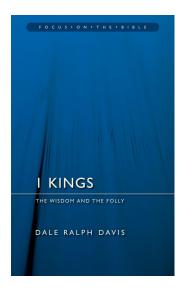


1 Kings: The Wisdom And the Folly

Dale Ralph Davis

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Dale Ralph Davis was Minister in Residence, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina. Prior to that he was pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Professor of Old Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi.

ENDORSEMENTS

... The joy for all who would turn to these pages is simply that they bring Old Testament history out of Israel's past and into the church's present in a most distinctive manner. They are bound to refresh, enthuse, solemnize and bless.

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... The author has a clear grasp of both the text and of contemporary scholarship, yet presents a commentary which is not only readable but witty, and share in application. The commentary chapters are each little sermons, with headings ready-made. The section on Jeroboam's golden calves is entitled "Bootleg Religion" and its three headings are: The Need for False Religion, The Subtlety of False Religion, The Stupidity of False Religion. It is almost too tempting for the preacher to follow this pattern rather than preach his own sermon! But these books should not be restricted only to preachers. They are very helpful commentaries for the general reader and for devotional use.

Reformation Today

... Dale Ralph Davis has provided yet another fine exposition of an Old Testament Book (he has previously published expositions of Joshua, Judges, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel with the same publisher)....

It is apparent that Davis is well informed in the scholarly discussion of First Kings, but his purpose is not to display his learning. Rather, based on a full awareness of the issues in the text, he seeks to expound the text properly incorporating some illustrations and application.

In this way Davis provides a model for preaching from First Kings - a task which often appears quite daunting. On the one hand he does not get bogged down in details failing to get to what God is actually saying in the text and what we are to do about it. On the other hand he shows that carefully reading the text is necessary in order to grasp what God is saying rather than reading in whatever we want to find. I especially appreciate his sensitivity to structure and flow of thought as well as his careful connections across the covenants.

I think pastors will find this volume very helpful in the task of preaching

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