



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 076 - Being Bigger And Richer Isn't Always Better

Israel (the Northern Kingdom) was wealthier than Judah (the Southern Kingdom), and was influenced much more deeply by the different philosophies and religions of its neighboring nations. Judah, on the other hand, was slower to change.

- Do you consider your community to be more like Israel or Judah? Explain.
- What advantages are there in living in a big city with all kinds of different people?
- What are the special challenges that come from living in a diversified city or town?
- What advantages are there in living in a small town or rural setting?
- What special challenges does this kind of life bring?
- What special strengths does each of these viewpoints offer the church at large?

Throughout the Old Testament, Israel lived under the shadow of great world empires—nations that Yahweh eventually brought in to conquer the faithless people of Israel and Judah. If they would not live under Yahweh's peaceful reign, they would experience the merciless abuse of God's enemies.

- How might the cruelty of the Assyrians and Babylonians remind us of our great spiritual enemies: the devil, death and hell?
- What role should the fear of God's wrath, death and hell play in our Christian lives?

Throughout the turbulent times of the Old Testament, the line of David remained on the throne in Judah, reigning over God's people. Today the promised Son of David, Jesus Christ, still sits on the throne ruling over God's people at the Father's right hand. We still live in a world of chaos, but through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we know His victory is ours.

- How do you see Christ continuing to reign in this world despite the sin, darkness and chaos we see all around?
- Discuss what it will be like in the new heavens and the new earth when we enjoy Christ's complete and perfect reign among us.