

Disciple's Quest

If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine.

John 8:31

June 17, 2018

A Story of Three Kings... and One Prophet - Selected texts from 1 Kings

Main Idea:

The aim of today's study is to selectively survey 1 Kings 4-16 so that we may acquire the historical background necessary for understanding Elijah and his ministry.

Outline:

1) Some introductory thoughts on Elijah

2) Historical background

a. Solomon in four words

i. success

ii. sin

iii. syncretism

b. Jeroboam in two words

i. conniving

ii. consequential

c. Ahab in one word

i. evil

Questions for further contemplation and application following the message:

1) Thinking back on today's message, do you agree that it is accurate to define syncretism as a strain of idolatry?

In your opinion does the radical form of ecumenism common in contemporary culture which promotes union between evangelical Christianity and other religions (Roman Catholicism Mormonism, Islam, etc.) bear resemblance to the syncretism of biblical times?

Can we "unite" with other religions or with churches that deny the gospel?

What are some of the potential dangers of "uniting" with gospel denying religious groups for the purpose of advancing a particular social or moral agenda?

2) Although David's repentance proved him to be "a man after God's own heart," he was far from perfect, and undoubtedly normalized polygamy in the eyes of Solomon, thereby unintentionally contributing the spiritual calamity that overtook him. Thinking this through further, is it accurate to conclude, generally, that children are at risk of amplifying the sins of their parents?

What sinful behaviors and/or attitudes do you evidence before the watchful eyes of your children/grandchildren?

Do you approach the matter of your liberty in Christ judiciously in the day to day life you live at home?

3) History tells us that Omri, Ahab's father, was regarded as a highly successful king. Further, Ahab himself reigned for 21 years, was wealthy, and would be regarded as successful by worldly standards. God, however, declared both men to be evil. What is the lesson?

In life are you seeking worldly success or godliness?

