay pots into a million pieces

By the time we finish this crucial chapter in Isaiah,

I hope we will have a better understanding and awareness of the rebellion we have in our own lives

And to be able to identify it when it surfaces

(and then, how to deal with it)

There are times that we all are rebellious

Hopefully this awareness will help us to be on our guard or to deal with our rebellion immediately when it surfaces in our heart

**“Like a Wall About to Fall”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “CHARACTERISTICS”**

God lays out clearly for us in this chapter the Characteristics of Rebellion

A Characteristic is *a feature or quality belonging typically to a person, and serving to identify them*

Let’s look at how God identifies Rebellion in Judah

**A. Corrupted Counsel**

The Child of God is to live by Faith

(I don’t care what age they lived in)

Faith in the Word of God

The Children of Judah weren’t doing this

**1.** They Sought the Wrong or No Counsel **– v. 1 a**

***“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of Me …”***

The people of Judah were making plans that left God out

Danger was coming, and they made their own plans

Notice that God calls them ***“rebellious”***

The reason is because they knew what was right,

(They had been hearing it from the Preacher)

But did it their own way anyway

Again, we also notice the Warning – ***“Woe”***

We find, thru-out the Bible, the warning that those who get their Counsel from the wrong places are destined for sorrow and heartache

When someone leaves the Lord out of their life,

When God is not the Primary factor in their decision making

They are going to make some serious mistakes that will be very painful

In most cases, their mistakes will follow them the rest of their life

Contrary to popular belief, Doing it your own way …

Is Not the Best way!

**Psalm 81:11,12 – *“But My people would not hearken to My voice; and Israel would none of Me” “So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels”***

**Leviticus 26:27,28 – *“And if ye will not for all this hearken unto Me, but walk contrary unto Me;” “Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins”***

**Proverbs 13:20 b – *“a companion of fools shall be destroyed”***

**Psalm 1:6 b – *“the way of the ungodly shall perish”***

**Proverbs 13:15 b – *“the way of transgressors is hard”***

**Proverbs 4:14, 15 – *“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men” “Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away”***

On the other hand, if you base your decisions on the Scriptures,

You will enjoy God's blessings and avoid a bunch of junk

**Psalm 1:1 – *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful”***

**Psalm 119:1,2 – *“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord” “Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart”***

Let me ask - *When you are making plans and important decisions …*

*… do you ask the Lord what He wants you to do?*

*Do you look to the Bible to find God's guidelines about the decision you need to make?*

*Is there a Precept, Principle or Precedent set?*

*At least, ask the pastor what he thinks is best?*

If you don’t care what God has to say …

But would rather base your decisions on your own opinion or the opinion of those that don’t know the Lord, your in for trouble

Rebels don't get their counsel from God

When this happens, their decisions are like Walls about to Fall

**2.** Their Coalitions are Corrupt - **v. 1 b**

***“that cover with a covering, but not of My spirit …”***

This is an interesting Statement, so what does it mean?

Isaiah said that the people are covered with a covering, but not of God's spirit

The word ***“cover”*** is a word which means *to pour*

The word ***“covering”*** is a word which means *a libation*

The phrase ***“cover with a covering”*** in the Hebrew language means *to pour out a Libation*

**A Libation** *is a ritual pouring of a liquid as an offering to a god*

This phrase alludes to a ceremony that formally ratifies an alliance with someone

The agreement is made with God as the witness

The word not only means *to cover*

But it also means *to weave*

In this case, forming an alliance is likened to weaving a garment for a covering

Here’s what happened …

Judah made an alliance with the nation of Egypt for protection against the Assyrian army which was threatening

They looked to Egypt for security or ***“a covering”***

God, however, was against this Coalition

 He did not want His people trusting or depending

on the Egyptians for their security

This Coalition was Corrupt

We find here that the second trait of rebellion is the tendency to form Corrupt Coalitions

Rebels tend to flock to other rebels (I’ve seen it)

