

FIVE "ALAS" STATEMENTS IN THE BIBLE

"Alas" - An exclamation expressive of sorrow, grief, pity, concern, or apprehension of evil; Used to express sorrow, regret, grief, compassion, or apprehension of danger or evil; unfortunately, sadly, or regrettably.

1-The Alas of a Defeated People **Joshua 7:7**

The Need of Dealing With Sin (Joshua, Israel, & Achan)

- Because It Breaks My Fellowship With God
- Because It Stops Answers to Prayer
- Because If We Don't, God Will
- Because We Need The Correction

2-The Alas of a Disobedient Prophet **1 Kings 13:30**

(Un-named prophet, false prophet, and wicked King Jeroboam)

- Be Careful Who You Listen To
- Beware of Bad Advice
- Belittling Obedience Is Deadly
- Better Obey God Fully

3-The Alas of Departed Power **2 Kings 6:5**

(Elisha, the prophet, the sons of the prophets)

- Confused About the Loss
- Concerned About the Loss
- Confessed the Loss
- Concentrated On The Loss (Place)
 You get the power back right where you lost it!

4-The Alas of a Desperate Position **2 Kings 6:15**

(Trapped and in need of Help / Vision)

- Vision to See the Blessing of Salvation
- Vision to See Who the Enemy Is
- Vision to See the Seriousness of Sin
- Vision to See the Peril of the Lost
- Vision to See the Providence of God in Our Lives

5-The Alas of a Destroyed Place **Rev. 18:10, 16, 19**

(Same Greek word translated "Woe" everywhere else in N.T. describing an exclamation of grief, distress, or lamentation)

- Strategic Position... Economically, Geographically, Religiously, Politically
- Stubborn Rebellion... for Centuries
- Sudden Destruction... "in one hour"

On June 25, 1876, Lt-Colonel George Armstrong Custer led a detachment of the 7th Calvary into a ravine where thousands of Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Indians under chiefs Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, and Gall lying in wait. In what has been spoken of as the greatest defeat inflicted on the U.S. Army in the Plains Wars, and most commonly called "Custer's last Stand," Custer and an estimated 225 soldiers were killed. The battle lasted for approximately one hour.

Gary Moore writes: "One very important--but very difficult truth was actually uncovered by G.K. Chesterton almost a century ago. The London Times had asked various writers to respond to the question, 'What's wrong with the world?' Chesterton's response was simply: 'Dear Sirs, I am. Sincerely yours, G.K. Chesterton.'" [Zondervan Press Syndicate, Aug 1996. Page 6.]

When we can confess our sins this readily, we are ready to receive God's mercy instead of his wrath.