

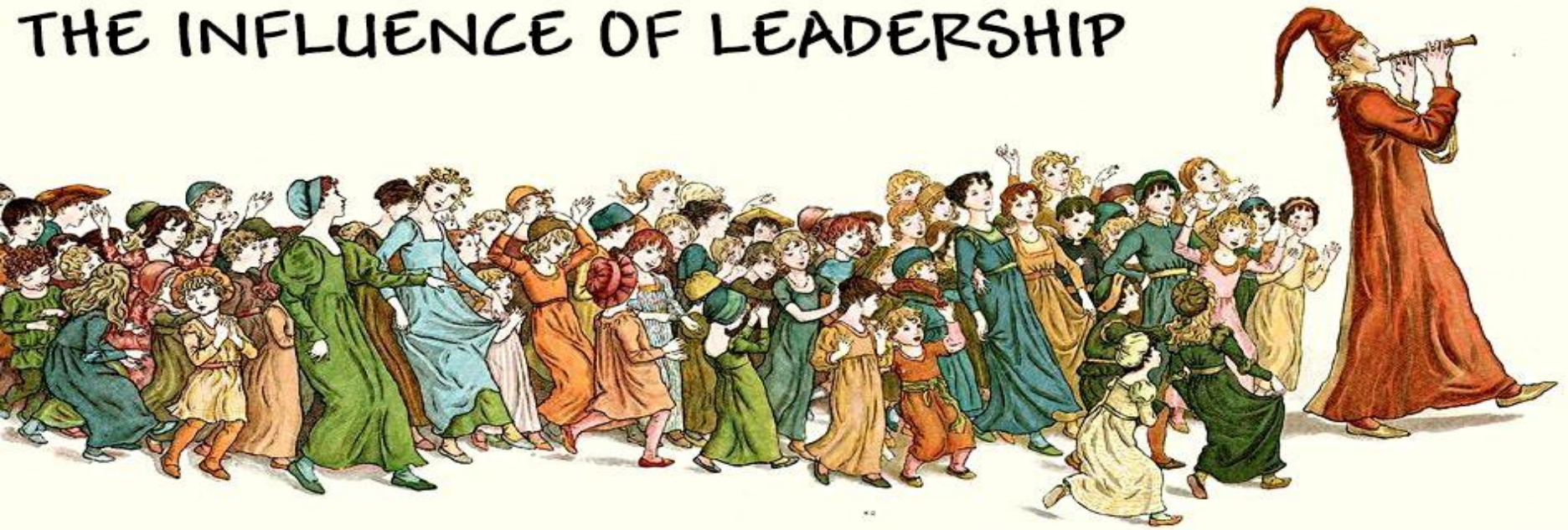


GOD'S HEART FOR

The Poor

- An overriding theme is the issue of social injustice
- Matthew 26: 7 – 11 ***“The poor you will always have with you”***
- There will always be a social order of haves and have nots mostly because we don't live by God's system
- Psalm 14:6 Psalm 140:13 Isaiah 11:1 - 5

THE INFLUENCE OF LEADERSHIP



- Social justice is at the center of God's concern
- Amos 2:6 – 8
- The wealth of the rich is about to be confiscated because of their unjust treatment of the poor
- The largest factor was the leadership
- People only rarely act in a concerted fashion unless they are led to do so



FALLEN ISRAEL

- Vss. 1 – 17 a literary unit
- Further divided into 5 parts
- Vs. 1 about what God has already decided
- Vs. 2 virgin or maiden = an unmarried girl who lives in her father's house
- Israel, the virgin, will have her natural and expected destiny cut-off
- No hope for rescue

SEEK THE LORD AND

LIVE

AMOS 5:6

- Vs. 3 is a curse of decimation
- Deuteronomy 28:62 – 63
- Israel's human loss will be about 90%
- Israel's reaction ought to be to change
- Israel was already a redeemed people, but began a continuous rebellion; their redemption was lost

