

- (g) For this reason, races, empires, nations, organizations, families, and individuals are removed from history as a part of God's grace pruning. Without God's grace pruning, there would be no one left to meet the challenge of the protocol plan of God.
- (h) In this dispensation of the Church Age, God has provided the means of avoiding evil and subsequent reversionism.
- (i) Absolute good is consistent post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation.

**Romans 12:21** Stop being conquered by evil, but conquer evil by means of [absolute] good.”

## H. Illustrations of Reversionism.

1. In Revelation 3:14–22, believers in the church at Laodicea became involved in Gnosticism and grew lukewarm toward the Lord.
2. James 2:1–5 presents the case of the short-sighted usher who gave the rich man the best seat in the synagogue while he advised the poor man to stand in the back or sit on the floor by his footstool.
3. David's reversionism with Bathshéba and murder of her husband, Uríah the Híttite, cost him the death of the adulterine, the rape of his daughter, Támer, the death of his favorite son, Ábsalom, and a revolution in his kingdom.
4. Elíjah's fear of being murdered and not trusting in the protection of the Lord was his manifestation of reversionism.

## I. The Warnings and Mandates to Avoid Reversionism.

**2 John 1:7** Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

**v. 8** Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.

**v. 9** Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

**1 Timothy 3:6** Do not be an immature believer, lest having received blind arrogance [self-fragmentation], you fall into the condemnation of the devil [reversionism].

**1 John 2:15a** Stop loving the cosmic system, or anything pertaining to the cosmic system.”

## J. Characteristics of Reversionism.

1. Reversionism concentrates on false teaching, and therefore possesses the spirit of error:

**1 John 4:5** They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world's perspective, and the world listens to them.

**v. 6** We are from God; he who knows God listens to us; he who is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

People in reversionism will always believe the lie, false doctrine, gossip, or anything else that is untrue.

2. Reversionism contaminates others:

**Hebrews 12:15** See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God, that no one be like a bitter root springing up and causing trouble, and through him many become defiled." (NET)

3. Reversionism causes the believer to lose his escrow blessings for both time and eternity:

**Hebrews 3:10** By His will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**v. 11** And every priest stands day after day serving and offering the same sacrifices again and again – sacrifices that can never take away sins.

**v. 12** But when this Priest had offered one sacrifice for the sins for all time, He sat down at the right hand of God. (NET)

4. Reversionism leads to perversion:

**Romans 1:26** For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged the natural sexual relations for unnatural ones,

**v. 27** and likewise the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed in their passions for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in themselves the due penalty of their error.

**v. 28** And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what should not be done. (NET)

5. Reversionism produces national disintegration:

**Romans 1:29** They are filled with every kind of unrighteousness, wickedness, covetousness, malice. They are rife with envy, murder, strife, deceit, hostility. They are gossips,

**v. 30** slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, contrivers of all sorts of evil, disobedient to parents,

**v. 31** senseless, covenant-breakers, heartless, ruthless.

**v. 32** Although they fully know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but also approve of those who practice them. (NET)

**K. The cosmic system is a trap for the development of reversionism:**

**Ephesians 4:27** Do not give the devil an opportunity."

**1 Timothy 3:6** An overseer [ **deacon or elder, v. 2** ] must not be a new convert so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. (NASB)

**Galatians 5:4** You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

**L. Discipline for Reversionism.**

1. Stage 1 through 4 of reversionism are: **(1)** Reaction and distraction, **(2)** frantic search for happiness, **(3)** operation boomerang, and **(4)** emotional revolt of the soul. During this decline, the believer receives warning discipline.

2. This discipline may come in the form of either adversity or prosperity. For example, he may have love and then have it removed. This is the warning discipline:

**James 5:9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge stands right outside the gates. (NET)

3. Stages 5 through 7 of reversionism are: **(5)** Locked-in negative volition toward doctrine, **(6)** blackout of the soul, and **(7)** scar tissue of the soul. This is the period of intensified discipline.

