

Apply The Word

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KINGS & KINGDOMS

Message Info

Title:

Christ or Chaos

Speaker:

Steve Heitland

Date:

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Scriptures:

1 Kings 12:1-14:20

Theme: Honor the Lord always and he will preserve you through the chaos.

Introduction: The choice is always Christ or chaos. There are no other options. Since the rebellion of Adam in the Garden, chaos is all around us. Yet the Lord remains sovereign and he works his purposes to triumph through and over chaos, undoing the devastation our sin has wrought and restoring us to himself. Here, in the reign of Jeroboam, we find chaos in every way; but we also find the Lord working for good.

We see both the Lord's judgment and his mercy through 4 kinds of chaos:

1. Political chaos (12:1-24)

Rehoboam follows Solomon as King, and the people of the northern tribes ask him to lessen their load. Instead, he answers them harshly and they rebel.

Jeroboam becomes their king, and though Rehoboam seeks to fight the rebels, the Lord prevents him from doing so through a faithful prophet.

2. Religious chaos (12:25-13:10)

Jeroboam fears losing his hold on power if his people worship in Jerusalem, so he sets up an entire competing religious system.

The Lord sends an unnamed Judean prophet to oppose him, and though the Lord struck Jeroboam with a withered hand, he is still not truly humbled.

3. Prophetic chaos (13:11-34)

That Judean prophet then has a run-in with an old prophet from Bethel. The old prophet lies to him, and the Judean prophet disobeys the Lord's word and is killed. These prophets represent their respective nations-Israel goes more quickly and whole-heartedly after idols, and influences Judah to do the same, even though they are slower to do so.

4. Personal chaos (14:1-20)

Jeroboam's son, Abijah, fell sick. He sends his wife—in disguise—to the prophet Ahijah to find out his fate. Jeroboam is demonstrating 2 things: a) he believes in the Lord; and b) he wants to use the Lord on his own terms.

The Lord pronounces judgment: because Jeroboam had been so unfaithful, his entire household would die, and die disgracefully. Only Abijah would die in a dignified way and be mourned properly, because he alone was pleasing to the Lord.

Questions:

1. What chaos is in your life?
2. Where do you look for help? How are you tempted to pragmatism?
3. How do you want to grow in trusting the Lord with your trials and suffering?