

Aman - Belief

They served idols, although the LORD had told them, "You must not do this." Still, the LORD warned Israel and Judah through every prophet and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments and statutes according to all the law I commanded your ancestors and sent to you through My servants the prophets." But they would not listen. Instead, they became obstinate like their ancestors who did not believe the LORD their God. They rejected His statutes and His covenant He had made with their ancestors and the warnings He had given them. They pursued worthless idols and became worthless themselves, following the surrounding nations the LORD had commanded them not to imitate. They abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God. They made for themselves molded images--even two calves--and an Asherah pole. They worshiped the whole heavenly host and served Baal. They made their sons and daughters pass through the fire and practiced divination and interpreted omens. They devoted themselves to do what was evil in the LORD's sight and provoked Him. Therefore, the LORD was very angry with Israel, and He removed them from His presence. Only the tribe of Judah remained. - 2 Kings 17:12-18 HCSB

One night long ago, as a wise man was studying God's Word, his last candle died out. He was naturally upset, but in faith (in Hebrew "emunah") he believed ("aman") that Yahweh would provide. As he stepped outside, he saw a light approaching. Within a couple minutes a stranger walked up, handed the elder a candle and walked off into the night without saying a word.

The teacher kept that candle for twenty-five years as a remembrance of the miracle and a proof of the power of "aman". However, a fire broke out and the candle was lost. The teacher took that as a sign that true belief should need no proof. He further grew to believe that getting excited over such an open miracle was an indication of his spiritual immaturity. He felt that a spiritually mature person should accept as natural the existence of open miracles as he does the miraculousness of every day life.

Israel's lack of belief in God's Word cut them loose from their moorings, set them adrift in a sea of idolatrous confusion and led them to the unimaginable point of burning their own children alive.

The word "aman" in Hebrew connotes the image of a parental figure that supports, confirms, nourishes and upholds. Aman allows us to stand firm, to be sure and lasting when all hell is breaking loose around us.

In certain contexts, the word "aman" suggests pillars that support a door, suggesting that belief is not limiting but supportive and allows us to proceed to places only hinted at by mere human intellect.

God knows the big picture as well as the future. Belief in His Word will not limit us but keep us safe.