

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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God Is Not Mocked

(Jerry Fite)

When we are warned not to be deceived, it is usually because we are susceptible to being misguided under given circumstances. Paul exhorts the Christians in Galatia: “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*”. (Galatians 6:7). When is man often deceived? When he thinks he can do anything he wants without consequences before God.

A vivid example of one being deceived is Ahab. This King of Israel sought Judah’s King to accompany him in taking back Ramoth-gilead from the King of Syria (*I Kings 22*). Jehoshaphat agreed, but first wanted to consult the “*word from Jehovah*” to see whether or not they would succeed (*I Kings 22:5*).

About 400 prophets tell Ahab they should go, for Jehovah would deliver the city unto the King’s hands. Jehoshaphat asks if there is another prophet to inquire about the matter. Ahab reluctantly suggests the prophet Micaiah because “*he doth not prophecy good concerning me, but evil*” (*I*

Kings 22:8). But he relents to the request of King Jehoshaphat.

To Ahab’s surprise, Micaiah prophesies the same positive message as the other prophets regarding victory in Ramoth-gilead. Behind the scenes, God had allowed a lying spirit to speak lies through the prophets. At this moment, even Micaiah is apparently God’s prophetic instrument through which the lying spirit speaks of good for Ahab.

But when Ahab demands the “*truth*”, Micaiah gives him the truthful background of God allowing the false prophecies to encourage Ahab unto his own demise. Micaiah finally stresses the truth that Jehovah “*hath spoken evil*” concerning Ahab. (*I Kings 22:16-23*).

Ahab refuses the truth, and disguises himself on the battlefield. But God is not mocked! An archer launches an arrow and it just happens to land between the parts of armor protecting King Ahab, reaping deadly consequences.

God is not mocked in nature, for his laws of reaping the same as you sow are always in place. God is not mocked in the spiritual realm as well. However, men do not readily see this truth.

Fornication, stealing, lying are all works of the flesh which bring man to a lesser state than if he walked according to the teachings of God. If he does not repent of such sowing in this life, he will reap eternal corruption in Hell (*Mk. 9:48*). One can ignore this truth, and like Ahab, think he will not reap the evil promised. But God is not mocked!

But the passage also has a positive application. Diligent reading and studying God’s revealed Word, faithful attendance in weekly gatherings for worship, and good works in helping others are examples of sowing to the spirit which will reap eternal life. No, it is not the Christian doing things to earn eternal life, but it is the Christian complying with unalterable spiritual laws that lead one to eternal life. Why? God is not mocked, that’s why!