

THE DESTRUCTIVE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

(Psalm 38)

INTRODUCTION



King David

There is a theme that runs throughout the Scriptures that is very important for us to learn. It runs from the very beginning in the book of Genesis, to the very last chapter of Revelation. It is a theme that can be summed up in the words of Romans 6:23a. For there the LORD tells us through the Apostle Paul that, “*the wages* (i.e. - payment) *of sin is death*”. All sin has its consequences, and those consequences are always destructive. King David was someone who knew of these consequences, for he experienced them firsthand. He wrote about this in Psalm 38, and it is this Psalm that this study is based on. As we study this great portion of Scripture, may we be reminded just how destructive sin is, and thus learn to hate it and literally flee from it!

OUTLINE

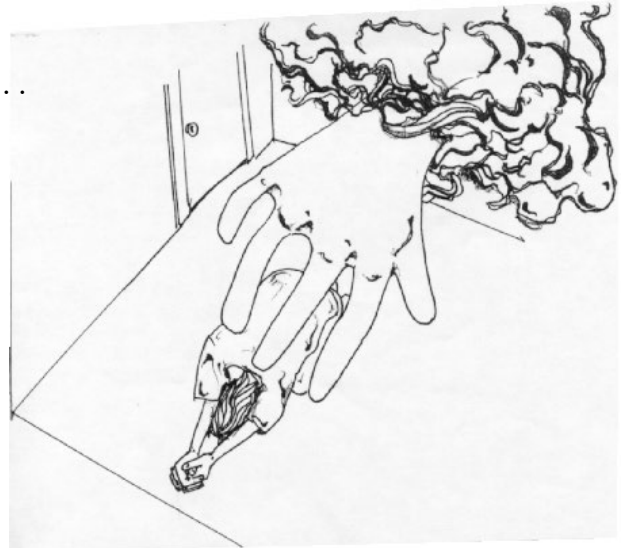
- I. Introduction (vv.1-2)
- II. The Consequences Of Sin To Our Body (vv.3,5,7-8a,10)
- III. The Consequences Of Sin To Our Soul (vv.4,6,8b-9,17)
- IV. The Consequences Of Sin To Others Around Us (vv. 11-14,16,19-20)
- V. The Consequences Of Sin To The LORD (v.21)

I. Introduction (vv.1-2)

What has prompted the writing of this Psalm by David, are those monumental transgressions of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah (see II Samuel 11). David knows that the LORD is angry with him, and that HIS chastening is about to be administered because of this great rebellion he has committed.

David knew what it was like to be disciplined by the LORD! He says to the LORD in relationship to this . . .

“For THINE arrows stick fast in me, and THY hand presseth me sore.” (v.2)



GOD's Hand Of Conviction

David wrote in another Psalm concerning this as well . . .

“Remove THY stroke away from me, I am consumed by the blow of THINE hand.” Psalm 39:10

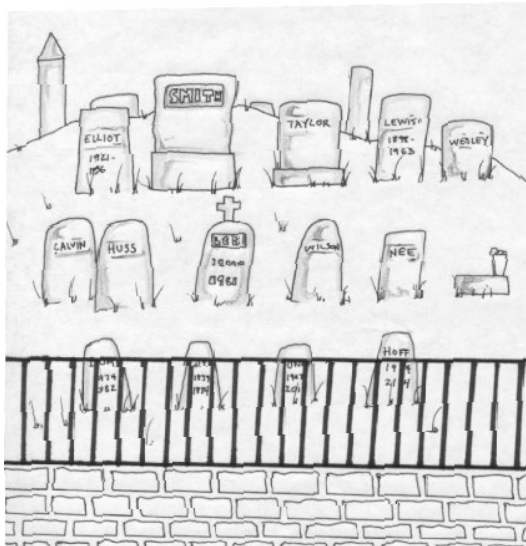
The LORD hates sin! We must never forget this! May we never adopt the attitude, “O well, GOD doesn't care”, or, “GOD still loves me no matter what I do.” GOD does love HIS people, but HE hates their sin and has to punish it. When GOD disciplines us . . . it hurts!

Why does GOD chasten HIS people? HE answers this question HIMSELF when HE speaks the following . . .

