



DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

November 1, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

THREE KINGS

His people made no funeral fire in his honor, as they had for his predecessors.

2 Chronicles 21:19

READ 2 Chronicles 21:4-7, 16-20

In the hit musical *Hamilton*, England's King George III is humorously portrayed as a cartoonish, deranged villain. However, a new biography on King George said he was not the tyrant described in *Hamilton* or *America's Declaration of Independence*. If George had been the brutal despot that Americans said he was, he would have stopped their drive for independence with extreme, scorched-earth measures. But he was restrained by his "civilized, good-natured" temperament.

Who knows if King George died with regret? Would his reign have been more successful if he'd been harsher with his subjects?

Not necessarily. In the Bible we read of King Jehoram, who solidified his throne by putting "all his brothers to the sword along with some of the officials of Israel" (2 Chronicles 21:4). Jehoram "did evil in the eyes of the Lord" (v. 6). His ruthless reign alienated his people, who neither wept for his gruesome death nor made a "funeral fire in his honor" (v. 19).

Historians may debate whether George was too soft; Jehoram was surely too harsh. A better way is that of King Jesus, who is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Christ's expectations are firm (He demands truth), yet He embraces those who fail (He extends grace). Jesus calls us who believe in Him to follow His lead. Then, through the leading of His Holy Spirit, He empowers us to do so.

By Mike Wittmer

PRAY & REFLECT

Dear Jesus, even if seemingly I am not in a leadership role, help me to lead a life of love and compassion, that others may find their way to You. Amen

Who are you responsible to lead? How might you show both grace and truth to them?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

First and Second Chronicles cover the history of the Jewish people and monarchy in the Southern Kingdom of Judah from the death of Saul until the Babylonian exile - the same period covered in 2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings. Written after the Babylonian exile, the author of 1-2 Chronicles (Jewish tradition identifies Ezra) seeks to assure postexilic Jews that though they were unfaithful, Yahweh remains faithful to His covenant. In 2 Chronicles 21:7, the chronicler affirmed that God kept His promise that there would always be a descendant of David on the throne (see 2 Samuel 7:12-17), a promise that has its final fulfillment in Jesus (Matthew 1:1). – **By K. T. Sim**

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