Thursday

November 12

For Our Admonition

All these accounts in the Old Testament, however sordid and sad, were given for a good reason: ideally, so that we should learn lessons from them about what happens when we rebel against God.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-12. According to the apostle Paul, why did God inspire prophets to write what they wrote in the Bible?

“Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our

admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." 1 Corinthians 10:6-11 KJV

In these verses Paul draws a straight line connecting the past and the present, connecting ancient Israel and the church, of which we who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior are now a part *(Gal. 6:14-16)*.

Paul makes clear that the past record of humanity's experiences with God—be they good or bad—are not to be overlooked or discounted. In fact, God thought it so important that He codified it as examples "to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they [our forebears] also lusted" (*1 Cor. 10:6, NKJV)*. In other words, the past is often prologue to the future. The past often sets the context for what is presently happening and what will happen in the future.

THE WORDS OF SOLOMON - PERHAPS THE WISEST AND MOST FOOLISH MAN WHO EVER LIVED ONCE SAID:
“THE THING THAT HATH BEEN, IT IS THAT WHICH SHALL BE; AND THAT WHICH IS DONE IS THAT WHICH SHALL BE DONE: AND THERE IS NO NEW THING UNDER THE SUN. IS THERE ANY THING WHEREOF IT MAY BE SAID, SEE, THIS IS NEW? IT HATH BEEN ALREADY OF OLD TIME, WHICH WAS BEFORE US.”
ECCLESIASTES 1:9-10 KJV
IDEALISM — REVELATION 4 TYPES OF INTERPRETATION - REPETITION OF THE PRINCIPLE
JEREMIAH AND REVELATION - BABYLON AND NEBUCHADNEZZAR = 10 + Nebuchadnezzar 27
Jer 25:9, 27:6; 43:10; “My servant”
Jer. 39:11, 12 “look well to him” “no harm” “ do to him as he shall say”

In effect, God is saying that we are not doomed to repeat the mistakes of past generations, if only we heed the admonitions of

Scripture and the prophetic messages sent by Him to us through His prophets. If we listen, learn, and obey, our lives will be established, and we will prosper *(2 Chron. 20:20)*. For some, even spiritual prosperity has been defined by having nice homes, cars, clothing, and other material possessions. While God promises to take care of our needs, He also wants our souls to prosper, even as we prosper in other ways *(3 John 2)*. But true lasting spiritual fullness in the Christian life requires obedience to God's messages.

God does not waste words. When He speaks, His Words are eternal. Their power and efficacy never end *(Isa. 40:8)*. They are given for our admonition, "upon whom the ends of the ages have come" *(1 Cor. 10:11, NKJV)*. If that were true back then, how much more should those words apply to us today?

When you read accounts in the Bible of rebellion and disbelief, what lessons can you draw from them that could help you avoid doing something similar?