

Sons Are Not Held Accountable for the Sins of Their Fathers

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Sons Are Not Held Accountable for the Sins of Their Father (Dt. 24:16).

To correctly understand why God stated that King Ahab's descendants would suffer calamity (cf. 1Kgs. 21:29), it is important to bear in mind that Almighty God is not limited by time or space and, as a consequence, is able to see into the future. This is a very difficult concept for any human being to comprehend.

Remember the former things of old, for I am God (Almighty), and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, ¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure (Isa. 46:9-10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

With this principle in mind, it will be easier to understand what God was saying in the following scripture.

See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity (cf. 1Kgs. 21:18-22) in his days; but in the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house (1Kgs. 21:29; Ed. note in parenthesis).

When God made the statement in 1Kings 21:29, He already knew that one of King Ahab's descendants would transgress His law, and bring the consequences upon himself. This

descendant was King Jehu who was a great grandson of Ahab.

But Jehu took no heed (was not careful) to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin (cf. 1Kgs, 13:28-33) (2Kgs. 10:31; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Therefore, King Jehu was not punished for the sins of his forefather Ahab. Instead, Jehu was punished for his own sins and God knew he would commit these transgressions while King Ahab was still alive. If this were not true, then the following scripture is false.

The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin (Dt. 24:16; see study: Children Are Not Punished for the Sins of the Parents).

If King Jehu had repented as his forefather Ahab did, God would have forgiven him. Unfortunately, this did not happen and the nation of Israel suffered as a result (cf. 2Kgs. 10:32-33).

Consequently, no contradiction exists between 1Kings 21:29 and Deuteronomy 24:16. Instead, the calamity that God brought upon Jehu consisted of consequences for the sins he committed. Sadly, with poor religious and political leaders, the people around them suffer as well (cf. Isa. 3:12; Jer. 23:13; Mt. 23:1-33).

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