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her in the wilderness. But instead of giving God thankful, obedient service, Israel forgot the Lord and turned to idols (Hosea 13:1-2). Israel added sin upon sin by worshiping Baal and the golden calves Jeroboam set up. What led to Israel's apostasy warns us not to fall like she did (1 Cor. 10:6-12).

Hosea 13:6 describes the sequence of Israel's apostasy:

(1) Israel became satisfied in her prosperity. Israel was "at ease" in her abundance and failed to humbly obey God and serve each other (Amos 6:1-7). The church of the Laodiceans provides a similar warning against spiritual apathy (Rev. 3:15-17).

(2) Israel's heart was filled with pride. Pride is an insidious enemy that elevates us above God in our minds. Pride is an undeniable step away from God and is abhorrent to God (Amos 6:8). The church in Sardis needed to fight against pride's self-righteous fruit (Rev. 3:1-2).

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(3) Israel forgot God in her self-sufficiency. Israel forgot God was their savior and sustainer. Israel's prosperity led to prideful sufficiency and ignoring God (Deut. 8:1-20; 32:15). The parable of the rich fool warns us not to trust riches but to lay up heavenly treasures (Luke 12:15-21). "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

- Joe Price -

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

“As Death Nears”

Hospice care is designed to ease physical pain and suffering as death nears. It is a helpful service that offers dignity, palliative care, and comfort to the person approaching death and their family.

Surprisingly, many people will not even talk about death; their own or that of a loved one. Of course, that does not slow death's approach or prevent its arrival. Perhaps they convince themselves by not thinking and talking about death they can avoid its encroachment. Or perhaps the topic is too unpleasant and painful for them. Nevertheless, death is common to us all.

The wise man Solomon said it is wise to go to the house of mourning because “that is the end of all men” and “the living will lay it to heart” (Eccl. 7:2). Visit the house of mourning with me for a moment as we ask ourselves a few questions.

(1) *Am I ready to die?* This is not

a question about whether we want to die right now, but whether we are ready to die should it happen now. We do not know when we will die. This is why we must be watchful and ready; only a breath separates us from death. Paul could say, “to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21). He was ready to die because he was living for Christ. That is how we are ready to die as death nears (James 4:13-15).

(2) *Am I right with God?* How you answered the first question depends largely on how you answer this one. Being right with God does not mean I “think” I am right (remember the people of Matt. 7:21-23). Paul was ready to die because he had fought the good fight, finished the course, and kept the faith (2 Tim. 4:7). The man with great wealth was not right with God when his soul was required of him and is a tragic illustration of treasuring up riches but failing to be “rich toward God” (Luke 12:15-21). Get right with God now. Obey the gospel of Christ and live by faith in Him. Then you will be right with God as death nears (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:36-41; Gal. 2:20).

(3) *What spiritual legacy will I leave?* What matters, in the end, will not be how large a financial estate we leave behind. Each of us will leave a spiritual legacy to the next generation. Will our lives speak beyond the grave of faith, of love for God, and of service to others (Heb. 11:4)? Will the next generation know God because we spoke His truth and lived a faithful life (Ps. 71:18)? What spiritual legacy are you preparing to leave as death nears?

- Joe Price -

“Sinking Into Apostacy”

4 *Yet I am the LORD your God ever since the land of Egypt, and you shall know no God but Me; For there is no savior besides Me.* 5 *I knew you in the wilderness, in the land of great drought.* 6 *When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me (Hosea 13:4-6, NKJV).*

Yahweh saved Israel from Egyptian oppression and He sustained