

HIEL -- THE BUILDER

6/19/2024 AM

INTRO.

A. Read text: 1 Kings 16:29-34.

B. Regarding the text:

1. Some characters of the Bible are well known (Moses, Abraham, Paul).
2. Others are somewhat obscure, not much is written about them.
 - 1) Examples: Shamgar (**Judges 3:31; 5:6**); Manoah (**Judges 13**); Jabez (**1 Chro. 4:9-10**).
3. Yet what is written is profitable for us.
 - 1) **2 Tim. 3:16-17.**
 - 2) **Rom. 15:4** "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning..."
4. Such is the case with **Hiel** of Bethel.
 - 1) His name is found only **ONE time**.
 - 2) Ahab is king (**1 Kings 16:29-33**).
 - a. He reigned 22 years.
 - b. He did evil.
 - c. He married Jezebel and began to worship idols.
 - 3) When we are introduced to Heil disobedience abounded.

C. What can we learn from him? We will notice 3 valuable lessons.

I. IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE.

A. Perhaps Hiel had not heard of the curse spoken by Joshua. (Jos. 6:26).

1. This is hard to believe, but possible.
2. Or he heard and just rebelled against God's word.
3. Either way, he lost two sons (some believe all of his sons were lost).

B. Lack of knowledge has never been acceptable with God.

1. **Hosea 4:1, 6.**
2. Yet the consequences still came (**Isaiah 5:13; Pro. 1:28-31**).

II. TIME WILL NOT WEAKEN GOD'S PROMISES.

A. Following the destruction of Jericho, Joshua had uttered a prophecy regarding any who would try to rebuild the city in the future (Josh. 6:26).

B. God's word is steadfast and sure.

1. Time didn't change with the ages.
 - 1) More than 500 years since Joshua pronounced that curse.
 - 2) Yet God's truth stood firm.
2. "When God speaks, it stays spoken" (**Joshua 21:45; Isa. 40:8; Mark 13:31**).

C. Some say: "But times have changed." But God's word has not (Rev. 22:18-19).

III. GOOD INTENTIONS DO NOT GIVE LIBERTY.

A. I do not know just why Heil set out to rebuild Jericho.

B. Note: Uzzah: 2 Samuel 6:3-6; Naaman: 2 Kings 5 (Behold I thought...); Paul: Acts 23:1; 26:9.

C. Good intentions separated from authority is dangerous.

1. Error comes in – sin occurs when we disobey.
2. It matters not WHAT the motive or intention.

IV. CLOSING:

A. Let us be careful to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.

B. Without authority from God our best intentions are wrong.

C. God will keep His promises.