



1 KINGS

THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

ISRAEL

Shechem

JUDAH

Jerusalem

Lake Galilee

Mediterranean Sea

Dead Sea



JEROBOAM



REHOBOAM

1 Kings 16:30-34 ³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. ³¹ And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and **went and served Baal and worshiped him.** ³² He **erected an altar for Baal** in the **house of Baal**, which he built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

Ahab's sinfulness against God stems from his worship of Baal:

- Disregard God's laws
- Disregard God's authority
- Disregard for the truth
- Disregard for human life



1 KINGS

“When anything in life is an absolute requirement for your happiness and self-worth, it is essentially an ‘idol,’ something you are actually worshiping. When such a thing is threatened, your anger is absolute. Your anger is actually the way the idol keeps you in its service, in its chains. Therefore, if you find that, despite all the efforts to forgive, your anger and bitterness cannot subside, you may need to look deeper and ask, ‘What am I defending? What is so important that I cannot live without?’ It may be that, until some inordinate (excessively large) desire is identified and confronted, you will not be able to master your anger.” - Timothy Keller, Counterfeit gods



God's two tier judgment against Ahab:

- He will die for murdering Naboth
- His household will be destroyed **DURING** his lifetime

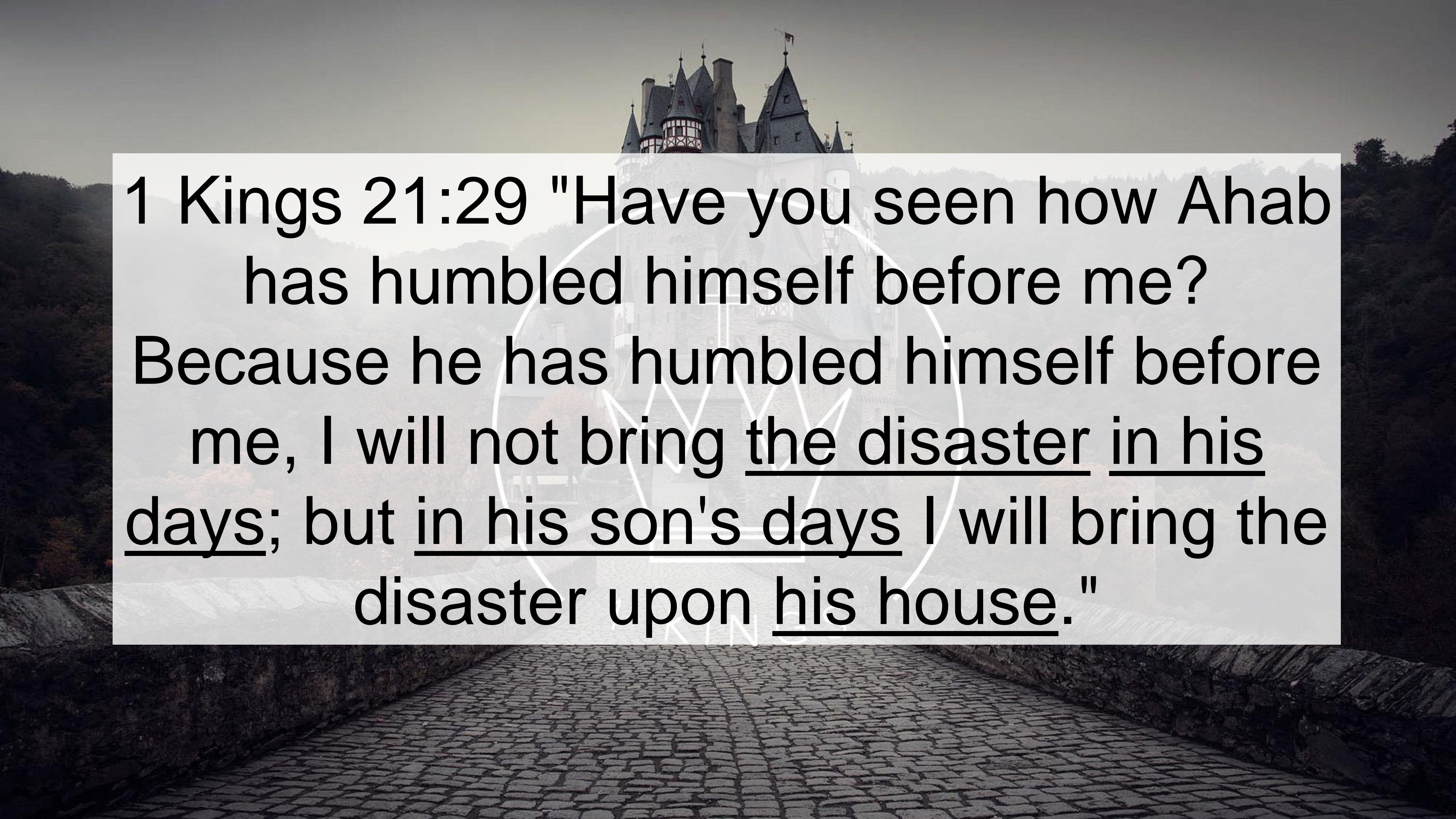
1 KINGS

Was it “fair” for Ahab’s household to be punished too?

