

BECAUSE ISRAEL CONTINUED TO REJECT JESUS AS THEIR KING EVEN WHEN HE PRESENTED THEM WITH MIRACULOUS PROOF OF HIS IDENTITY HE WARNED THEM OF THEIR GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY AND THEIR HARSHER JUDGMENT

V20 JESUS BEGINS TO DENOUNCE THE CITIES IN WHICH MOST OF HIS MIRACLES WERE DONE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT REPENT OR HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART OR MIND

V21 JESUS MENTIONED TWO CITIES CHORAZIN AND BETHSAIDA AS PRIVILEGED CITIES WHO WITNESSED THE AWESOME EVIDENCE OF HIS DIVINE POWER AND GOODNESS AND YET DID NOT REPENT

JESUS USES THE WORD WOE REPRESENTING HIS DENUNCIATION OF THESE TWO CITIES PROBABLY MOST OF THE INHABITANTS OF CHORAZIN AND BETHSAIDA HAD PERSONALLY WITNESSED JESUS MIRACLES BUT THE NUMBER WHO RESPONDED IN FAITH WAS SMALL

WHEN PEOPLE HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR GOD'S WORD AND SEE IT MIRACULOUSLY DEMONSTRATED THEIR GUILT FOR REJECTION IS INTENSIFIED

IT IS BETTER TO HAVE HEARD NOTHING OF CHRIST THAN TO HEAR THE TRUTH ABOUT HIM AND REJECT HIM FOR IF WE GO ON SINNING WILLFULLY AFTER RECEIVING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

THERE NO LONGER REMAINS A SACRIFICE FOR SINS BUT A CERTAIN TERRIFYING EXPECTATION OF JUDGEMENT AND THE FURY OF FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES HEB 10:26-27

THE GREATER THE PRIVILEGE THE GREATER THE RESPONSIBILITY THE GREATER THE LIGHT THE GREATER THE PUNISHMENT FOR NOT RECEIVING IT

V22 THEN JESUS MENTIONS TWO MORE CITIES TYRE AND SIDON TO GALILEAN JEWS THESE TWO CITIES EPITOMIZED PAGAN GENTILE CORRUPTION NOTED FOR IMMORALITY AND GODLESSNESS

JESUS SAYS IT WILL BE MORE TOLERABLE FOR THEM IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT THAN FOR CHORAZIN AND BETHSAIDA BECAUSE IF THE MIRACLES HAD OCCURRED IN TYRE AND SIDON RATHER THAN CHORAZIN AND BETHSAIDA THEY WOULD HAVE REPENTED

JESUS MAKES TWO TRUTHS CLEAR THERE WILL BE DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT IN HELL AND WHERE MUCH IS GIVEN MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED

V23 JESUS MENTIONS YET ANOTHER CITY HE SAYS AND YOU CAPERNAUM WILL NOT BE EXALTED TO HEAVEN WILL YOU BUT YOU SHALL DESCEND TO HADES THIS WAS JESUS HEADQUARTERS HE PERFORMED MORE MIRACLES AND PREACHED MORE SERMONS IN AND AROUND CAPERNAUM THAN ANY OTHER PLACE DURING HIS ENTIRE MINISTRY

YET HE HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON MOST OF THE CITIZENS OF CAPERNAUM AND BECAUSE OF THEIR INDIFFERENCE THEY WOULD NOT BE EXALTED TO HEAVEN AS THEY THOUGHT THEY DESERVED BUT WOULD DESCEND TO HADES THE PLACE OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT FOR THE UNSAVED

JESUS SAID THAT IF THE MIRACLES HE HAD PERFORMED IN CAPERNAUM HAD OCCURRED IN SODOM IT WOULD HAVE REMAINED TO THIS DAY THEY WOULD HAVE REPENTED OF THEIR SIN TURNED TO GOD AND BEEN SPARED DESTRUCTION

CAPERNAUM EXCEEDED CHORAZIN AND BETHSAIDA IN PRIVILEGE AND SODOM EXCEEDED TYRE AND SIDON IN WICKEDNESS

IN THESE CONTRAST JESUS MAKES PLAIN THAT PEOPLE WHO ARE THE MOST BLESSED BY GOD WILL RECEIVE THE WORST PUNISHMENT IF THEY REJECT JESUS