“MY (people), despise not thou the chastening of the LORD, nor faint when thou art rebuked of HIM, for whom the LORD loveth HE chasteneth, and scourgeth every (child) whom HE receiveth. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous, nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised there by.” Hebrews 12:5b-6,11

The LORD disciplines us because HE loves us. HE chastens us to bring us to repentance and back into fellowship with HIMSELF.

II. The Consequences Of Sin To Our Body (vv. 3,5,7-8a, 10)



We Ultimately Die Because Of Our Sin

It is very evident in the world we live in, that sin has a direct influence on our physical bodies. David gave testimony to this when he made statements such as the following . . .

“ . . . neither is there any health in my bones because of my sins.” (v.3b)

“My wounds stink and are corrupt because of my foolishness.” (v.5)

“For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease, and there is no soundness in my flesh.” (v.7)

“I am feeble . . .” (v.8a)

“My heart panteth, my strength faileth me . . .” (v.10a)

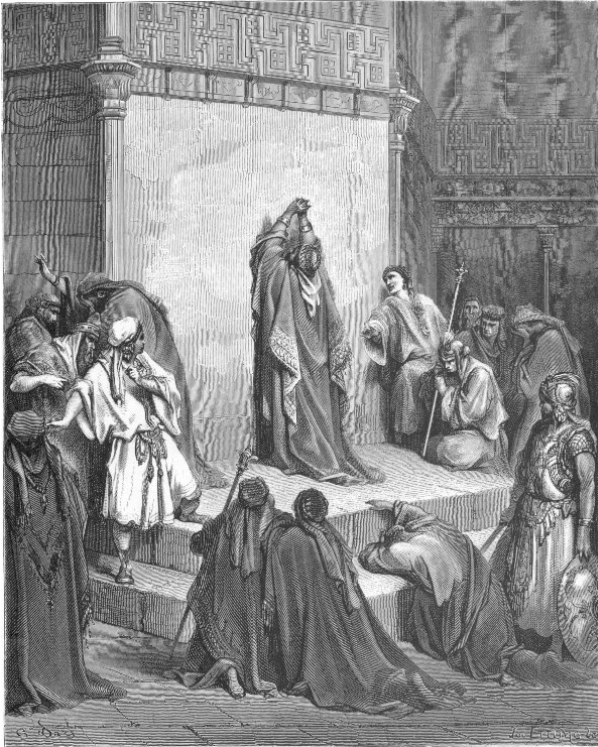
“Medical science estimates that from 60% to nearly 100% of disease today is the result of emotional stress.” S.I. Mc Millen, M.D. (Note: According to his book, “None Of These Diseases”, Dr. Mc Millen classifies “emotional stress” as such sins as anxiety, fear, bitterness, unforgiveness, etc.)



Scripture and human history are very clear in pronouncing that there are negative physical consequences when we sin. Indeed, GOD declared this very judgment upon the first man and woman after they committed the very first sin. There HE made it clear that physical death was a direct result! (see Genesis 3:16-19)

III. The Consequences Of Sin To Our Soul (vv.4,6,8-9,17)

Often, when the Scriptures speak of the “soul”, this includes the mind, will and emotions. David experienced the devastating consequences of sin to his soul, and he testified of them in this Psalm before us . . .



King David In Mourning

“For my iniquities are gone over mine head, as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.” (v.4)

“I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly, I go mourning all the day long.” (v.6)

[*“troubled”* = depressed (see also Psalm 40:12)]

“I am . . . severely broken, I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart.” (v.8b)

[*“severely broken”* = spirit shattered as with a hammer]

“. . . my groaning is not hid from THEE.” (v.9b)

“. . . my sorrow is continually before me.” (v.17b)

[*“sorrow”* = pain of the mind]

It is the testimony of Scripture and human history that sin brings devastating consequences to our mind, will and emotions. If it seems as if our soul is bearing a heavy “weight” of guilt, depression, or sorrow . . . perhaps it is because of sin in our life!

IV. The Consequences Of Sin To Others Around Us (vv.11-14, 16, 19-20)

A tragedy we often fail to consider when we sin, is the fact others around us are affected by that sin as well. David knew this truth from experience, and he wrote about this in the Psalm before us . . .

