

Why Are The Wicked So Prosperous?

By Pastor Calvin A. Levy

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Jeremiah 12:1-17

Depending on whom you may speak with, perceptions of prosperity covers a wide range of understanding and acceptance. Most often, prosperity is defined synonymously with financial wealth. I've heard commentaries over the years from my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ regarding, "Why does it seem that the unsaved people have more than we have?"...."Why is that Christians are normally poor people and others seem to have all the luck?"....and many more questions and comments along this line of understanding.

Times are changing but God's truth never does. God's Word has always been our guide. It will always remain true. So, why are the wicked so prosperous? Jeremiah asked God the same question more than 600 years before the birth of Christ. We are still asking this question today, more than 2000 years since the death of Christ and His ascension back into heaven.

Verses 1-4

Jeremiah asks God, "Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?" [KJV] That is to say, why are the wicked people able to be so prosperous? Jeremiah went on to say that he understood God to plant them and to make their way prosperous. These wicked ones only speak of you in words but not in deeds; and that their hearts are far from you God. But here I am, I am your faithful servant. Why are you not prospering me?

Verses 5-6

God answers Jeremiah... I have placed you in a safe place. If dealing with these small matters troubles you to the point of giving up, how will you handle more responsibility? You are among those in a nation that have not accepted you. Your own family has even betrayed you and they are getting others to come against you also...both the wicked and those that are my children. They say good and nice things to your face, but behind your back they are doing everything possible to destroy you. Don't trust them. And yet you see, I keep you safe.

Verses 7-13

God further states that since those in charge continue to destroy what He has built and turn His green pastures into a wasteland that He will destroy them! Nothing they do will prosper. They will work very hard but gain nothing.

Verse 14-17

Since the enemies of Israel have taught God's children to go astray, the merciful God would forgive them and Israel if they would worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. He would bless them and prosper them. But if none would obey, God would destroy them all.

It is God's desire that we prosper. [Read 3 *John 1:2*] However, the wicked of this world prospers and attempts to hinder the righteous. Satan is the God of this world and is able to give "prosperity". (*Matthew 4:8-9; John 14:30*) He is the spirit that works in children of disobedience. (*2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2*) God is the spirit that works in children of obedience.

So, if we see the wicked prosper, we should not stress over it. For we too have a power that we can call on! We too can prosper, even more than the wicked! Some of us haven't learned to trust God enough.

Conclusion:

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. – *Deuteronomy 8:18* Let go and let God has His way!