

## Kings of Israel and Judah – The Evil of Ahab I Kgs. 16:29-33

*Thesis: To learn from the evil of Ahab and be more faithful to God.*

### Introduction:

- A. Ahab was one of the most wicked kings in all of Israel.
- B. Ahab is not as well known as his wife Jezebel.
- C. Today we will notice the grievous sins of Ahab, especially the sins concerning his battle with the Syrians and Ben-Hadad.

### I. Notice the extreme sin of Ahab (16:29-33).

#### A. Ahab was an extremely evil king (16:30-31a).

- 1. He did more evil than all the kings that were before him (16:30).
- 2. In fact, it was a “trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat” (16:31a).

#### B. Notice some specific things that Ahab did (16:31b-33).

- 1. He took Jezebel as wife, who was the daughter of the king of the Sidonians (16:31b).
  - a. She was the daughter of a foreigner, and Israel was forbidden to marry foreigners.
  - b. Deut. 7:1-4 - When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, {2} and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. {3} Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. {4} For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.
  - c. I Kgs. 21:25 (this is exactly what happened to Ahab) - But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. (This statement was recorded after Naboth was murdered by Jezebel for his vineyard.)
- 2. Because of this relationship, he began to serve the Baals (16:32).
- 3. I Kgs. 16:33b - Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

## II. The evil reign of Ahab is summed up in his defeat of the Syrians (20:1-43).

### A. Israel fights against the Syrians and defeat them (20:1-22).

1. Ben-Hadad came against Israel and was ready to make war against them (20:1).
2. Ben-Hadad sends messengers to speak with Ahab (20:2-9).
  - a. The messengers first request silver and gold, and the “loveliest wives and children;” to which Ahab agrees (20:3).
  - b. The messengers then request the pleasant things of the land, to which Ahab refuses their request (20:5-8).
  - c. Ben-Hadad then prepares to attack the children of Israel (20:9).
3. Ben-Hadad then comes to attack Israel (20:10-12).
  - a. Ben-Hadad threatens Israel because Ahab has refused his request (20:10).
  - b. Ahab then gives a warning Ben-Hadad (20:11).
  - c. Ben-Hadad then prepares to attack the city (20:12).
4. A prophet of God comes to meet Ahab and tells him the God will deliver Israel (20:13-14).
  - a. The reason that God was going to defeat Syria is so that Ahab would “know that I am the Lord” (20:13).
  - b. Ahab had been so wicked; yet God wanted to show him that He was the Lord.
  - c. God was going to deliver Syria into the hand of Ahab.
5. Israel battles Syria and defeats Ben-Hadad (20:15-22).

### B. Israel fights again with the Syrians and defeat them (20:23-30).

1. This time, the Syrians doubted the power of God (20:23-27).
  - a. The servants of Ben-Hadad told him that it was time to go and fight with the Israelites.
  - b. However, they encouraged him to fight in the plains, because “their gods are the gods of the hills” (20:23).
2. God once again delivered Syria into the hands of Ahab (20:28-30).

### C. Ahab is condemned by God because of the treaty he makes with Ben-Hadad (20:31-43).

1. Ahab makes a treaty with Ben-Hadad (20:31-34).
2. Because of this, God sends a prophet to Ahab (20:35-43).
  - a. This prophet has an interesting way of delivering the message to Ahab.
  - b. He allowed himself to be injured by another, and then he goes to Ahab and tricks him.

### Practical Application:

### III. Today, we must know that God is the LORD.

#### A. Ahab had two chances to understand this fact.

1. God did not destroy the Syrians because of Ahab; rather He destroyed the Syrians in spite of Ahab.
2. God delivered Ahab twice so that he would know that God reigned in Israel.
  - a. **I Kgs. 20:13** - Suddenly a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"
  - b. **I Kgs. 20:28** - Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because the Syrians have said, "The LORD is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys," therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'"

#### B. Today, we must know that God is the LORD.

1. The evidence of God is all around us.
  - a. **Rom. 1:20** - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
  - b. **Ps. 19:1-2** - The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. {2} Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.
  - c. **Acts 14:17** (Paul to Jews in Lystra) - Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.
2. When we truly believe this fact, we will live for Him.
  - a. Remember: "Faith without works is dead" (**Js. 2:26**).
  - b. Our actions must equal our faith.
  - c. We must believe that our God is Lord of all; and when we do, we must live for Him.

### Conclusion: