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Therefore, The Grave Enlarges Its Appetite

5: 14-17

Therefore, the grave enlarges its appetite **DIG: Why would the entire nation go down to the grave? What role reversal do you see in the fate of the rich and that of the poor? Who's who in this portrait of justice? How does the LORD prove His justice and righteousness?**

REFLECT: Godly consequences, as a result of obedience, can result in blessings. But consequences as a result of sin can be devastating, as Judah would eventually find out. Sin always takes you further than you want to go and costs you more than you want to pay. Do you remember a time when sin took you further than you wanted to go? What were the consequences? How did you react to the LORD's discipline?



There were **four consequences** of Judah's lack of understanding (5:13). **First, physical death would result.** Therefore, the grave enlarges its appetite and opens its mouth without limit. Into it will descend their nobles and masses with all their drunken brawlers and revelers (5:14). **They will be sent to sh'ol, the Hebrew word for the abode of the dead.** Sh'ol was the shadowy place where all went after death: **No one remembers you when you are dead. Who praises you from sh'ol (Psalm 6:5)?** And **Luke** gave us an example in the parable about **a rich man and Lazarus**, where **the angels carried Lazarus to Abraham's side** (Luke 16:19-31).

Secondly, the proud would be humiliated. The people will be brought low and the

eyes of the arrogant humbled, regardless of their social status (**5:15**, also see **2:11-12** and **17**). There is no distinction of rank and no place for splendor in **sh'ol** (**to see link click Dq - Those Who See You Stare and Ponder Your Fate**). Every attempt to gain an advantage of status or power in the underworld is useless, for everyone descends to the same level in the grave. The wealthy and the poor might be separated in this life (**5:8-10**), but not in the next. And because **the rich** gave themselves over to decadence rather than the understanding of **the LORD**, death would swallow the whole nation up together.

Thirdly, the land of Judah would be devastated. The land that was good for raising crops will only be good for grazing. **The sheep will graze as in their own pasture.** With the houses of the wealthy ruined (**5:8-9**), **lambs will feed among the ruins of the rich** (**5:17**). It was beyond ironic that the frantic energy spent adding **house to house and field to field** (**5:8**) would be replaced by the quiet grazing of the flocks. It is a spiritual principle of the universe. **God's** peace will prevail, either by design or default.

Fourthly, this destruction of the nation would lead to a display of God's justice and holiness. **But the LORD of heaven's armies (CJB), will be exalted by His justice, and the holy God will show Himself by His righteousness** (**5:16**). God proves **His holiness and righteousness** by judging sin. Ultimately, foreigners would occupy the Land. The nation, without realizing it, was in a death spiral. **Their** pride and **their** vices had blinded **them** to the truth of the Torah.