

Idolatry and Compassion

By Vince Finnegan

GOD'S FIRST COMMAND was and is - "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me."

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 The word "Belial" means worthless or wicked and is a name of Satan. The command is very clear. The darkness in the unbeliever will overpower the light in us. We are not to fellowship with those who are unbelievers, lawless, in darkness, or idolaters.

1 Kings 16:29-33 The name "Ethbaal" means "with Baal." He was a king of Sidon (B.C. 940) who ascended to power by the wicked assassination of his predecessor. He is said to have been also the high priest of Asherah, whose worship was closely allied to that of Baal.

During Ahab's reign, the prophet for YAHWEH was Elijah, who said unto the people, "I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men." Israel was totally infested with idolatry.

1 Kings 21:17-26 Elijah confronted Ahab after Jezebel murdered Naboth.

2 Chronicles 18:1 Jehoshaphat the king of Judah apparently wanted to have unity with the kingdom of Israel as it was in the days of David and Solomon. He arranged a marriage of convenience as Solomon did. His son married Ahab and Jezebel's daughter.

2 Chronicles 18:28-19:4 Jehoshaphat responded but did not learn his lesson.

2 Chronicles 21:4-7 Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, married Athaliah, Ahab's daughter. Her grandfather was the high priest of idols, and her mother was Jezebel. She brought her wicked family legacy into Judah where the throne of David and the Messiah were.

2 Chronicles 22:1-4 Jehoram's son Ahaziah followed his mother's ways.

2 Chronicles 22:10-12 After Jehoram's death, his mother reigned on the throne of David.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 Do you think God's commandments are overstated?

1. 1) Idolatry has always been rampant. We would be foolish to think the devil's methods have changed.
2. 2) Idolatry, not any other sin, was the reason for Israel's destruction. It is also the reason for the demise of Christian churches.
3. 3) Marrying an unbeliever does not work, "it's different with us."
4. 4) Unity with idolaters cannot work.

1 Corinthians 8:1-ff Our heart regarding the idolater.