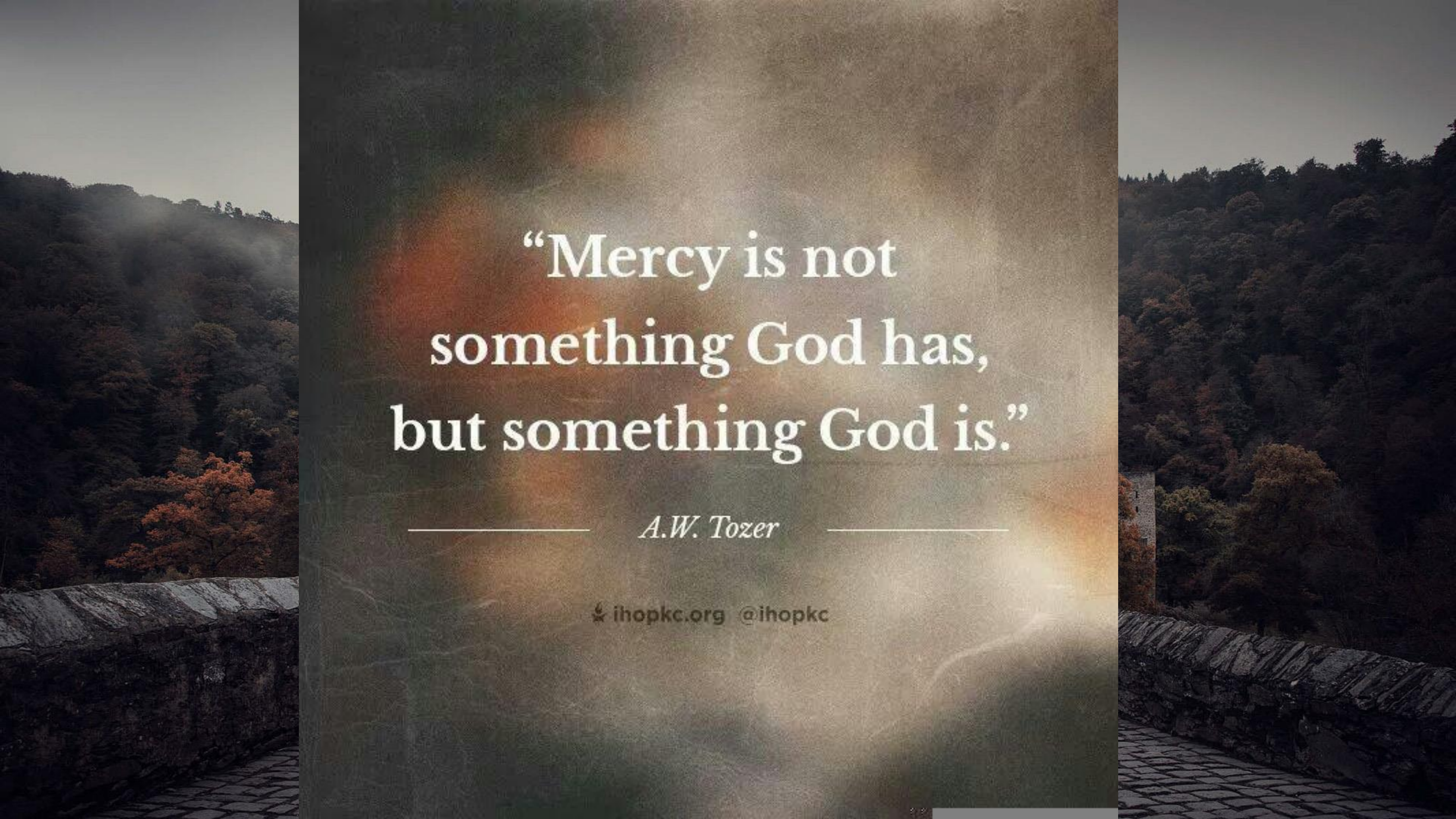
- **Cannot read our own prejudices into what is meant in the Bible**
- **Cannot impose our own cultures into what was the culture / values of OT civilizations**
- **It was not just the king and Jezebel who sinned**

1 Kings 21:27: “when Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his flesh and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly.”

- **Mournful of sins**
- **Seeking God urgently in distress**
- **Turning from sin to God**



1 Kings 21:29 "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster upon his house."



“Mercy is not
something God has,
but something God is.”

————— *A.W. Tozer* —————

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How are we responding to God's mercies in our lives?

Are we truly grateful, full of praise and committing to grow in our relationship with a merciful God?

Or are we having this willful presumption that we can always count on God's second chances and so there is no need to be so serious with sin?

Are we also inspired to show mercy to others even as God is merciful to us? Or do we just want to have mercy from God but is close-fisted in our mercy for others?