

Gratitude: Ingratitude Foments Rebellion; Example for Church Age, Hebrews 3:15-4:1-2,11**I. Ingratitude Foments Rebellion**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Until you get to the point in your spiritual growth that you are able to evaluate every circumstance of life as being a part of God's perfect plan for you, then you haven't "maxed out" your gratitude gauge.

The problem with arrogance is that it is so subtle. It's first indication in your life is when you think you are always right. Now obviously there is a lot of soul searching but the eventual bottom line is that you are right, a conclusion arrived at by the first arrogant skill of self-justification.

Once you have justified yourself, you then move into self-deception and lie to yourself. This was the original sin of Satan:

Ezekiel 28:17 - Your heart was lifted up [an idiom for arrogance] because of your beauty [narcissism]. You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.

And so, we see in Isaiah 14:13-14 the expression of this self-absorption:

Isaiah 14:13 – “But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of the assembly in the recesses of the north.

Isaiah 14:14 – ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”

Once you become enmeshed into self-absorption, you begin to lie about others. Our Lord condemned the Pharisees under this charge:

John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

John 8:45 - But because I speak the truth you do not believe Me.”

When the snakes bit the Jews, it was a message to the first generation that the Lord's longsuffering had terminated. [TXP: Scales of Justice]

Righteousness looked upon the Jews and found that they would not respond to the teachings of Moses. Righteousness had the right to turn to justice and demand that the entire congregation be nuked. It did not do so for almost 40 years. Instead, through unconditional love, the first generation was extended grace, oftentimes manifest in the form of miracles. Eventually, righteousness is no longer able to maintain a relationship which is not compatible with the sovereign plan and therefore it demands that justice execute the sin unto death.

Why, you may ask, are we studying the failures of Jews, in the dispensation of Israel, who are not privy to the assets available to the Church Age believer, and who are under the Law instead of grace? Because the Exodus generation Jew is a perfect example to us of our involvement in the three arrogant skills.

Hebrews 3:15 - It is said, (Psalm 95:7b, Psalm 95:8, Psalm 95:9, Psalm 95:10, Psalm 95:11) “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me in the Jornada.”

Hebrews 3:16 - For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

Hebrews 3:17 - And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose carcasses were fallen all over the Jornada?

Hebrews 3:18 - And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest but to those who were disobedient?

Hebrews 3:19 - And so we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:1 - Therefore, let us fear lest while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it.

Hebrews 4:2 - For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

Hebrews 4:11 - Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall through following the same example [*hupodeigma*: an example either for imitation or admonishment] of disobedience.