

For His Name's Sake

Don Hammond

I Samuel 12:22 "The Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, for I has pleased Him to make you a people for Himself."

Psalms 23:13 "He restores my life. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

II Kings 19:34 "For I will defend this city, to save it, for My own sake, and for My servant David's sake."

Psalms 31:3 "Yes, You are my rock and my fortress; therefore for Your name's sake lead me and guide me."

Psalms 31:16 "Let Your face shine on Your servant; save me for Your mercy's sake and in Your loving kindness."

Psalms 143:11 "Save my life, O Lord, for Your name's sake; in Your righteousness bring my life out of trouble and free me from distress."

Isaiah 48:11 "For My own sake, for My own sake, I do it, for why should I permit My name to be polluted and profaned? And I will not give My glory to another."

Jeremiah 14:7 "O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, deal and work with us for Your name's sakes, for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against You."

Ezekiel 36:22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for My holy name's sake, which you have profaned among the nations to which you went."

II Samuel 7:21 "For Your Word's sake and as Your own heart dictates, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know and understand."

Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am He who blots out and cancels your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins."

It is easy to see that when the Lord makes a promise, establishes a covenant, or gives His Word, He will keep it for His name's sake.

I John 2:25 "And this is what He Himself has promised us, the life, the eternal life."

Acts 2:39 "For the promise (of the Holy Spirit) is to you and to your children, and to as many as the Lord our God shall call." This is plainly saying that if you have the Spirit, He will see to it that they have the Spirit, and it will be for His name's sake, for He has promised it. It does not say they will be overcomers, only that they will be saved. But what about an unbelieving spouse? And by that I include one who is not doing as God commands, whether they have made a profession or not.

I Corinthians 7:14 “For the unbelieving husband is set apart (separated, withdrawn from heathen contamination and affiliated with Christian people) by union with his consecrated (set-apart) wife; and the unbelieving wife is set apart and separated through union with her consecrated husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean (unblessed heathen, outside the Christian covenant) but as it is they are prepared for God – pure and clean.”

The Greek says the unbelieving spouse is sanctified. Sanctify means to make holy, to make free from sin, to purify, to set apart as holy, to consecrate, to make a person holy. It has been said that unless a person fulfills the instructions of Romans 10:13 they cannot be saved. It says, “For everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord (invoking Him as Lord) will be saved.” This is a true statement but it does not say, “Only those who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” There is no way a person who has been made holy by God, through a promise and for His names sake, can go to hell. So what happens? We can understand by other scripture.

Absalom rebelled against his father, King David, to kill him and usurp the kingdom. II Samuel 16:21-22 “And Ahithophel said to Absalom, Go in to your father’s concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; and all Israel will hear that you are abhorred by your father; then the hands of all who are with you will be made strong. So they spread Absalom a tent on the top of the king’s house (so all could see); and Absalom went in to his father’s harem in the sight of all Israel.” Absalom was subsequently killed and David returned. II Samuel 20:3 “So David came to his house at Jerusalem. And the king took the ten women his concubines, whom he had left to keep the house, and put them away under guard, and provided for them, but did not go in to them. So they were shut up to the day of their death, living in widowhood.”

A concubine is not a wife or bride, but does have certain legal status, and her children are heirs of the father. They lived in the king’s house, kept their rights but were “widowed.” The king did not commune with them. A concubine is symbolic of the unbelieving mate that has been sanctified by the believing mate. They are “widows” not in the sense that the king is dead, but in the sense that the king has not a relationship to them or with them. The unbelieving mate does still commit adultery with the world, and since they have not confessed Jesus, He will not confess them before the Father. Still, if they should die physically while married to a consecrated partner, they will be in a sanctified condition and under God’s protection. They will be cared for, but they will not be free to mingle and converse with the believing ones. They do not burn as they chose to stay with the believing partner and that is their reward.

Ezekiel 16:59-63 clearly shows us that while a people are sinners God will honor His covenant for His name’s sake. “Yes, thus says the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have done, who have despised the oath in breaking the covenant; nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish you with an everlasting covenant. Then you will remember your ways, and be ashamed and confounded, when you shall receive your sisters, both your elder and your younger; I will give them to you for daughters, but not on account of your covenant. And I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the Lord; that you may remember and be ashamed and confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I have forgiven you of all you have done, says the Lord God.” So we see that they are “guarded” not by angels or men, but by

their shame. Even though in the king's house, in a very real sense they are not in His kingdom, for there you have righteousness, peace and joy. A sanctified man might. That needs meditation for Job 22:30 says, "He will even deliver one who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered by the purity of your hands."

Still, you can see that God's promises are taken very seriously by Him. He cannot break His word. In our intercession we can plead for His kindness, mercy and grace; and for the sake of His name.

Hebrews 6:17-18 "Accordingly God also, in His desire to show more convincingly and beyond doubt, to those who were to inherit the promise, the unchangeableness of His purpose and plan, intervened with an oath. This was so that by two unchangeable things (His promise and His oath), in which it is impossible for God ever to prove false or deceive us, we who have fled to Him for refuge might have mighty indwelling strength and strong encouragement to grasp and hold fast the hope appointed for us and set before us."