“My lovers and my friends stand aloof from my sore, and my kinsmen



stand afar off. They also that seek after my life lay snares for me, and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. But mine enemies are lively, and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied.”
(vv.11-12,19)

Saul Attempts To Kill David

As noted earlier, David wrote this Psalm after committing those terrible sins of adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah (see II Samuel 11). GOD then pronounces HIS judgment upon David and his family because of these sins (see II Samuel 12:10-11). Following is the chronology of devastation upon David and his family because of his sins of adultery and murder . . .



Death Of Absalom

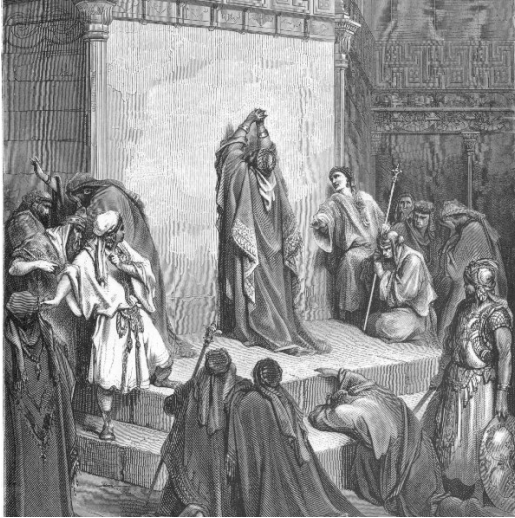
- The child that was conceived from David’s sin with Bathsheba becomes ill and dies.
(II Samuel 12:15b, 18a)
- His son Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar.
(II Samuel 13:1-19)
- Another son Absalom, murders Amnon in revenge.
(II Samuel 13:22-29)
- Absalom revolts against his father, King David, and forcefully takes over the kingdom.
(II Samuel 15:1-37)
- Absalom is killed by Joab.
(II Samuel 18:1-15)

May we never be deceived in believing that when we sin, we only suffer the consequences. It is the clear testimony of Scripture and human history that our sin will always bring devastating consequences to others around us as well!

V. The Consequences Of Sin To The LORD (v.21)

Of all the destructive consequences of sin, the most devastating is the consequences our sin brings to the LORD. When we sin against the LORD, the consequences are felt in two basic areas. The first area concerns our personal relationship with HIM. David experienced this firsthand. This is why he made the following plea to the LORD in the Psalm before us . . .

“Forsake me not, O LORD, O my GOD, be not far from me.” (v.21)



David Pleading For Forgiveness

David is not talking about losing his salvation here. Once we are a child of GOD, our salvation is eternally secure (see Romans 8:35-39). However, when the child of GOD sins, that intimate fellowship and communion with the LORD is broken. This is why David cries out to the LORD here, and pleads for HIM not to *“forsake”* him.

The second area where consequences of our sin are felt in relationship to the LORD, is how others (especially the wicked), view HIM. Scripture tells us, that after David committed these two terrible sins of adultery and murder, he had . . .

“ . . . given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme . . . ”
(II Samuel 12:14a)

The more people that know that we are a follower of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, the greater the shame and reproach that is brought to HIS Name and cause when we sin! David was a king. Well known, not only among his own people Israel, but by the surrounding people as well, most of whom *were “enemies of the LORD”* and himself.

It is one thing for our body, soul, and those around us to be affected by our willful disobedience, but quite another when it causes our fellowship with the LORD to be broken and brings shame and reproach to HIM and HIS kingdom!

CONCLUSION

We have learned from the study of this great Psalm that all sin has its consequences. It is as if the Scriptures are declaring this by the following illustration of a blank check . . .

Pay to the Order of	<u> <i>You and I</i> </u>	<u> <i>Whenever We Sin</i> </u> Date
		<u> <i>Sorrow, Pain, Death</i> </u> Amount
The Bank of Hell		<u> <i>GOD</i> </u>

“The wages (payment) of sin

As we are reminded of the awesome destructiveness of sin, may this compel us to learn to hate it, and thus literally learn to flee it!

MY LIFE COMMITMENT

“Heavenly FATHER, I now see from the study of YOUR Word, the destructive consequences that will come into my life because of sinful choices I might make. I see now how they will affect my body, my soul, others around me, and even my relationship with YOU. I now purpose, through YOUR grace and the power of YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, to learn how to hate sin and the terrible consequences of it, and to appropriate YOUR strength in having the will to flee from it. I pray this in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and for HIS glory, Amen.”