

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

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## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

May 2, 2010

## What have we done wrong?

by David King

"And it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God?' then you shall say to them, 'Because you fathers have forsaken Me,' Says the Lord; 'they have walked after other gods and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and not kept My law. And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me'" (Jer. 16:10-12).

The citizens of Judah in 620 B.C. were perceptive enough to realize that the Lord's hand was against them. The nation was caught in a vice between superpowers on either side of them — Babylon to the east and Egypt to the west — and Judah was certain to pay a price no matter who came out on top. Internally, society was collapsing: the family unit had largely disintegrated, the economy was in shambles, crime was out of control, and trust had disappeared from all public intercourse. Life had become miserable for these people, and it looked to get worse before it got better.

The Jews saw God's hand in these ominous developments, but they feigned ignorance of the underlying reason. They couldn't understand why God would allow them to suffer so. After all, they were His own special people, right? So why had He abandoned them? What had they done wrong that deserved such a terrible punishment from God?

The Lord answered their question, and His answer holds an important lesson for us today. The prevailing philosophy in Judah in those days was one of **irresponsible freedom**. Everyone felt free to do whatever he wanted, and his choice was not subject to the judgment of others. In such a climate, no one cared what God wanted. So no one listened to Him.

The result was a lot of stupid, ignorant mistakes, mistakes that directly contributed to the very problems they were experiencing. These hardships were not arbitrary punishments inflicted by a capricious God, but were the natural consequences of the foolish behaviors they had adopted. In the moral realm, as in the physical, everything produces fruit after its own kind. The Jews were only getting what they asked for.

It is no different today. When society shuns God and removes all distinctions between good and evil in behavior, we should expect no distinction between good and evil in the outcome. The problems we encounter are of our own making. We can't pin the blame on the politicians, the corporations, foreign encroachment, or God. No, the root cause can usually be found right on our own doorstep. We have rejected God and His word as archaic relics from a primitive past, superstitions that are no longer relevant in our modern age. Too late do we learn that in rejecting God's word, we reject the best counsel on how to find harmony and happiness in life.

And when the bitter harvest comes in, we can't blame God. We brought it on ourselves.