

Ahab Lesson 31

INTRO:

- A. A brief history of the kings between Jeroboam until Ahab: (6)
1. Jeroboam reigned 22 years and was succeeded by his son Nadab (**1 Kings 15:25-32**).
 2. Nadab was very wicked and reigned only part of two years before being killed by Baasha.
 3. Baasha destroyed all of Jeroboam's family as God had prophesied to Jeroboam through the prophet Ahijah.
 - a. However, Baasha was not intentionally trying to fulfill God's prophecy and purge Israel of Jeroboam's sins but he did it because of his own desire for power.
 4. Baasha reigned over Israel 24 years (**1 Kings 15:33**) and "*He did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin by which he had made Israel sin.*" (**v. 34**).
 5. **NOTE:** When Jeroboam set up the golden calves, the most faithful in Israel moved south to the nation of Judah. Now, after many years as conditions have not changed much, if any, in Israel others began to move south during the reign of Asa. (**2 Chronicles 15:9**)
 6. This led to Baasha sending his forces to Ramah to build a fortress between Israel and Judah so the people could not leave Israel and go to Judah.
 - a. Asa wins the battle but not before making an alliance with Syria instead of God in order to assure him the victory.
 7. God sends the prophet Jehu to rebuke Baasha. (**1 Kings 16:1-6**)
 8. "*So Baasha rested with his fathers and was buried in Tirzah. Then Elah his son reigned in his place.*" (**1 Kings 16:6**)
 9. Elah ruled for part of two years and was killed while "*drinking himself drunk*" by an army officer named Zimri.
 - a. Zimri killed every member of Baasha's family as God had prophesied through the prophet Jehu.
 10. Zimri reigned for seven days (one week) before an insurrection led by Omri, the captain of Israel's army.
 - a. To avoid being captured, Zimri burned the palace down on himself. (**In other words, he committed suicide.**)
 11. Omri reigned for 12 years in Israel. (**1 Kings 16:21-28**) during which time the city of Samaria was built which would become the capital of the kingdom of Israel and would remain the capital until the fall of Israel at the hands of the Assyrians.
 - a. Like all of Israel's kings before him, Omri was a wicked king. (**1 Kings 16:25**)
 12. This now brings us to Ahab...

I. Ahab:

- A. **1 Kings 16:29-33**
1. One of the many bad things he did was to marry Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians.

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2. This led him to build and set up an altar for Baal in Samaria along with a wooden idol.
 3. *“Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.” (v. 6)*
- B. Hiel rebuilt the city of Jericho in obvious unbelief of what Joshua had stated in **Joshua 6:26**
1. And it came to pass like Joshua said:
 - a. His oldest son, Abiram, died then the foundation was laid.
 - b. His youngest son, Segub, died when the gates were set.
 2. **God’s always keeps His word!**
- C. We are here introduced to the prophet Elijah, a Tishbite. (**1 Kings 17:1-24**)
1. Because of Ahab and Israel’s wickedness, he pronounces a drought that would last until he spoke it to an end.
 - a. **James 5:17-18**
 2. From this moment forward it appears Elijah spent most of his life at the mercy of others who hated him but, through it all, God provided and watched over him.
 3. Upon delivering the message to Ahab, God tells Elijah, (**1 Kings 17:3-4**)
- D. In **1 Kings 18:1-46**, after the 3 and a half years of drought, God tells Elijah to go to Ahab.
1. When Ahab saw Elijah he said, *“Is that you, O troubler of Israel?” (v. 17)* to which Elijah replied, (**v. 18**).
 2. Elijah proceeds with issuing a challenge to Ahab and Baal at Mount Carmel. (**vs. 19-40**)
 3. After the prophets of Baal were put to death, Elijah tells Ahab, *“Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain” (v. 41).*
- E. In **1 Kings 20:1-21**, Ben-hadad, king of Syria, comes to Samaria with 32 allied kings with the demand *“Your silver and your gold are mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine.” (v. 3).*
1. Ahab, knowing he was greatly outnumbered, replied, *“My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all that I have are yours.” (v. 4).*
 2. Ben-hadad’s next response (**vs. 5-6**).
 3. Ahab calls the elders together and their response to the situation was, *“Do not listen or consent.” (v. 8)*
 4. These exchanges continue until a battle was inevitable and a prophet of God goes to Ahab and says, (**v. 13**).
 - a. When Ahab followed the instructions of the prophet, the result ended in victory for Israel.
 5. But the prophet warned Ahab that Syria would attack again and he must strengthen his position.
 - a. The second time around, Ben-hadad decided instead of attacking in the hills to attack in the valleys.
 - b. The prophet returns to Ahab. (**v. 28**)
 - c. When the battle was engaged, Israel won a convincing victory.

