

PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S KINGDOM - Part 3 By Terri Hill

JONATHAN - was one who saw the coming Kingdom of David (a type of Jesus), but doesn't separate himself from Saul's kingdom; see 1 Samuel, chapters 13-31. He was caught in a snare, and compromised during a time of transition. Those who are called to rule and reign with Christ, must first be governed by Him, and found faithful; Josh. 24:15. There are 3 main reasons why Jonathan and people like him don't abandon the houses of Saul, and establish themselves in the houses of David:

1. Family Ties; 2. Status and Privilege; 3. Soulsh Addictions

Facts about Jonathan:

1. The son of Saul was a skilled warrior, a successful leader in Saul's house. He went to war on Saul's behalf, but also defended David. He "straddled the fence"; Matt. 6:24.
2. Jonathan was courageous, and not afraid of the enemy. He demonstrates true faith in the Lord in the early days of his life and ministry; 2 Sam. 1:23.
3. He began to ascend between two sharp, rocky crags, the place of "eagles"; he was moving into warfare in the heavenlies; Job 39:27-30; 1 Sam. 14:4-6.
4. Jonathan eats from his father's table, along with Abner; his true loyalty is revealed by the company that he kept and where he died; 1 Sam. 20:24-25.
5. He was controlled by generational family strongholds. Instead of taking his lineage in a new direction, he left behind a crippled seed: Mephibosheth; 2 Sam. 9:13.
6. He has a relationship with David, and made covenants with him; 1 Sam. 18:1-4; 23:15-18, but didn't enter into the fellowship of his sufferings; Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 4:13.
7. He pleaded for David's life, and warned him of Saul's wrath; 1 Sam. 19:1-7; 20:1-42.
8. He "tasted the honey"; he ate the Word, and received revelation and understanding of the dawning of a new day of glory; 1 Sam. 14:26-27; Ps. 119:130.
9. Jonathan knows that an evil spirit is troubling his father's house, and that there is no victory in the camp, but he would not separate himself; 2 Cor. 6:16-17.
10. He "hangs around" the edges (as a spectator) of this new, anointed move of God, but stays in the system of politics, competition and idolatry; Num. 9:17-18.
11. Jonathan sees the glory of God coming and going in his father's house, but the glory does not stay because the foundation of the house is defiled; Rev. 18:2,10.
12. Jonathan had divided loyalties. He was sincere, but blind:
 - a. he wants to preserve his way of life and still receive the inheritance.
 - b. he believes that a lukewarm believer is transformed into a mighty saint.
 - c. he believes that he can maintain true fellowship with David (Jesus) while he continues in his rebellious behavior.
13. God sent Jonathan a visitation of His Spirit through David. But he rejected the means, the process, by which he could meet all of God's requirements and expectations of an overcomer "son"; Rev. 2 & 3; 14:4.
14. Jonathan refused to go into the wilderness (a place of testing, prayer and worship).
15. He would not become a mediator (laying hold of God with one hand, while reaching out to minister to broken humanity with the other); Job 9:33; Heb. 12:24.
16. He refused the "restraint" of the Lord that comes upon "separated ones". He would never become the Lord's prisoner, or enter into the ministry of the kingdom that David would build; Gen. 39:20-23; Eph. 4:1.
17. Jonathan employed his own "artillery": the apparatus of the old order. He refused to lay aside natural means of protection, his own weapons of defense; 1 Sam. 20:40-42.
18. He was destroyed by the Philistines (demonic forces of evil). His body was found at the wall of "Bethshan", meaning "house of ease"; 1 Sam. 31:10,12.
19. He was slain in the "high places". He finds himself "naked" in the Day of the Lord with no "Head" and no armor; 1 Sam. 31:2,9-12.
20. The old bottle could not contain new wine; he was torn, and destroyed; Matt. 9:17.

Questions:

1. Are you abandoned unto Christ, or are you dominated by someone/something else?
2. Are you accepted by Him alone, or are you ambitious for acceptance by others?
3. Are you single-minded, or are you double-minded; James 1:8?
4. Are you willing to strip yourself of everything, to be reduced to nothing, even to become an "outlaw and an outcast" toward your friends and "brethren" for His sake?