

Judgement on whole people (v.1)

- *Image: diagram of priests, people, royalty*
- Focus has been priests...
 - but people and royal house have allowed themselves to be led...
 - there is no "I was just following orders" defence!
 - in a church going awry, we are to hold faithful to God and prove a blessing by holding out life...

Snare rather than blessing (v.1)

- *Image: mousetrap*
- Absolute opposite of God's intention for his people, which was to bring blessing to the nations...

Discipline/Chastisement (v.2)

- *Image: man silhouette*
- Consequence, but words suggest desire for restoration, change...

Stepped away from God's side (vs.4-7)

- *Image: motorway*
- Stepped into danger, away from God's side, and then wonder that God's not there at their side!

On the warpath (vs.8-12)

- *Image: war definition*
- "Traditional" biblical images of judgement, war, trampling, battle, and also moth & rot

Where will they turn? (vs.13-15)

- *Image: sign, choice arrows*

Conclusion

- Not exempt because of extenuating circumstance....
- Worst judgement is withdrawal of God himself, stepping back from us/allowing us to step away from him
 - our idolatry, our unfaithfulness, is serious....
 - I feel a tone of sadness, more than anger, pervading chapter...
- God is faithful, he hasn't moved:
 - he is always there to be sought and found
 - partially true in restoration after exile...
 - fully true in our confession of sin, repentance and seeking of God through Jesus Christ - to whom we come as sinners in need of forgiveness