

Lesson 13: 1 Kings 20:1- 22:51 King Ahab

In our last lesson, the LORD spared the prophet Elijah from death and the terrible drought and famine in Israel by guiding him away from Israel to an area with a wadi that still had water. Ravens brought him food each night. (1 Kings 17). When the water dried up the LORD came to Elijah and told him to go to the home of a poor widow and her son. The woman fed him what she had she was blessed with 2 miracles. The flour jar was never depleted and was adequate to feed Elijah, the widow, and her son, and her jug of oil never ran dry. One day the widow's son became ill and then stopped breathing. Elijah called to the LORD to save the widow's son. The LORD heard the plea of Elijah and life returned to the boy.

At one point, Elijah challenged the gods of King Ahab and Jezebel and then killed prophets of Baal when they proved to be false prophets worshipping false gods. Jezebel vowed to have the prophet killed. At this point Elijah was weary, discouraged and wanted to die. The LORD called to him to anoint Hazael as king of Aram and then to anoint Jehu and king of Israel. Finally, Elijah was called to anoint Elisha as a prophet and as Elijah's successor. The LORD had thus ushered in a new generation of political and religious leaders. (1 Kings 19.)

1. Read 1 Kings 20:1-12 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

a. Israel had just suffered through a three-year drought and famine. When the capital city, Samaria, was defeated, what demands did Ben-hadad, king of Aram *initially* make of King Ahab? (1 Kings 20:1-5)

b. Why do you suppose Ben-hadad came back with *additional* demands? (1 Kings 20:6)

c. King Ahab refused to give in to Ben-hadad's new demands. What did Ben-hadad threaten to do to Samaria when his demands were rejected by King Ahab? (See 1 Kings 20:10)

d. What is the meaning of 1 Kings 20:11?

2. Read 1 Kings 20:13-21 and footnotes.

a. Why is the LORD giving guidance to the evil King Ahab? (20:13)

b. Ahab attacks first this time. How do we know that the army from Samaria was not expected by the Arameans? (20:16-20)

3. Read 1 Kings 20:22-30 and footnotes.

a. The unnamed prophet provides King Ahab with some "inside information" about his enemy. What was revealed to Ahab through the prophet?

b. Read again 20:23-25. The Arameans plan of attack is based on a misunderstanding of the nature of the God of Israel.

What 2 (erroneous) beliefs about the LORD are revealed in these verses?

c. What was the plan to defeat the Israelites in Samaria?

d. Was it the hand of GOD who delivered a fatal blow to Aram in 20:30?

4. Read 1 Kings 20:31-34 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group

a. What is the significance of appearing before King Ahab in *sack cloth*?

- b. What sort of alliance did King Ahab and Ben-hadad make at the end of the war?
 - c. What can we learn about the LORD from his treatment of King Ahab in 1 Kings 20:1-34? (Remember Ahab did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.)
5. Read 1 Kings 20:35-43 and footnotes. *Share any footnotes with your group.*
- a. The LORD sends an unnamed prophet to King Ahab.
What *message* does the prophet bring to the King in these verses?
6. Read 1 Kings 21:1-16 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with your group.
- a. What can we learn about King Ahab's character from these verses?
 - b. What can we learn about Jezebel's character in these verses?
 - c. What crimes and/or sins has Jezebel committed in verses 21:8-10?
7. Read 1 Kings 21:17-29 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.
- a. The LORD sends Elijah to King Ahab. What curse does the LORD place on Ahab for his sins and the murder of Naboth in verse 21:21-22, and 24?
 - b. What is the curse placed on *Jezebel* for her part in the murder of Naboth?
(See 1 Kings 21:23)
8. What can we learn about repentance, forgiveness, and the consequences of sin in 1 Kings 21:28-29?
9. Read 1 Kings 22 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.
- a. In this lesson we meet King Jehoshaphat of Judah. Jump ahead and read 1 Kings 22:41-51. What do we learn about King Jehoshaphat in these verses?
 - b. The role of the court prophets was to advise the kings and priests of the will of the LORD. The LORD speaks *through* his prophets. *Why* are the kings of Israel and Judah calling the prophets together in verses 22:5-17?
 - c. Does King Jehoshaphat trust the prophets?
 - d. Read the prophesy of the prophet Micaiah in verses 22:14-17. Is the prophet telling the whole truth *in these verses or is he being deliberately vague*?
 - e. Read 1 Kings 22:19-23. Why are the prophecies of Micaiah different than those of all the other prophets?
 - f. What was Micaiah's "reward" for telling the truth? (See 22:24-28)
 - g. Why did King Ahab disguise himself when he went into battle?
 - h. How did the prophesy of Micaiah come true? (See 22:17 and 34-36.)