Egypt is a *symbol* or *type* of this world

The Worldly philosophy and ways

God does not want us to be yoked up with ungodly or worldly people

We just don’t think alike

How can two walk together unless they agree

As Christians, we are not to make alliances or partnerships with unsaved people

In other words, we are not to date, to marry, or to have business partnerships with unsaved people

These alliances lead to nothing but trouble

There is nothing wrong in being friendly with those who are lost

We want to try and reach them for Christ

I would not, however, make *close* friendships with unbelievers

You have nothing in common with them

**II Corinthians 6:14 – *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship***

***… hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”***

**Exodus 34:12 – *“Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee”***

Any time you violate God's Word, you’ll pay a price and will regret your disobedience

There is a price for rebellion

I have met many believers through the years that married an unsaved person or took advise from the unsaved, only to regret it later

Instead of having joy, there was sorrow and hurt

Let me ask – Who are your closest friends?

Are they helping or hurting your walk with the Lord?

If they are unsaved people, then you may need to distance yourself from their influence

I have found if you will live your life for Jesus Christ openly, those unsaved friends will either want to have what you have or they will separate from you

**I Peter 4:3,4 – *“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:” “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you”***

**3.** Their Corruption is Compiled - **v. 1 c**

***“that cover with a covering, but not of My spirit, that they may add sin to sin”***

Judah's trust in Egypt only Compounded their troubles

They were piling on

This is what happens when we do not seek God's counsel and take the advice of the unsaved

He is constantly sinking because he will not do what is right

They are drowning and don’t even realize it!

He continues to make one mistake after another because his choices are foolish and destructive

His life becomes like a wall that’s about to Fall

**II Timothy 3:13 – *“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”***

**II Timothy 2:16 – *“But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness”***

The rebellious also adds sin to sin because they don’t learn from their mistakes

He continues to repeat his sin, and each time, …

… it gets him or her into deeper problems because their hearts get harder and colder toward God

As sin grips the heart, God is forgotten and the sin continues to grow

Solomon described the rebellious as a fool when they acts this way

**Proverbs 26:11 – *“As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly”***

Are you rebellious?

Do you find yourself neglecting the Lord and placing your security or trust in insecure things or people?

Do you find yourself adding sin to sin in your life because you are addicted to a sinful habit that you refuse to give up?

Thoughts become deeds, which become habits, which become a lifestyle

Good habits help us grow to be more like Christ and allow us to fulfill all of our God-given potential

Bad habits lead us down a very different path,

One where all of our potential is squelched and our aspirations become nothing more than a prison

**B. The Consulting, Confidence and Carelessness**

**1.** They Ignore or Avoid Consulting the Lord **– v. 2 a**

***“That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at My mouth”***

Judah went down to Egypt to seek their protection

They did this without taking any time to pray about their decision (Prayer always takes time)

They just did their own thing without any regard of the consequences

That is what rebellion does

Rebellion doesn't pray about decisions because they have already determined to do what they want to do

They are not concerned about seeking God's direction because they really don't care about it

Their minds are made up and that is the way it is

**Job 21:14,15 – *“Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of Thy ways” “What is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto Him?”***

**Psalm 14:4 – *“Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the Lord”***

**Isaiah 64:7 –** ***“And there is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of Thee: for Thou hast hid Thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities”***

**Daniel 9:13 – *“As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand Thy truth”***

**James 4:2 – *“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not”***

The *"I'm Gonna Do What I Want to Do"* mentality gets us into a lot of trouble

It results in a life that is like a Wall about to Fall

That mentality can lead to catastrophic problems

Our unwillingness or refusal to pray is a form of rebellion

Don't throw away your opportunities to see God do great things in your life / Learn to pray

**Ill.** Plenty of people blamed God for the September 11th tragedy, but Genelle Guzman is not one of them. She was in the stairwell on the 13th floor of Tower One when the building collapsed. She was thrown from side to side, and then landed with her head caught between two pillars. As this member of the Brooklyn Tabernacle lay trapped in the carnage of that massive tower, she prayed for a second chance at life. Up until that time she only attended church sporadically. Amid the dark, dusty debris, the Trinidad immigrant cried out to God and asked, *"Please just give me this one miracle."* Twenty-six hours after the collapse, Genelle became the last survivor pulled from the rubble. For those who no longer believe in miracles, Genelle Guzman is living proof that God can still cause them to happen, even when your world is crashing all around you and you're caught on the 13th floor.