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6. For fear of his life, Ben-hadad entered into a treaty with Ahab and Ahab set him free.
 - a. Again, God sent a prophet to rebuke Ahab for allowing Ben-hadad to go free.
 - b. The consequences (**v.42**).
 - c. Instead of being humble and accepting the rebuke and asking for God's forgiveness, Ahab's response was: (**v. 43**).
- F. Three times: the contest at Mount Carmel with the prophets of Baal and these two victories over Ben-hadad who greatly outnumber Israel, God has tried to appeal to Israel to acknowledge and serve Him.
- G. Also within the 22 years of Ahab's reign we have the story given of Naboth's vineyard in **1 Kings 21:1-29**.
 1. Naboth's vineyard is near Ahab's palace.
 2. Ahab wants to buy but Naboth refuses (**v.3**)
 3. (**v.4**)
 4. Jezebel to the rescue!
 5. She reminds him that he is king with authority and doesn't have to ask for anything but demand it instead.
 6. She connives a plan to have a feast day, put Naboth at "*high honor*" among the people only to have two men, "*scoundrels*", to make a charge against Naboth (**v. 10**)
 7. When all this is carried through with Ahab took possession of the vineyard.
 8. Elijah goes to Ahab and declares what Ahab has done to which Ahab replies, "*Have you found me, O my enemy?*" (**v. 20**)
 9. Elijah's response (**vs. 20-24**).
 10. (**v. 24**)
 11. (**vs. 27-29**)
 12. Even with someone as wicked as Ahab, God gave him the opportunity to change! Let us not, at this point in our study, fail to see God's mercy!!
- H. Three years after the treaty with Ben-hadad, Syria still controlled the city of Ramoth-Gilead which was suppose to belong to Israel.
 1. Ahab approached Jehoshaphat, who was then the king of Judah, about helping him to take back the city and Jehoshaphat agreed to do so.
 2. With that, Ahab called for about 400 of his prophets who were all prophets of Baal.
 3. While they all prophesied success for the two kings, Jehoshaphat asked, "*Is there not still a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of Him?*" (**v. 7**) to which Ahab replied, "*There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.*" (v. 8).
 4. Upon Jehoshaphat's insistence, Ahab calls for Micaiah.
 5. When Ahab asked Micaiah whether he should go to war or not, Micaiah replied "*Go and prosper, for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king!*" (**v. 15**)

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6. Upon Ahab's insistence that Micaiah tell the truth, Micaiah states: (v. 17)
7. Ahab was angry and gave the command (vs. 26-27)
- I. We see Ahab trusted in Baal and his prophets more than in the Lord and Micaiah for he went ahead with the battle to regain Ramoth-Gilead.
 1. In the battle, despite Ahab being disguised as a common soldier, a Syrian shot an arrow that went through a joint in Ahab's armor.
 2. Ahab was propped up in his chariot as blood spilled on the floor until evening when Ahab died.
 3. Ahab was brought to Samaria and buried and his chariot washed by the pool of Samaria and the dogs licked the blood as Elijah had prophesied (1 Kings 21:19).
- J. "So Ahab rested with his fathers. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place." (1 Kings 22:40)

II. Lessons From Ahab:

- A. **God Is Not Rushed – Everything In His Time!**
 1. In the case of Naboth, justice was ultimately served many years after his death.
- B. **God Is Not Mocked! – We reap what we sow. (Galatians 6:7)**
- C. **What God Says Is Truth And Is To Be Obeyed!**
- D. **Good People Suffer And Even Die!**
 1. Despite our obedience, as humans we all die – even, unfortunately like Naboth, due to the evil intentions of others. (Think about Christ!!!)
- E. **Evil People Seem To Get Away With It!**
 1. Whether it's lying, cheating, stealing, hurting, or even killing, it seems that sometimes the bad guys get a way with it.
 2. It's not for us to judge how God will deal with wrongdoings.
 3. We can trust however that God sees all wrongdoings.
- F. **God Deals With Evil And Disobedience!**
 1. While often not in our timing or manner or to our liking, all evil and disobedience is ultimately dealt with by God.
 2. There's no getting around it. **HE HAS THE FINAL SAY!**
- G. **God Is Forgiving!**
 1. Even the evil King Ahab was given mercy by God.
- H. **God Always Speaks Truth.**
 1. Whenever and whatever God promises something directly in the Scriptures, we can always count on it coming to pass.
 2. Whenever and whatever God has given direct instructions in the Scriptures, we must obey exactly as He has stated.
 3. We can rely on the Scriptures because God's "word is truth". (John 17:17)
 4. **HE IS GOD!**

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CONCLUSION:

- A. The story of Ahab provides a good illustration of how not to act when we don't get our way.
 - 1. The king's temper tantrum was childish to say the least.
 - 2. Unfortunately, such a reaction is not entirely unfamiliar to us.
 - 3. We have all witnessed grown adults (perhaps including ourselves!) react in the same way to similar disappointments.
- B. When we have a great idea that will work just right, we want others to agree with the plan. But it doesn't always work out that way.
 - 1. Sometimes friends and/or family members have different plans or conflicting desires.
 - 2. Such differences are part of the 'give and take' of life lived with others.
- C. In those situations, let us not choose to follow Ahab's example.
 - 1. We must make every effort to avoid pouting, complaining, misrepresenting, or undercutting those who differ with us.
 - 2. Instead, let us appreciate the ideas and desires of others, compromise when we can and let go of our own treasured plans when necessary.
 - 3. Even though we don't always get what we want, let us always realize God has already blessed us with much more than we deserve.

LESSON 32

Elijah

1 Kings 17 - 19:21; 21:17-29

2 Kings 1 - 2:14