WANDERING FROM THE TRUTH



- James 1:22 – 25 James 5:19 – 20
- Once-saved-always-saved is not Scriptural
- Salvation is conditional on our maintaining it by being devoted to God, demonstrated by sincerely obeying His commands
- Israel was redeemed, fell away, but was still certain that event would protect them regardless of their current behavior and ritual practices **WRONG!**



Bethel
Gilgal
Beersheva

- God says do NOT seek him in the 3 cult sights that Ephraim/Israel preferred; they are not legal
- Bethel was named by Jacob. Gilgal the first place Israel encamped. Beersheva associated with Abraham and Isaac.
- Seeking God is NOT the same as seeking His sanctuaries

JUSTICE HAS BEEN LOST

**Canst thou bind the sweet
influences of Pleiades,
or loose the bands of Orion?**

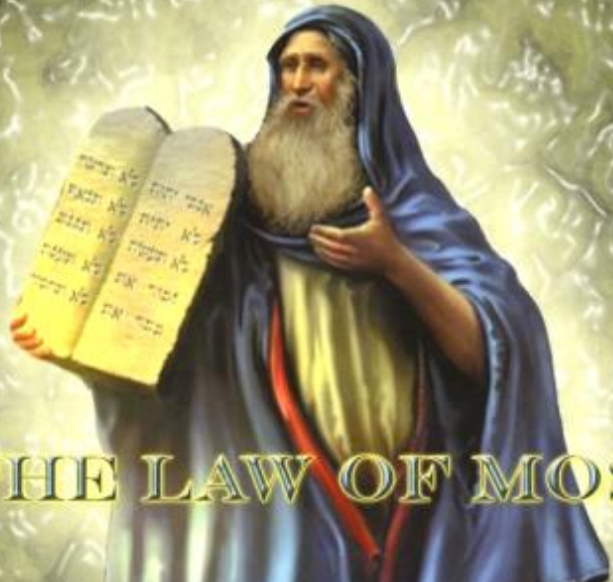
~ Job 38:31

- Vs. 7 begins next subsection (direct address to fallen Israel)
- Wormwood makes water taste bitter
- Pleiades and Orion used to mark change of the winter and summer seasons
- God controls the sky and nature, but also determines the fate of all nations
- Israel's Judges have no interest in "truth"



- Amoral = an absence of, indifference towards, disregard for, or incapacity for morality
- Truth expresses God's moral code
- Truth is a manifestation of a living divine entity whose source is Heaven, and substance is God
- Fact = an expression of the believed and actual existence of something within our physical world

God's written code of truth



THE LAW OF MOSES

- Facts can change
- Truth doesn't change
- Amos 5:10 Judges not interested in administering proper morality...truth
- Vs. 11 A Futility Curse
- It reverses a person's expectations
- Deuteronomy 28:15, 30
- A person's hard work and gains can be made nothing for violating God's laws



Seeking God is
to live a moral
and ethical life...



- God has remembered every sin and shameful act that the wealthy of Israel have inflicted on the poor
- Vs. 13 probably was incorrectly inserted here long ago
- Salvation and deliverance are predicated on a person straightening up and flying right
- Seeking Him = what we do, choice of lifestyle, values and morals we go by, how we practice our faith, our attitude towards the poor

Appearances can be deceiving



- Prayer is an important part of seeking God; but prayer is not a substitute for doing
- The result of seeking God: ***“Then Yehoveh God of Hosts will be with you....”***
- The Western World (often including the Church) is trying to reverse our moral standards that are biblically based
- We have become like Ephraim/Israel

I will have

MERCY

on whom I have mercy

Romans 9:15

- Preparation = conscious, tangible choices to embrace what God calls good, and shun what God calls evil
- Repentance in and of itself is not magical
- Vss. 16 and 17 call Israel to mourn because Yehoveh's wrath means destruction and death
- Every level of society will suffer
- Exodus 12:12