**2.** They Place Confidence in Wrong Things **– v. 2 b**

***“to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt!”***

Judah chose to placed their confidence in Egypt instead of God

They trusted in the wrong things and put their security in that which is insecure and even corrupt

This is the mistake that the rebellious make in life

The Rebellious will not trust in God

The Rebellious will not put their faith in Jesus Christ for their salvation

They refuse to acknowledge God's authority or accept God's help, His grace, and His gift of forgiveness, cleansing, and eternal life

Why? The answer is because they believe they doesn't need God

The Rebellious place their security in that which is insecure

Things like creeds, deeds, works, religion, church membership, baptism, confirmation, taking communion, money, idols, opinions, relatives, friends, priests, angels,

All of which, cannot get them to Heaven

They seek the acceptance or praise of others,

But these things or people have no power to save them and have no authority to give them that which they do not possess

Only Christ can give you eternal life because it is His alone to give

**John 14:6 *– “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

As Christians who know Christ, we demonstrate our own rebellion when we are unwilling to trust in the Lord by faith for our daily needs

People tend to trust in that which they can see and control instead of trusting in God

God, however, urges us to trust in Him by faith and put the care of our lives into His hands

It is our worry and distrust that is a form of rebellion

**Hebrews 11:6 –** ***“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him”***

**I Peter 5:7 *– “Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”***

**Proverbs 3:5,6 – *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding”***

***“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths”***

**Ill.** During the building of the Golden Gate Bridge, construction fell way behind schedule because several workers had accidentally fallen from the scaffolding to their deaths. The Engineers and administrators couldn’t find a solution to the costly delays. Finally, someone suggested a gigantic net be hung under the bridge to catch any who fell. Finally, in spite of the enormous cost of $130,000 dollars, the engineers opted for the net. After it was installed, progress was never interrupted. Nineteen workers were saved by the net. These men referred to themselves as the Half-way to Hell Club. Ultimately, all the time lost to fear was regained by replacing fear with faith (in the net).

Our net is the Lord

Our lives are held in His hands

David said in **Psalm 31:15 a – “M*y times are in Thy hand ...”***

We either believe that or we don't

God does not want us to live our lives in constant fear, fretting, anxiety, and worry

He wants us to trust in Him day by day / Will you?

If not, your life will be like a Wall about to Fall

**II Timothy 1:7 …**

**3.** There was Careless Contempt for God’s Word **– v. 9**

***“That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the Law of the LORD:”***

**v. 12 – *“Wherefore thus saith the Holy One of Israel, Because ye despise this Word, and trust in oppression and perverseness, and stay thereon:”***

The people of Judah were like a Wall about to Fall because of their contempt for the Word of God

They refused to listen to what God had to say

This is the attitude of the rebellious

They have a contempt for the Bible and the preaching of God's Word

They don’t want to hear it

They feel they don’t need it

They consider it to be a waste of time

This attitude characterizes the attitude of many who call themselves Christians

They profess to know Christ, but they feel that spending time in God's Word is a waste of time

Rarely do they read the Bible at home during the week

Some will not come to church because they don't want to hear the preaching of God's Word

Unfortunately, today, many churches are removing the preaching of God's Word from their church services

Focusing all their attention on the music program

If there is any preaching in the church service, it is very little, and usually it is without any kind of substance or conviction

Understand, that what we do with the Bible is going to determine what God does with us

Our submission and application of its truths will lead to growth and blessing

Our rejection and apathy toward it indicate a problem with rebellion and will lead to walls about to fall

