



THE BOOK OF

**1 KINGS**



## Sermon Series Notes

### “A Tale of Two Kings” (I Kings 20-22)

Danny Hodges – OT3554 Topic: Rebellion

Elijah has been called of God to minister at a time when the most wicked king of Israel is ruling, Ahab. Ahab's wife is even more wicked than he is, and she has been killing off the Lord's prophets. After a tremendous victory over 850 false prophets on Mt Carmel, Jezebel threatens Elijah, and surprisingly, he runs for his life and hides in a cave on Mt. Horeb. God deals graciously with him, but calls him out of his cave to continue his ministry.

19:15-21 God always has a plan, He just needs committed followers to carry out His plan, and He has another one in Elisha. We will track the ministry of Elisha soon as we make our way through II Kings, and there are some great stories there!

20:1-10 Summarize, Ben Hadad king of Aram and thirty-two allied kings attack Samaria, the capital of the northern tribes of Israel. As they send threatening messages to king Ahab, he responds sarcastically while these allied kings are getting drunk in their tents ((20:11-12).

20:13 We must pause on this verse. See 18:3-4; Because of Elijah coming out of his cave, other prophets are now coming out of their caves. This unnamed prophet has some encouraging words for Ahab. What a gracious thing this is toward Ahab, the most wicked king in the history of Israel!

20:14-18, verse 18 perhaps he's drunk?

20:19-22, verse 22, what a gracious thing for the Lord to do for Ahab, the most wicked king in the history of Israel.

20:23-28, verse 28, what a gracious thing for the Lord to do for Ahab, the most wicked king in the history of Israel.

20:29-34 What a stupid thing for Ahab to do, especially in light of how gracious the Lord has been to him.

20:35-41 Summarize, another prophet condemns Ahab for his foolish treaty with Ben-Hadad; Read 20:42.

20:43 This is a hard headed, hard hearted man, selfish man!

Chapter 21, summarize, reading vv.8-10; The Lord now sends Elijah to confront Ahab; Read 21:17-24.

Please note Ahab's response to these prophetic, condemning words about him and his wife. Read 21:25-29. Is there hope for a man as wicked as Ahab? Of course there is. But he has to do more than humble himself, he has to repent.

Chapter 22:1-6; See II Timothy 4:3-4

Summarize 22:7-14, then read 22:15-22

Another pause here for a moment. The Lord has confronted Ahab repeatedly, and now he is told that he will follow a lying spirit to his death.

If you are thinking, “How could anyone be so foolish?” Has not God told all of us that we are going to die? Has He not warned us about the deception of the evil one, of the world, and of our proneness to deceive even ourselves? See James 1:13-14.

I am not so amazed that a man bent on wickedness like Ahab ignores yet another prophetic warning, but I am a little surprised at Jehoshaphat here.

22:29-30 Jehoshaphat is one brick shy of a full load.

22:31-38; Despite repeated warnings by prophets of the Lord, and a specific prophetic word about the lying spirit behind all of the false prophets Ahab had gathered around him, he continued his wicked path, and now his eternal fate is sealed.

Ahab was wicked, hard-hearted. But Jehoshaphat allied himself with Ahab, which I think was pretty foolish.

I Cor.15:33 Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.

22:48 See II Chron.20:35-37; Jehoshaphat had a lot of good things recorded about his reign as king. See II Chron.19:4, 8; 20:1, 3-4, 12, 18, 21-22.

The heading in my Bible at the end of II Chron.20 is “The End of Jehoshaphat’s Reign.”

It was as an older saint that King David Had his foolish and sinful affair with Bathsheeba.

Read Howard Hendricks on finishing well.

We may not be headed for the eternal fate of Ahab, but with that said, may those of us who are saved learn from these Bible stories, that we might not make the same mistakes as our brothers and sisters in the faith have made before us.

Lessons From Our Story

- God loves all people, and is not willing that any should perish (II Peter 3:9).
  - The Lord’s repeated and gracious encouragement to & confrontation of Ahab.
  - God’s revelation to the Egyptians before the Passover plague, the people of the Promised Land (Rahab responded in faith), etc.
  - Especially see Rev. 14:6-7
  
- Those who reject the Lord will not escape judgment.
  - The wicked can run, but they cannot hide from God.
  - I Thess.5:3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
  - Rev. 6:15-17 They will call to the mountains, “Fall on us...”
  
- Even saved people suffer the consequences of foolish actions
  - Col.3:25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism.
  - The evidence is Jehoshaphat was a saved man, yet his actions reveal some pretty foolish decisions. The fact that he allied himself at all with Ahab was a foolish decision, and almost caused his premature death. And as an older man he once again allied himself with wicked king Ahaziah.
  - Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat married Athaliah the daughter of Ahab, and Jehoram followed in the ways of Ahab. Ahaziah was their son (II Kings 8:16-18, 25-27).
  
- Bad company corrupts good character (I Cor.15:33)

- Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab ended up influencing his kids, and his son ended up marrying a wicked daughter of Ahab, and their son followed the wicked ways of his father-in-law.
- No matter what the political and/or spiritual climate, God is looking for people who will "come out" and boldly declare truth, no what the cost, and no matter the people's response (II Chron.24:19; Ezekiel 3 & 33; Acts 20:26).