

Digging Deeper Exodus 34:10-20 Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Biblical Covenants and Idolatry Discussion

There was a detailed discussion about the biblical interpretation of the term "covenant". The conversation revolved around different types of covenants such as confirmed, cut, and new covenants, with examples drawn from God's interactions with Abraham and Moses. The conversation emphasized the implications of the Israelites' idolatry and how it led to a break in the covenant. Towards the end, they discussed the Israelites' treaty with the Gibeonites, which was against God's explicit instructions.

Treaties, Faith, and Consequences

The meeting explored the implications of forming treaties and covenants between nations, highlighting the impact on practices, norms, and attitudes in universities and society. The conversation emphasized the challenges of maintaining religious integrity in secular environments, using the examples of Christianity in schools and intermarriage between believers and non-believers. The participants stressed the potential consequences of such marriages on faith, referencing the example of the Israelites in the Bible. They concluded that believers should not form covenants with the world or pagans, as it can lead to a loss of faith.

Idolatry, Power, and Respect Discussion

The group discussed the Asherah poles in the Scripture and the spiritual power associated with certain objects such as totem poles and pillars. We emphasized that the power of these objects lies not in the object itself, but in the power people allow them to have. The conversation primarily revolved around the topic of idolatry in various forms, highlighting the dangers and negative effects of idolatry, and the group discussed instances of non-Christians giving Christian family members gifts associated with idolatry.

Jealousy, Idolatry, and Christ's Preeminence

The participants engaged in a discussion about the topic of idolatry, its dangers as described in the scripture being studied, and God's jealousy. The conversation clarified God's jealousy as not negative, but a desire for exclusive affection from His followers. The group also touched upon the concept of jealousy in general, differentiating it from envy. The meeting primarily focused on the topic of God's jealousy and its implications, with references to biblical passages. The participants also discussed Christ's preeminence and the importance of not compromising faith.

Freedom, Responsibility, and Idolatry Discussion

They explored the implications of freedom and responsibility, and the application of these principles under the new covenant. The conversation also touched on the potential resistance from people whose livelihoods were connected to the creation of idols. We emphasized that the concept of "pulling down" in the context of Israel was metaphorical, referring to clearing idols from their lives. The team also highlighted the importance of personal control over one's own thoughts and desires.

Spreading Gospel Amidst Rising Religions

We discussed the incident from Acts 19 when newly converted people burnt all their idolatrous books and charms, illustrating the power of revival and the impact of Paul's preaching. The conversation then focused on the decline of Christianity in the UK and the rise of other religions. The group emphasized the importance of spreading the gospel over social activism. They also shared personal experiences and anecdotes about supernatural phenomena and the potential for Christian buildings to be converted for other uses.