

- 15 *The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.*
- 16 *The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgaion. Selah.*
- 17 *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. (Psalm 9)*

Here is food for thought, meat for meditation, something that every person should stop and consider. Some observations are set forth. The first is that scheming, plotting, conniving persons have a way of getting caught in their own traps. Too often they, like wicked Haman, plotting the destruction of righteous Mordecai, get hung on their own gallows. All too consistently the very vehicle men expect to carry them to glory brings them to disgrace. The means whereby they expect to enrich themselves create the disaster that brings them to poverty, and that which they expected to lift them above others become the chain that enslaves them.

Such is not coincidental. God has not left His universe to blind chance in the hope that men would some day work out a system of equitable justice. It must be by now evident that such a hope would be foolishness and unworthy of an all intelligent God. No, the fact of the matter is that God is known by the judgments which He executes. He does now execute judgment in the earth. There will be a time when He will finally judge all who have ever lived; but He has not left the righteous without help or the wicked without fear of reprisals until then. It is God who sees to it that the laws of reaping and sowing work. It is the righteous judgment of God that men see when they observe men falling into the graves which they themselves have dug. And it is this that keeps the knowledge of God before men even when, in their godlessness, they had rather forget that He exists.

The second thought to meditate upon is the inevitable following of the first. If the wicked shall be turned into hell because of their own doing, so shall all nations that forget God. The wicked scheming man has secretly fixed his snare and laid his trap. No one saw him. But He forgot God. God saw him, and God will not let it pass. Nations do the same thing. They all eventually rule God out of their plans. They adopt the religion of humanism, and forget God. When they do that they foolishly imagine they only have to reckon with the knowledge and powers of other men. Moral restraint gone, they sink lower and lower until they drop into the graves they have themselves dug.

Meditate upon these things; and perhaps we shall see the wisdom of keeping God foremost in all our thoughts and in all our deeds.

- C.M.