**Psalm 38:1** *A psalm of David.* O Lord, do not continue to rebuke me in your anger!

**v. 2** For your arrows pierce me, and your hand presses me down.

**v. 3** My whole body is sick because of your judgment; I am deprived of health because of my sin.

**v. 4** For my sins overwhelm me, like a heavy load, they are too much for me to bear.

**v. 5** My wounds are infected and starting to smell, because of my foolish sins.

**v. 6** I am dazed and completely humiliated; all day long I walk around mourning.

**v. 7** For I am overcome with shame and my whole body is sick.

**v. 8** I am numb with pain and severely battered, I groan loudly because of the anxiety I feel. (NET)

**2 Thessalonians 2:11** Consequently God sends on them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false. (NET)

4. In stage 8 of reverse-process reversionism, the believer receives dying discipline or the sin unto death:

**Jeremiah 9:16** I will scatter them among nations that neither they nor their ancestors have known anything about. I will send people chasing after them with swords until I have destroyed them.

**Jeremiah 44:12** I will see to it that all the Judean remnant that was determined to go and live in the land of Egypt will be destroyed. Here in the land of Egypt they will fall in battle or perish from starvation. People of every class<sup>5</sup> will die in war from starvation. They will become an object of horror and ridicule, an example of those who have been cursed and that people use in pronouncing a curse. (NET)

(End JAS4-16. See JAS4-17 for continuation of study at p. 161.)

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<sup>5</sup> **tn** Or “Without distinction,” or “All the people from the least important to the most important”; *Hebrew* “from the least to the greatest.” This is a figure of speech that uses polar opposites as an all-inclusive designation of everyone without exception.” (*The NET Bible*, translator’s note: **tn 5**, Jeremiah 42:1, 1508.)

**Jeremiah 44:13** I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt with war, starvation, and disease just as I punished Jerusalem.

**v. 14** None of the Judean remnant who have come to live in the land of Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah. Though they long to return and live there, none of them shall return except a few fugitives. (NET)

**Philippians 3:18** For many live, about whom I have told you, and now, with tears, I tell you that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.

**v. 19** Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, they exult in their shame, and they think about earthly things. (NET)

**Revelation 3:16** So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth! (NET)

**1 Corinthians 10:13** No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it. (NET)

**Psalms 118:17** I will not die, but live, and I will proclaim what the Lord has done.

**v. 18** The Lord severely punished me, but He did not hand me over to death. (NET)

5. Reversionism intensifies suffering:

**Psalms 77:1** I will cry out to God and call for help! I will cry out to God and He will pay attention to me.

**v. 2** In my time of trouble I sought the Lord. I kept my hand raised in prayer throughout the night. I refused to be comforted.

**v. 3** I said, "I will remember God while I groan; I will think about Him while my strength leaves me." (Selah)

**v. 4** You held my eyelids open. I was troubled and could not speak.

**v. 5** I thought about the days of old, about ancient times.

**Psalm 77:6** I said, “During the night I will remember the song I once sang; I will think very carefully.” I tried to make sense of what was happening.

**v. 7** I asked, “Will the Lord reject me forever? Will He never again show me His favor?”

**v. 8** Has His loyal love disappeared forever? Has His promise failed forever?

**v. 9** Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has His anger stifled His compassion?”

**v. 10** Then I said, “I am sickened by the thought that the sovereign One might become inactive.

**v. 11** I will remember the works of the Lord. Yes, I will remember the amazing things You did long ago!

**v. 12** I will think about all You have done; I will reflect upon Your deeds!’

**v. 13** O God, your deeds are extraordinary! What God can compare to our great God?<sup>†</sup>

**v. 14** You are the God Who does amazing things; You have revealed Your strength among the nations.

**v. 15** You delivered your people by your strength – the children of Jacob and Joseph. (Selah)

**M. Reversionism was a major subject of the writer of Hebrews to the Christians living in Israel:**

1. The believers who received the book of Hebrews were in reversionism. Reversionism is always toward doctrine, but more than that, it is negative toward anything related to God:

**Hebrews 5:11** On the topic of Christ we have many doctrines to communicate yet hard to explain because you have become apathetic in hearing.

**v. 12** For also during the time [ **similar to that of the present hour** ] of national crisis you are obligated to be communicators of divine viewpoint, you require once more teaching of certain things, the elementary principles of doctrines from God; yet you have become ones having need of milk, and not of solid food.

<sup>†</sup> This rhetorical question assumes the answer, “No one!” (Psalm 77:13, *The NET Bible*, tn 13, p. 1004.)