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## Coldness Matthew 24:12

By Elder Keith Ellis

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."  
Matthew 24:12

Due to the circumstances of the environment, the Jews were hardened in heart against Christians and everything they stood for. Persecution was common amongst the followers of Jesus.

It may be 'persecution' itself is the 'iniquity' under consideration in this text. Christ took the persecution of Saul against the church personally. He said:

"...Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" and "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:..."  
Acts 9:4-5

Yet this sin or iniquity is said to abound. It was rampant. And when we read of the trials of the infant church the prophecies of Jesus again ring true.

God does not always immediately punish sin. For instance, when a cup is full, it will hold no more. At the time it becomes full something must be done with it or its contents will spill out of the cup. Now I believe God sometimes deals with the sins of man in the same manner. He waits until the "cup becomes full," so to speak, before He chastens us. Once we sow, we will eventually reap. Sow to the Spirit and reap life, or to the flesh to reap corruption. Reward or chastening is not always immediate.

The day and age in which the first Christian church was established happened to be the last days for disobedient Jews. Their cup was about to run over. Not with joy, as king David described in Psalms twenty three, but with iniquity. God would allow no more. The days of His vengeance had arrived. (See Luke 21:22 and Matthew 23:31-32)

Christians are under a mandate to love our enemies. The true believer does. It is when one is in a hardened condition that their love waxes cold.

Iniquity abounded in all Israel and even became exceeding sinful. The days for Jerusalem and its inhabitants were numbered. There would be no escape for those who refused to embrace the truth of Jesus as Messiah. Yet God promised a way out for those who embraced Christ.