

Intro.

- A. Last Sunday, summer ended.
1. The combines are rolling thru the fields, & the grain trucks are keeping the roads hot.
 2. To the farmer, completion of harvest ushers in a brief season of rest & hope. Israel?
- B. When Jeremiah referred to the end of summer, just what did he have in mind as he wrote this proverb to \\
1. The expected deliverance never came.
 2. They believed time & change would bring help. (c. Jer. 8:15)

Discuss.**I. FIRST CONSIDER SO THINGS WHICH ARE NOT REASONS FOR HER BEING LOST.**

- A. It was *not a lack of opportunity*, vs. 20
1. Summer = a synonym of opportunity.
 2. *Summer* = also associated with the idea of ACTION.
 3. Another concept that summer represents in the idea of YOUTH & VITALITY.
 4. “*There is a tide in the affairs of every man,
Which, taken at flood, leads on to fortune.*”
- B. Israel’s need of salvation was certainly *not* because of *an unwillingness of God*, vs. 6
(Ezek.33:11; 2 Pt.3:9)
1. God listens for the confession of sins,
 2. God is anxious (ready to *run*) towards a wayward Christian when He sees us coming home, Lk. 15:20
 3. “*The fatted calf, the shoes, the robe, the ring...
All for me, unworthy son.
But sweeter to me, the most wonderful thing;
God ran to meet me, I saw God run!*”
- C. Israel was not lost because she suffered from *a lack of knowledge*.
1. Some will not be saved for this reason, Hos. 4:6
 2. Jeremiah sounded forth warning about their “*hurt*” in vs. 20.
 3. Think of the availability of the knowledge of God. (c. Col. 1:23; Rom. 1:19-21; 10:18)

II. THE REAL REASON ISRAEL WAS NOT SAVED WAS....

- A. She was *conceited*, vs. 8 (Gal. 6:3; Rom. 12:3, 16)
1. Conceit blinds us to our own faults, Rom. 12:21-22
 2. Truth is revealed to babes, Mt. 11:25 (Amp. – Jesus thanked His Father...*that you have hidden these things f/ the wise & clever & learned, & revealed them to babies – to the childish, untaught & unskilled.*)
- B. Israel was also lost because she was *complacent*, vs. 6.
1. It is difficult to imagine situation more severe that when one in Israel’s perdiciment says, *I have need of nothing!* Rev. 3:17 (c. Mt. 5:3)
 2. We ought to ask, *What have I done?* C. 1 Cor. 11:31
 3. Evidently, this is how the prodigal son must have thought (c. Lk. 15:17)
- C. Third reason Israel was lost was because she was *covetous* vs. 10.
1. Jesus described the warping of the covetous mind, & how it affects mind & soul, Lk. 12:13-21
 2. Covetous steals God f/ one’s heart, Col. 3:5 (...*covetousness, which is idolatry*)
- D. Israel was credulous, vs. 5
1. Mature, studious Christians are not easily deceived, Rev. 12:9; Heb. 5:14
 2. To them, sugar-coated sin is still recognized as insidious & poison to the soul.

Concl.

- A. If we still enjoy the summer, we have reason to congratulate ourselves.
- B. The door of opportunity is still open, & there is still time to make needed changes in our life.
- C. Some still enjoy the summer of youth (Ecc. 12:1) - time of religious privileges, time of action & opportunity.
- D. Although the season of summer literally is past, it is not too late to answer the Lord’s invitation...