



HOMEWORK FOR SEPTEMBER 26

Kings: The Role of the Prophets

Readings: Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 1 Kings 22:1-8; 21:17-28; Jonah 3:1-4:4; Amos 5:21-27; Hosea 1:1-10; Hosea 2:4-8; Isaiah 2:1-5; Isaiah 53; Micah 6:6-8; Zephaniah 3:6-20; Nahum 1; Habakkuk 1:1-4; 3:16-19; Joel 2:10-32; Jeremiah 7:1-15; 31:31-34; Obadiah 1:15-17; Romans 9:25-26; 10:9-16; Matthew 5:10-16

QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Deuteronomy 13:1-5. How can we know that someone is a false prophet? What does this tell us about the purpose of prophets? _____

- 2) Read 1 Kings 22:1-8. (Note: Jehoshaphat was a “good, but...” king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, but did not remove the high places. The king of Israel was a wicked king.) Why did Jehoshaphat want to find a prophet in this story? What does this tell us about the role of prophets in Israel?

- 3) Read 1 Kings 21:17-28. (Note: Ahab was the worst king in the history of Israel.) What did Elijah prophesy to Ahab? How did Ahab react? How did God react to Ahab’s reaction? What does this tell us about the purpose of God sending prophets? What does this tell us about the character of God? _____

- 4) Read Jonah 3:1-4:4. (Note: Jonah was preaching to Nineveh, Israel’s greatest enemy.) Why was Jonah angry about God forgiving Nineveh? What does it tell us about the mission of prophets? What does this tell us about the character of God?

- 5) Read Amos 5:21-27. What does God say that He wants from His people rather than empty religious festivals and sacrifices? What does this tell us about God? _____

- 6) Read Isaiah 53. What kind of Messiah is described here? How does it relate to Jesus? What does this tell us about God? _____

- 7) Read Micah 6:6-8. What does Micah tell us that God is really looking for from His people? What does this tell us about how people have misunderstood God? What does it tell us about God's character? What does it tell us about the role of the prophet? _____

- 8) Read Habakkuk 1:1-4 and 3:16-19. Compare the beginning of Habakkuk's prayer with the end. How does his heart change? What does it tell us about the role of a prophet? What does it tell us about the character of God? _____

- 9) Read Romans 9:25-26 and 10:9-13. What is the message of hope in the prophets? _____

- Continue reading in Romans 10:14-16. How can people hear the message from God today? How will people react to the message? _____

- 10) Read Matthew 5:10-16. How did the people treat the prophets? What does this say about how the world may treat us? What is God calling us to do in this passage? _____

APPLICATION

All the pre-exilic prophets pointed ahead to a Messiah who was to come in the New Covenant. We know it was Jesus Christ to whom they were pointing. Yet even after he died and rose again, his followers were still asking Him about restoring the kingdom to Israel, not understanding that His kingdom was a whole lot bigger than that physical kingdom (Acts 1:7). It wasn't until the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost, as the prophet Joel described, that they finally really got it (Joel 2:28-32). This is how this New Covenant was accomplished. God poured out His Spirit on His disciples at Pentecost (Acts 2). In this New Covenant, God wouldn't just give us His Law to obey, but He would write the Law on our hearts and change us from the inside out. Jesus describes God sending His Spirit to dwell in their hearts when He goes back up to heaven to the Father, so that the Spirit can guide us from within so we can follow His ways like Israel/Judah did not (John 14-16).

- Spend some time reflecting on the way the indwelling of the Holy Spirit empowers us to follow God.
- Ask the Spirit to guide you in the truth and mold you into the person He wants you to become.