You will mess up your life if you despise God's Word

This is why we are urged to get into the Scriptures

**I Peter 2:2 – *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:”***

**II Timothy 2:15 – *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”***

**Psalm 119:11 – *“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee”***

**Jeremiah 15:16 a – *“Thy Words were found, and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart ...”***

**Ill.** During the Civil War, Sam Houston Jr. was miraculously saved from a potentially fatal bullet. This son of the famous general for whom the city in Texas is named, was shot from behind. The bullet ripped through his knapsack and hit the Bible he was carrying. The Bible, which belonged to his mother, stopped the bullet at **Ps. 70 – “*Thou art my Help and my Deliverer”***

God's Word literally saved Houston's physical life

And it will do the same thing spiritually for everyone who takes heed to its Words

Our Lord is our Helper and Deliverer

Let me challenge you to fall in love with the Bible

David said (**Ps.119:165**) **– “*Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them”***

He also said, (**Ps. 119:97**) **– “*O how love I Thy law! it is my meditation all the day”***

If we neglect God’s Word, our life will be like a wall about to fall

Great men made the Bible an important part of their lives … For Example …

-- When David Livingston died, he was kneeling at his cot in the heart of Africa

He had just finished reading his Bible and spending time with God which he did on a regular basis

-- When Scotland's literary giant, Sir Walter Scott, was on his deathbed, he asked his friend Lockhart to read to him from the Book

Scott had a library of 20,000 volumes, so Lockhart asked him, *"What book would you like?"*

Scott replied, *"Need you ask? There is but one."*

-- William Gladstone was the prime minister of Britain four times

He wrote a book entitled ***The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture***

He professed to know 95 great men in the world of his day, and 87 of them were followers of the Bible

If you take the Bible out of literature, not much will be left

-- Tennyson used over 300 quotations from the pages of God's Word

-- It has been calculated that Shakespeare has over 500 ideas and phrases taken directly from the pages of the Scriptures

-- The author Charles Dickens put it this way concerning the Bible, *"It is the best book that ever was or ever will be in the world."*

-- If you remove the Scriptures from music, the remains are also pretty bleak

Not much is left if you remove the Bible from Bach, Handel, and Mozart

-- In the world of art, where would the names Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Donatello, Rembrandt, and Raphael be found if these men had not been inspired by the stories of the Bible?

-- If it were not for the Scriptures, we would not know of schools like Harvard, Yale, William and Mary, and Dartmouth

These schools were started to train preachers in the Word

What they are today reveals the lesson of what happens when you neglect God's Word

Dr. William Phelps was once the principal of Yale University which is the third oldest educational institution in the country

He said - *“I believe that a knowledge of the Bible without a college course is more valuable than a college course without a knowledge of the Bible”*

May we heed the wisdom of this man

We need to get into the Word of God!

**C. The Liars, the Selfish and the Contrary**

**1.** Rebellion leads to Lying **– v. 9**

***“That this is a rebellious people, lying children ...”***

Isaiah rebuked Judah for their rebellion

He characterizes them as Liars

They did not keep their promises to God

They had professed to be committed to the Lord, but they did not truly follow Him

They went to worship, but their worship was routine, ritualistic, and also insincere and hypocritical

People come to church, but their hearts aren’t in it

If they could (Without looking bad) they would rather just stay home

Lying is Characteristic of a Rebellious heart

The *“I don’t want to”* attitude

They lie by trying to cover up this attitude

But they are really lying to themselves

**Hebrews 3:13 – *“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”***

People lie to themselves because they want to justify what they know is wrong and don’t want to submit to God's commands

They reason –

*“What I'm doing is not that bad. It won't hurt me. It is not that big of a deal. I am as good as anyone else”*

The pride of the rebellious also makes them unteachable

They conclude that their way is more important than others or God's

They lie to themselves claiming to have done nothing wrong

When in reality there is a great deal wrong in their life, but they don't see it

They have deceived themselves

**Obadiah 1:3 – *“The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?”***

**Galatians 6:3 – *“For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself”***

**I John 1:8 – *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”***

**James 1:26 – *“If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain”***

The Rebellious will also deceive people to get their own way

They act like they are going to do something, but never follow thru

The greatest rebel of all is Satan

He is the father of lies

If people really comprehended the destruction that occurs from following Satan in this life and in eternity, they would never give him the time of day

So, let me ask Are you lying to yourself about your faults?

