

Seeking Truth

II Thessalonians 2:1-12



Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

- John 18:37-38

Conflicting Messages Ignored

➤ Zedekiah

- Jews had undergone 2 deportations (605 & 597 BC) and were about to undergo a 3rd (586 BC)
- Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah left in the first deportation, Ezekiel in the second
- Jeremiah remained in Jerusalem

Conflicting Messages Ignored

➤ Zedekiah

... Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him face to face and see him eye to eye ...

- Jeremiah 32:4

And I will spread My net over him, and he shall be taken in My snare. And I will bring him to Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, yet he shall not see it, and he shall die there.

- Ezekiel 12:13

Conflicting Messages Ignored

➤ Zedekiah

... Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him. They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains and took him to Babylon.

- II Kings 25:6-7

Conflicting Messages Ignored

➤ Zedekiah

➤ Ahab

... and you shall say to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood.'" - I Kings 21:19

... and the Lord said, "Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?"

Now therefore behold, the Lord has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the Lord has declared disaster for you. - I Kings 22:20, 23

Conflicting Messages Ignored

- Zedekiah
- Ahab

But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate... So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood ...

- I Kings 22:34, 37-38

Conflicting Messages Ignored

- Zedekiah
- Ahab
- The Scribes and the Pharisees

*God with us (Immanuel) Son of God Man of Sorrows
 Wonderful Son of Man
 Prince of Peace The Good Shepherd
 The Anointed Son The Holy One Counselor
 The King of Glory The Suffering Servant*



Abraham

- Through Isaac he would be the father of many nations

I will bless her [Sarah], and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.

... No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac.

- Genesis 17:16, 19

Abraham

- Through Isaac he would be the father of many nations
- Commanded to sacrifice (kill) Isaac

He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

- Genesis 22:2

Example of Abraham

- Through Isaac he would be the father of many nations
- Commanded to sacrifice (kill) Isaac

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

- Genesis 22:1

Example of Abraham

- Through Isaac he would be the father of many nations
- Commanded to sacrifice (kill) Isaac


By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

- Hebrews 11:17-19

Which was true?

"Your seed, through Isaac, shall be as numberless as the stars."
Genesis 15:5, 17:16, 19

"Go to the mountain and sacrifice your son Isaac."
Genesis 22:2




Both!

Which is true?

"By grace you are saved through faith."
Ephesians 2:8

"You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone."
James 2:24




Both!

Which is true?

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 6:23

"Baptism now saves you"
1 Peter 3:21



Both!

Conclusions

- ☞ God sometimes appears to "mask" Truth with seeming contradictions
- ☞ Usually, the "cost of Truth" is high (Proverbs 23:23)
- ☞ We serve an awesome God whose Word is Truth (John 17:17)