

Empty Promises

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Ezekiel 13:22, "Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life."

God has shown many times in scripture that faithful servants of the Lord teach his word as it is, without adding their own opinions to it. Still, man lets things creep into the message of God that the Lord didn't authorize. Sometimes it is by ignorance, and at other times it is a deliberate and false teaching. Both offer a false hope, and empty promises.

Can anyone read the scriptures and fail to see that God is serious about sin? It was so serious that it took the death of Jesus on the cross to redeem us from it. We are saved by his Grace if and when we believe in him, repent, confess our sins, and are baptized for the remission of sin and walk with him throughout our lives. If we try to go another way we won't make it to heaven. This is not because I

say it, but because the Lord says it. He didn't present several ways to be saved, but offered only one way, as only one way is needed.

We can't alter his plan of salvation, and we can't change the way that we are to live as followers of God. I saw a quote by Gandhi on a car the other day that said, "I like your Christ, but I don't like your Christians. They are so unlike your Christ." That is sad, but all too many times it is true. Sometimes as Christians we fail to show Jesus in our lives, even when we try our best. It is even worse when false teachers tell people that they can do sinful things as a way of life and that it is nothing to be concerned about.

There is no place in the Word of God where it says that anyone can live a sinful life and be saved. Anyone who tells you that there is will be lying to you. There were false prophets doing this in the time of Ezekiel and other writers of the Old Testament. God condemned this evil doctrine then and still does today. To live in sin while claiming to be a Christian is to mock all that Jesus stands for. Can anyone read the scriptures for themselves and honestly think that the Lord will tolerate sin in our lives?

Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words

shall not pass away." **Matthew 24:35**. That is how unchangeable his word is, it will never change. How can weak, sinful man even think that he can change what God has said? Yet, man in his madness, and folly, tells people that they don't have to obey the plan of salvation, and then that they are not required to fight against sin. Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin, not that we could live in it. **Romans 6:15-16**.

Fighting against sin is a lifelong struggle for the child of God. Only by the Grace and help of God can we have victory over sin. The Lord never told us it would be easy, or that we could give up. We are admonished to endure unto the end to be saved. Those who tell you to do as you want and to not be concerned about trying to live a holy life are deceivers. The Lord tells us to follow him as our example. He never gave in to sin, nor accepted it in any fashion. When Satan quoted scripture, Jesus quoted scripture in the right context and applied it correctly. False teachers follow the way of evil and will quote scripture, but only to use it to fit an erroneous doctrine. That is why we need to read and study the bible for ourselves. We need to know the Lord's will and to follow the path of truth. Remember there are still false teachers as well as those who teach the truth - know the difference.

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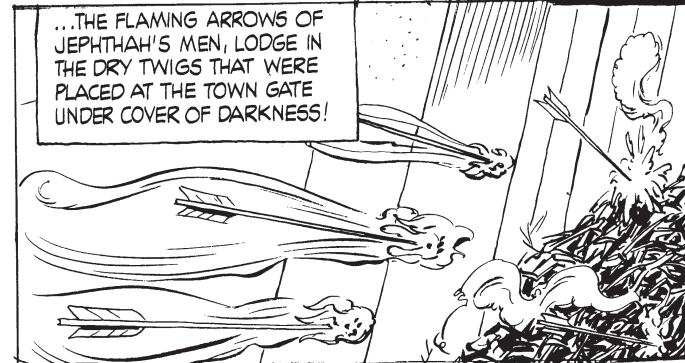
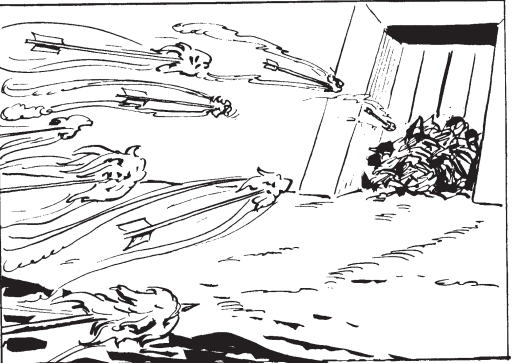
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JEPHTHAH

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