

Ahab's Demise (1 Kings 22; 2 Chr. 17)  
SR: 1 Kings 21:17-22

- I. Introduction
- II. The Kings
  - a. The Wicked King Ahab
    - i. Background
      - 1. He was extremely wicked (21:25-26)
      - 2. He had been given many opportunities to repent (21:27-29)
      - 3. Now he was going to receive his punishment (21:17-22)
    - ii. His plan (22:1-3)
      - 1. He wants to take Ramoth-Gilead from the Syrians
      - 2. And tries to draw King Jehoshaphat into his war (22:3)
      - 3. He succeeds
    - iii. His council (22:6-9)
      - 1. He had about 400 false prophets who would tell him what he wanted to hear (22:6)
      - 2. One true prophet warned him,
        - a. He hated him (22:8)
        - b. And would not listen (v. 17-18)
        - c. And punished him for telling him the truth (v. 26-27)
      - 3. And did what he wanted (v. 29)
    - iv. His battle (22:29-33)
      - 1. Disguising himself
      - 2. He made a stooge out of his friend King Jehoshaphat
      - 3. He tried to fool God
      - 4. He tried to avoid his judgment
      - 5. All the circumstances were in his favor
        - a. He was disguised
        - b. His friend was dressed obviously as a king
        - c. The enemy had strict orders to only do battle with the king
        - d. His friend nearly was killed but was spared
      - 6. The only circumstance that was against him was that God was against him
      - 7. He failed
    - v. His demise (22:34-36)
      - 1. A "random" arrow hit him – The lot is cast in the lap (Prov. 16:33)
      - 2. He is mortally wounded
      - 3. He dies just as Elijah had prophesied (v. 37-38; cf. 21:17-22)
  - b. The Righteous King Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 17)
    - i. The account in 2 Chr. gives a different perspective more focused on Jehoshaphat

- ii. His background
    - 1. A good king (v. 3-6)
    - 2. A blessed king
      - a. Riches – v. 5
      - b. Peace – v. 10
      - c. Powerful – v.12
    - 3. One major mistake
      - a. Too close to the ungodly – 18:1
        - i. He had married his son to Athaliah
          - 1. Jezebel’s daughter
          - 2. Will turn Jehoram toward Baal and idolatry just as Jezebel turned Ahab
          - 3. She also will corrupt her son Ahaziah when he is king
          - 4. When her son dies, she will kill all the rest of the royal family in an attempt to secure the throne for herself and her idolatrous homeland
          - 5. Only the providence of God prevents her from extinguishing the lineage through which the Christ was to come
          - 6. By allying with Ahab he is bringing about the murder own of his sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
          - 7. This is the worst marriage ever
        - ii. It will almost get him killed
- iii. His vacation in Samaria
  - 1. Feasted by wicked King Ahab – v. 18:2
  - 2. Convinced to join in his scheme – v. 3 – I am as you are
- iv. His stand for truth
  - 1. He requested that the Lord be consulted – v. 4
  - 2. He requested a real prophet – v. 6
  - 3. He defended the prophet against the hatred of the king – v.7
  - 4. He was weak
    - a. He had already committed before he asked of God
    - b. When the true prophet of God began to suffer mocking and violence at the hands of the false prophets, he did nothing
    - c. When Micaiah was arrested for telling the truth, he did nothing
    - d. His words, when he spoke, were righteous, but he mostly said and did nothing to stand for the truth
    - e. He was weak, and Ahab knew it

- f. When Peter was trying to mix with the wicked at Jesus' trial he became so weak that he was afraid of a servant girl and denied Christ
  - g. Jehoshaphat did not deny Jehovah with his mouth but he was like some mentioned in Titus 1:16 NKJV "They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.'
  - h. Prov. 25:26 – murky spring, polluted well
- v. The battle
- 1. He had already capitulated as a force for righteousness
  - 2. He was a pushover in the rest of Ahab's plans
  - 3. Ahab seemed concerned only with getting what he wanted with minimal risk to himself, and Jehoshaphat went right along with it
  - 4. Only the providence of God spared his life (v. 31)
- vi. His rebuke
- 1. God had some words for him (19:1-3)
  - 2. He had married his son to Athaliah
    - a. Jezebel's daughter
      - i. Will turn Jehoram toward Baal and idolatry just as Jezebel turned Ahab
      - ii. She also will corrupt her son Ahaziah when he is king
      - iii. When her son dies, she will kill all the rest of the royal family in an attempt to secure the throne for herself and her idolatrous homeland
    - b. Only the providence of God prevents her from extinguishing the lineage through which the Christ was to come
      - i. By allying with Ahab he is bringing about the murder own of his sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
    - c. This is the worst marriage ever
    - d. If the distinction we make b/w the righteous and the wicked is small, what will our children do?
      - i. They will not hesitate to be even closer to wickedness than we are
      - ii. If we ally ourselves politically, socially or otherwise with the unrighteous, our children may become their best friends, husbands or wives
      - iii. And our grandchildren may come completely under the control of wickedness

and forfeit their souls because of our unwise alliances

- iv. That is what happened to the sons of God in Genesis 6:1-2
  - 1. They married indiscriminately in the world
  - 2. Doomed the world to wickedness
  - 3. And their children and grandchildren to destruction in the flood of Divine judgment
- v. That is what happened to the Jews who had returned from Exile (Neh. 13:24-27)
  - 1. They had married with other nations
  - 2. Their children could no longer speak the language of God's people

### III. The Prophets

- a. The False Prophets (1 Kings 22)
  - i. Say what is desired (v. 6)
    - 1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life
      - a. Instead of Repent or perish
    - 2. Lie in the name of God
  - ii. Are known to be false by those who know the truth (v. 7)
  - iii. Put on a show (v. 11)
  - iv. Were in the majority (v. 12-13)
  - v. Rude and violent to those who speak the truth (v. 24)
  - vi. Judged by God (v. 25)
- b. The True Prophet
  - i. Is pressured to conform (v. 13)
  - ii. Speaks only what the Lord speaks (v. 14)
  - iii. Got Ahab's attention by mocking the false prophets (v. 15-16)
  - iv. Delivered his message (17-23)
  - v. Suffered mocking, abuse, imprisonment and deprivation for his message (v. 24-27)
  - vi. Desired all to hear and believe, not just Ahab (v. 28)

### IV. Conclusion

- a. The wicked
  - i. Need to hear the message – repent or perish
  - ii. Doom will come to the ungodly
- b. The righteous
  - i. Need to maintain their integrity before the wicked
  - ii. Not bind themselves with those that are in rebellion against God
  - iii. If the world cannot tell the difference b/w us and them
    - 1. We cannot shine our lights
      - a. While telling the wicked, "I am as you are and my people as your people"