Do you find yourself trying to rationalize your destructive behavior?

Do you lie to others to get your own way?

Do you even try to lie to God when you pray by telling Him you will no longer do something that is wrong?

When in reality you are planning to do it again?

Do you make promises to the Lord that you have no intention to keep?"

Understand this, if your life is characterized by Deception

You are a Wall about to Fall

**2.** Rebellion leads to Selfishness **– vs. 10,11**

***“Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:” “Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us”***

The people of Judah had gotten so far from the Lord that they did not want to have anything to do with God at all

They told the Preachers to tone down their messages

They did not want to hear what was right to do

Preaching against sin was irritating and uncomfortable

They did not want to hear the truth

Instead, they wanted them to preach lies to them

Why would they want them to do that?

The answer is the fact that when you rebel against the Lord, you lose your common sense

You would rather hear lies and feel good than be told the truth and feel convicted

The rebel is determined to have his own way, even if his way destroys him

He would rather live a lie than to face the reality

These folks wanted their ears to be tickled with smooth, pleasant, positive, uncontroversial, flattering messages which would enable them to feel good about themselves and live any way they wanted to live

That was very important to them because they truly believed this is what would make them happy, secure, and satisfied

They were tired of their boats being rocked and being upset by God's man

They did not want to be confronted with God's message anymore

Their attitude was - *"Get the Lord out of our face!"*

That is the attitude of the rebellious

People crave their selfish ways because they want to escape the responsibility of their actions

Yet, we will be responsible for our actions

People don’t want to be held accountable

That is why they don't want to be told the truth

If they don’t know the truth, how can they be held responsible?

But they do know the truth

**Romans 1:19-20 – *“Because that which may be known of GOD is manifest in them; for GOD hath shewed it unto them” “For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and godhead; so that they are without excuse:”***

Everyone needs to realize that they will still be held accountable even though they desire to be ignorant about the truth

People want to live the way they wish, but they don't want to be punished

… or hear about judgment, yet, judgment will come

They want to do all the wrong things and experience only pleasant things

They want to be irresponsible, and yet, not have anything go wrong, but things do go wrong and will go wrong when they disobey

**Zechariah 7:12 – *“Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in His spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the Lord of hosts”***

**II Timothy 4:3, 4 –** ***“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;” “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables”***

**3.** Rebellion is Contrary **– v. 15 b**

***“In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not”***

These folks had the opportunity to change and get right with the Lord,

But they didn't want to as long as they were not under conviction

They resist submission and surrendering to the Lord

Unfortunately, many Christians fall in this category

God speaks to the heart of the believer about something that needs to be corrected in his or her life,

But a rebellious spirit prevents them from getting right with God

Does this describe you?

When the Lord speaks to you about something that is wrong in your life, do you hang up the phone?

Do you turn a deaf ear toward God?

If so, you are quenching the Spirit of God

**Ephesian 4:30 – “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”***

**I Thess. 5:19 – *“Quench not the Spirit”***

Understand that holding on to your sin will not lead to freedom, but to bondage

It is a life that is like a Wall that is about to Fall

It will lead to ruin

**Isaiah 5:18 – *“Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope:”***

**II Peter 2:18,19 – *“For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error”***

***“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage”***

Let me ask – *“Do you struggle with the traits of a rebel?”*

**THE “CHARACTERISTICS” OF REBELLION**

**II. THE “CONSEQUENCES”**

**III. THE “CHANCES OF CHANGE”**