REASONS TO BE SAD FOR THE JEWS
(1 Thessalonians 2:15-16)

I. Their reaction to God's messengers.
A. God sent His only begotten Son to the Jews and their response was to kill Him.
   1. The apostles made sure that those present on Pentecost understood what they had done (Acts 2:23).
B. This was a group of people that had, nearly from their beginning, despised God's messengers.
   1. They wanted to kill Moses and go back into Egypt (Exodus 17:1-4).
   2. The Jews of Paul's day were simply carrying on the tradition handed down from their forefathers.
C. They killed the prophets.
   1. The word “own” indicates a special relationship.
   2. These were men who were sent from the Jews to the Jews, so there was a special relationship between the Jews and the prophets.
   3. This did not stop the Jews from killing them.
   4. The Lord accused them of this very thing also in parable form (Matthew 21:33-36).
D. Their history of killing prophets did not end under the Mosaic Law, just as Jesus prophesied (Matthew 23:34-35).
   1. One of the spiritual offices of the infant church was that of prophet (Ephesians 4:11-12).
   2. The Jews killed many Christians and some of these were prophets.
E. Not only that, they severely persecuted Paul, his companions and all apostles.
   1. They persecuted Paul at Iconium, Derbe, Lystra, Thessalonica, Berea, Corinth and Jerusalem.
   2. They sought to kill him in Damascus and other places.
F. One can see who a person truly is when the gospel message is presented to them.
G. The Jews showed themselves to be murderers and haters of God in reality.

II. Their relationship with God.
A. The word “please” carries the idea of a relationship having existed before behavior has begun.
B. As mentioned earlier, the Jews had a unique and tremendous relationship with God.
C. However, they became unpleasing to God by their actions resulting in a fractured relationship with God.
   1. Their killing of His Son showed their attitude towards God.
   2. Their killing of the prophets showed their attitude towards the
message of God.

D. The tense of the word indicates a continuous displeasing of God.
   1. Their actions didn’t stop.
   2. They continued on the course of displeasing God.

E. They did this by being contrary, or antagonistic, to all men.
   1. This is specifically referring to Gentiles.
   2. There was a deep hatred for Gentiles in the Jewish world.

F. They showed this hatred by forbidding Jews who had been converted to preach to Gentiles.
   1. Though after this letter was written the events recorded in Acts 22:21-22 show their attitude.
   2. They felt Paul was not worthy to live because he had preached to the Gentiles.
   3. Peter was confronted by Jewish Christians for having preached to Cornelius, recorded for us in Acts 11.

G. The only way a Gentile could be saved, in their minds at least, was to become a Jew by proselyting.

H. To go from such a closeness with God to such a rejection of God is mind boggling.

I. Their relationship with God was adversarial to say the least.

J. They stood in complete rebellion to God and it destroyed their relationship with Him.

III. The result of their actions and attitudes.

A. Paul told the Thessalonians that the Jews filled up their sins.
   1. The words “fill up” denote the amount of something.
   2. In this case, their sins were filled to the brim.

B. The result of this was that wrath was going to come upon them to the uttermost.

C. This is an example of something being said to have happened that had not as yet occurred.
   1. It was settled in the mind of God that His wrath was going to be poured out on them completely.
   2. It was as if the action had already taken place in God’s eyes.

D. It was less than 20 years later that Titus, the Roman general, would lay siege to Jerusalem, killing thousands, and virtually destroying Judaism.

E. As Barnes noted, the destruction of Jerusalem was an outward expression of the displeasure God had towards the Jews in His omniscient mind.

F. Their sins resulted in their destruction.