

Dangerous Alliance

"[Then the Lord said,] "Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their Asherah poles. [...]. Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.'" (Exodus 34:12-13 and 15-16; NIV)

- Which country are we supposed to take for our inheritance? In my observation its standard procedure in many Christian circles today to blend with the world. Compromising Christian convictions and diluting biblical hard hitting truth is less painful than going against the stream, isn't it? So sadly, rather than exposing darkness and destroying evil, God's people adopt too often for their lives what's acceptable across the whole spectrum of a godless world, from music styles to behavior to business principles to politics, believing this allows for making a difference in the world. But that's a contradiction. If you are/live not different to those around you, you can't make a difference. Period.

God has always warned His people not to mix and align with those who defy Him since He knows the danger of dilution and compromise, which always only leads away from Him, never any closer. The New Testament version of this Exodus 34 admonition would be this:

"Stop forming inappropriate relationships with unbelievers. Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything in common with darkness?" (2 Cor. 6:14, Gods Word Transl.)

"Have nothing to do with the useless works that darkness produces. Instead, expose them for what they are." (Ephesians 5:11, Gods Word Translation)

"For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night." (1 Thessalonians 5:5, NLT-SE)

"If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth." (1 John 1:6, NIV)

- In view of all this I believe we'd do well in scrutinizing our lives. Please don't misinterpret me. I'm not suggesting we withdraw from the world altogether. On the contrary, we are supposed to be salt to the world (Matthew 5:13), which means we have to "engage" in it. Yet the question is, does the world change us and make us lose our saltiness or do we stay salty and consequently do our bit to change the world? Do we allow an unbelieving world to shape our views and thinking, our life approach and conduct, or do we live life consistently God-pleasing different so that we can make a difference in a godless world?
- Times are getting tougher, economically, politically, spiritually, challenging most of us to do something, anything, to alleviate the increasingly unbearable pressures we face. But why is it that we tend to look at the attractive, good looking and promising solutions of the world that are always close by, ready to be picked like fruit (e.g. business partnerships or political alliances with unbelievers, debt, money from ungodly sources, dependence on worldly wisdom, titles, right connections, etc.) and yet above Scriptures warn us clearly to leave those solutions untouched? They'd only become a snare to us, a dangerous alliance, ultimately dragging us down into our own destruction.
- Is God unreasonable in His demands? Certainly not. Does He know how difficult life has become these days, especially for believers? He surely does. As I struggle to make sense of the world falling apart around us I dare to say that there is probably no better time to show the world that being aligned with God Almighty can make all the difference.