

I HAVE NO MAN

Scripture:

John 5:4-7

Ezekiel 22:30

Introduction

In times of distress and trouble, humanity has always sought for a benefactor--a champion--to stem the tide of the thing that is about to destroy them. On some occasions, there has been someone available, on others, there was none to be found.

The success and failure of humanity has hinged on finding that one man.

I. A man sought but not found--Israel

A. A breach created by sin

1. Israel was hedged about by God

Hast thou not made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side?

Job 1:10

2. Steps of deterioration (Deuteronomy 32:12-17)

a. Worship becomes a form

b. Decline of worship

c. Idolotry

d. Materialism

e. Apathy

3. The breach is opened

Yea all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us...because we have sinned against him.

Daniel 9:11

- II. A man sought but not found
 - B. Tide of iniquity sweeps the nation
 - 1. Prophets abused
 - a. But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.
2 Chronicles 36:16
 - b. Resulted in conquest by Nebuchadnezzar in 606 B. C.
 - c. Restored to homeland by Cyrus
 - 2. Christ Crucified
 - C. Nation destroyed in judgement

- II. The benefactor found--The impotent man
 - A. Condition of impotent man
 - 1. A hopeless paralytic for 38 years
 - a. Muscles had ceased their function
 - b. Was physically weakened
 - 2. Helpless
 - 3. Friendless
 - 4. Knew disappointment
 - While I am coming, another steppeth down before me.
John 5:7
 - 5. Was at his extremity
 - B. Meets Christ, the benefactor
 - 1. Receives his healing
 - 2. Did not know his benefactor

- III. Christ, the Benefactor
 - A. Results of finding him
 - 1. For the impotent man--healing
 - 2. For Lazarus--life anew
 - 3. For the maniac of Gadara--peace and a restored mind
 - 4. For Paul--a changed purpose

III. Christ, The Benefactor

A. Results of finding Him

5. For humanity in general
 - a. New life
 - b. New Hope
 - c. Salvation

B. Results of rejecting him

1. For Israel--divine judgement
2. For Judas--suicide
3. For Demas--Apostasy
4. For Pilate--insanity