

Pastor Ron Case
11/14/10

“Reasons for God’s Departure” (1)

*“Ephraim’s glory shall fly away like a bird...Woe to them when I depart from them!”
(Hosea 9:11-12)*

Process of Departure **Ezekiel**

9:3, 10:18-19, 11:22-23 – (3) “Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house...

(18) Then the glory of the LORD went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. (19) And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the LORD, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

(22) Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. (23) And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city.”

#1 Stubbornness **Ezekiel**

2:4 – “I am sending you to them who are stubborn and obstinate children, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’” (NASB)

Ezekiel 3:4-7 – (4) “And he said to me, ‘Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. (5) For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— (6) not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. (7) But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart.’”

Stubbornness – Irrational Defiance of God’s Beneficial Ways
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Israel’s Signature Trait

Deuteronomy 9:13 – “Furthermore, the LORD said to me, ‘I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stubborn people.’”

Deuteronomy 31:27 – “For I know how rebellious and stubborn you are. Behold, even today while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the LORD. How much more after my death!”

Stubbornness Zaps Potential

Hosea 4:16 – “Like a stubborn heifer, Israel is stubborn; can the LORD now feed them like a lamb in a broad pasture?”

Response:

(1) Unless You Like Punishment, Stop being Stubborn

“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,” (Romans 2:5 *NASB*)

(2) Remain Teachable & Tender

“But to the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, thus shall you say to him, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘Regarding the words that you have heard, because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and its inhabitants, and you have humbled yourself before me and have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, declares the LORD.’” (2 Chronicles 34:26-27)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

What are some areas of stubbornness in my life that the Lord is revealing to me?

Do I realize there is a distinction between the wisdom of being firm for what is right, and the stupidity of ungodly stubbornness?

Read Psalm 139:23-24, does David reflect stubbornness or a flexible humility?

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)