

## **10 – AHAB & ELIJAH – PART 3** **(1 KINGS 20:1-22:40; 2 CHRONICLES 18:1-19:1)**

### I. Ahab's Struggle with Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 20:1-43)

#### A. The Battle for Samaria (1 Kings 20:1-22)

##### 1. Samaria Attacked (1 Kings 20:1-12)

- Ben-Hadad lay siege to Samaria with an alliance of 33 Aramean kings.
- Ben-Hadad demanded silver, gold and Ahab's loveliest wives and children.
- Ahab was willing to give in to Ben-Hadad's demand but he wanted more.
- Ahab responded that he would not give in to the second demand.
- Ben-Hadad then stated that he would completely destroy Samaria.
- Ahab then told Ben-Hadad not to boast until he obtained the city.

##### 2. Ben-Hadad is Defeated (1 Kings 20:13-22)

- A prophet of the Lord appeared to Ahab and proclaimed that the Lord will deliver them.
- Ahab asked how the victory would come and the prophet gave the king battle plans.
- The young leaders provided Ahab the opportunity to defeat the army of Ben-Hadad.
- The prophet then told Ahab to strengthen himself for in the spring the Syrians will attack.

#### B. The Battle for Aphek (1 Kings 20:23-43)

##### 1. Ahab's Victory (1 Kings 20:23-34)

- The servants of Ben-Hadad believed that the gods of Israel were the gods of the hills.
- Therefore, they should attack the forces of Israel in the plain where they are stronger.
- In the spring, Ben-Hadad gathered the Syrians and attacked Israel at Aphek.
- The prophet proclaimed that God would give the victory.
- This was because the Syrians said that the God of Israel was a god of the hills only.
- Israel would have the victory so that all will know that God is the Lord.

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- Israel killed 100,000 Syrian foot soldiers and the rest fled to Aphek.
- At Aphek, another 27,000 Syrian men were killed and Ben-Hadad hid in an inner chamber.
- The servants of Ben-Hadad told him to appeal to the mercy of Ahab.
- They humbled themselves before Ahab and he spared Ben-Hadad.
- Ahab made a treaty with Ben-Hadad and in turn he gave Israel back some cities.
- Ben-Hadad also allowed Israel to set up marketplaces in Damascus.

## 2. Ahab's Disobedience (1 Kings 20:35-43)

- One of the sons of the prophets told a man to strike him as the Lord commanded.
- The man refused and the prophet proclaimed his death by a lion.
- When the man left, he was attacked and killed by a lion.
- The prophet then asked another man to strike him and the man inflicted a wound.
- The prophet then disguised himself and waited by the road for the king to pass by.
- The king passed by and the prophet called out to the king.
- He said he was a soldier from the battle who was charged to guard a prisoner.
- If the prisoner was missing, he would be responsible with his life or a talent of silver.
- The prophet said the prisoner escaped and the king proclaimed his judgment was sure.
- The prophet removed his disguise and the king recognized who he was.
- The prophet proclaimed the word of the Lord in judgment of Ahab.
- Just as Ahab spared the one who was destined to destruction, he would die in his place.
- The Lord also stated that Israel's people would be destroyed as the Syrians should have.
- When Ahab heard the prophet's words, he was depressed as he went to Samaria.

## II. Ahab's Sin Against Naboth (1 Kings 21:1-29)

### A. Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-4)

- Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard next to the palace of Ahab.

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- Ahab wanted the vineyard for a vegetable garden and offered to buy it from Naboth.
- Naboth refused to sell it since it was the inheritance of his forefathers.
- Because he was refused by Naboth, Ahab was displeased and would not eat.

### B. Jezebel's Plot (1 Kings 21:5-10)

- Jezebel questioned why Ahab was depressed and not eating his meals.
- Ahab explained that he wanted Naboth's vineyard and Naboth refused to sell.
- Jezebel told Ahab that he was king and should eat because she will get the vineyard for him.
- Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name to the leaders of Jezreel and set up a conspiracy.
- She told the leaders to proclaim a feast and seat Naboth in a seat of highest honor.
- Two accusers were to be seated with him and accuse him of blaspheming the God and the king.
- He was then to be taken immediately and stoned to death.

### C. Naboth's Murder (1 Kings 21:11-16)

- The leaders did as they were told and Naboth died by stoning.
- The leaders then sent word to Jezebel that Naboth had been stoned.
- Jezebel told Ahab to arise and take Naboth's vineyard as his own.
- Ahab took possession of the vineyard when he heard that Naboth was dead.

### D. The Confrontation With Elijah (1 Kings 21:17-29)

- The Lord told Elijah to go to Ahab, who was in Naboth's vineyard.
- Elijah was to confront Ahab with murdering and taking possession.
- In the spot where the dogs licked up Naboth's blood, the dogs will lick up his blood.
- Ahab asked if Elijah his enemy had found him.
- Elijah stated that Ahab had sold himself to evil before the Lord.
- Elijah stated that the Lord would kill every male in Ahab's household, free and slave.
- The Lord would make his house like the house of Jeroboam and Baasha.

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- Concerning Jezebel, the dogs will eat her by the wall in Jezreel.
- There was no one like Ahab who sold himself to wickedness because of Jezebel.
- Ahab followed after the idols like the Amorites whom the Lord cast out before Israel.
- When Ahab heard this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted as he mourned.
- The Lord then told Elijah to see how Ahab humbled himself before him.
- Because Ahab has humbled himself, the Lord will bring the calamity on Ahab's son.