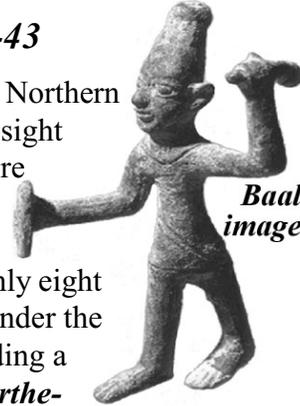


He Did Right, *Nevertheless*

1 Kings 15:9-14; 22:41-43

There were twenty kings of Israel (the Northern Kingdom), and they all did evil in God's sight (some were worse than others). There were twenty monarchs of Judah (the Southern Kingdom), including wicked Queen Athaliah. Of these, twelve did evil and only eight did what was right before God. As we ponder the history of those good kings, we keep reading a sad refrain: "He did what was right, *nevertheless the high places were not removed.*"



We see this compromise in the Inspired Record of the following kings: Asa (1 Kings 15:11,14); Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22:43); Joash (2 Kings 12:2-3); Amaziah (2 Kings 14:3-4), Uzziah or Amaziah (2 Kings 15:3-4); Jotham (2 Kings 15:34-35). Finally Hezekiah broke the pattern and removed the high places (2 Kings 18:4), only to have them restored by his wicked son Manasseh. Young Josiah destroyed the high places so totally that the four wicked kings that followed him did not try to rebuild them (see 2 Kings chapter 23). So only two of the eight good kings removed the high places.

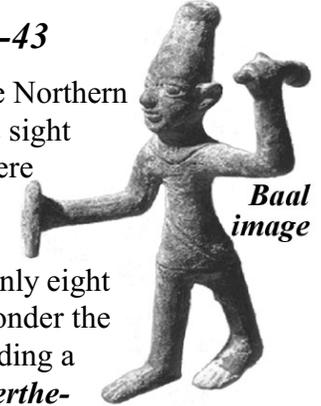
Are there any idols in my life that need to be smashed and totally destroyed (1 John 5:21)? Is there something sinful in my life that I am tolerating and not dealing with? Is there any area of my life where I am not allowing the Lord to be on the throne? Am I giving the Lord full access and full control over every room in the house of my soul? Do I have a room in which I have erected some high place or some idol? Have I allowed this substitute for God to stand in a place that should be reserved only for the Lord? At Christ's judgment seat, would the Lord say these words about me: "He did right in many ways, *nevertheless the high places were not removed*"?

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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