

Now Ben-Hadad King of Aram mustered his entire army. Accompanied by thirty-two kings with ~~them~~ their horses and chariots, he went up and besieged Samaria and attacked it.

2 He sent messengers into the city to Ahab King of Israel, saying, "This is what Ben-Hadad says: your silver and gold are mine, and the best of your wives and children are mine." <sup>4</sup>

The king of Israel answered, "Just as you say, my lord the king. I and all I have are yours."

5 The messengers came again and said, "This is what Ben-Hadad says: 'I sent to demand your silver and gold, your wives and your children. But about this time tomorrow I am going to send my officials to search your palace and the houses of your officials. They will seize everything you value and carry it away.'"

7 The king of Israel summoned all the elders of the land and said to them, "See how this man is looking for trouble! When he sent for my wives and my children, my cattle and my gold, I did not refuse him".

8. The elders and the people all answered, "Don't listen to them or agree to his demands."
9. So he replied to Ben-Hadad's messengers, "Tell my lord the king, 'Your servant will do all you demanded the first time, but this demand I cannot meet.'" They left and took the answer back to Ben-Hadad.
10. Then Ben-Hadad sent another message to Ahab: "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if enough dust remains in Samaria to give each of my men a handful."
11. The king of Israel answered, "Tell him: 'One who puts on his armor should not boast like one who takes it off.'"
12. Ben-Hadad heard this message while he and the kings were drinking in their tents, and he ordered his men: "Prepare to attack." So they prepared to attack the city.  
Ahab Defeats Ben-Hadad.
13. Meanwhile a prophet came to Ahab king of Israel and announced, "This is what the Lord says: Do you see this vast army? I will give it into your hand today, and

13. then you will know that I am the Lord,"

14. But who will do this?" asked Ahab.

The prophet replied, "This is what the Lord says: 'The young officers of the provincial commanders will do it."

"And who will start the battle?" he asked.

The prophet answered, "You will."

15. So Ahab summoned the young officers of the provincial commanders, 232 men. Then he assembled the rest of the Israelites; 7,000 in all.

16. They set out at noon while Ben-Hadad and the 32 kings allied with him were in their tents getting drunk.

17. The young officers went out first.

Now Ben-Hadad had despatched scouts, who reported, "Men are advancing from Samaria."

18. He said, "If they have come out for peace, take them alive; if they have come out for war, take them alive."

19. The Towns Officers Of The  
Provincial commanders Marched On To The City  
With The Army Behind Them.<sup>20</sup> And Gath

One struck down this officer. At that, the Arameans fled, with the Israelites in pursuit. But Ben-Hadad King of Aram escaped on horseback with some of his horsemen.<sup>21</sup> The King of Israel advanced and overpowered the horsemen and chariots and inflicted heavy losses on the Arameans.

Afterwards, the prophet came to the King of Israel and said, "Strengthen your position and see what must be done, because next spring the King of Aram will attack you again".<sup>22</sup>

Meanwhile, the officers of the King of Aram advised him, "These gods are the gods of the hills, that is why they were too strong for us, but if we fight them on the plains, surely we will be stronger than them.<sup>23</sup> Do this: Remove the kings from their commands and replace them with their officers.

You must also raise an army like the one you lost - these for horse and chariot for chariot - so we can beat Israel on the plains. Then surely we will be stronger than them."<sup>24</sup>

1 Kings 20

18

Chewies Takeover 12  
Scripture  
Prayer Morning

25 contd.

He Agreed With Them And Acted  
Accordingly.

<sup>26</sup> The Next Spring Both sides Mustered The  
Aramaeans And Went Up To A Place To Hunt Against  
<sup>27</sup> Israel. When The Israelites Were Also Mustered  
And Given Provisions, They Marched Out To Meet Them.  
The Israelites Camped Opposite Them In Two  
Small Fleets Of Carts, While The Arameans  
Covered The Countryside.

<sup>28</sup> The man of God came up and told the  
King of Israel, "This is what the LORD says: Because  
the Arameans think the Lord is a god of the  
hills and not a god of the valleys, I will deliver  
this vast army into your hands, and you will know that  
I am the Lord."

<sup>29</sup> For seven days they camped opposite each other,  
and on the seventh day the battle was joined. The  
Israelites inflicted a hundred thousand casualties on the  
<sup>30</sup> Aramean foot soldiers in one day.<sup>30</sup> The rest of them  
escaped to the city of Aphek, where the wall collapsed on

30 (v)

twenty-seven thousand of them. And Ben-Hadad fled to the city and hid in an inner room.

<sup>31</sup> His officials said to him, "Look, we have heard that the Kings of the house of Israel are merciful. Let us go to the King of Israel with sackcloth round our waists and ropes round our heads. Perhaps he will spare your life."

<sup>32</sup> Wearing sackcloth round their waists and ropes round their heads, they went to the King of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-Hadad says: 'Please let me live.'"

The King answered, "Is he still alive? He is my brother."

<sup>33</sup> The men took this as a good sign and were quick to pick up his word. "Yes, your brother Ben-Hadad!" they said.

"Go and get him," the King said. When Ben-Hadad came out, Ahab made him come up into his chariot.

<sup>34</sup> "I will return the cities my father took from your father," Ben-Hadad offered. "You may set up your own market areas in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria."

Ahab said "On the basis of a treaty I will set you free."

<sup>34</sup> CONT'D

So he made a treaty with him, and let him go.

A prophet Condemns Ahab

<sup>35</sup> By the word of the Lord one of the sons of the prophets said to his companion, "Strike me with your weapon," but the man refused.

<sup>36</sup> So the prophet said, "Because you have not obeyed the Lord, as soon as you leave me a lion will kill you." And after the man went away, a lion found him and killed him.

<sup>37</sup> The prophet found another man and said "Strike me, please." So the man struck him and wounded him. <sup>38</sup> Then the prophet went and stood by the road waiting for the king.

He disguised himself with his head-band down over

<sup>39</sup> His eyes. As the king passed by, the prophet called out to him, "Your servant went into the thick of the battle, and someone came to me with a captive and said, 'Guard this man. If he is missing, it will be your life for his life, or you must pay a talent of silver.' <sup>40</sup> While your servant was busy here and there, the man disappeared."

"That is your sentence," the King of Israel said.

<sup>40</sup> CONT.

"YOU HAVE PRONONCED IT YOURSELF."

<sup>41</sup> THEN THE PROPHET QUICKLY REMOVED THE HEAD-BAND FROM HIS EYES, AND THE KING OF ISRAEL RECOGNISED HIM AS ONE OF THE PROPHETS. <sup>42</sup> HE SAID TO THE KING, "THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS: 'YOU HAVE SET FREE A MAN I HAVE DETERMINED SHOULD DIE. THEREFORE IT IS YOUR LIFE FOR HIS LIFE, YOUR PEOPLE FOR HIS PEOPLE.'" SULLEN AND ANGRY, THE KING OF ISRAEL WENT TO HIS PALACE IN SAMARIA.

1. Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.
2. Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard, or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth."
3. But Naboth replied "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."
4. So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.
5. His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, "Why are you so sullen? Why won't you eat?"
6. He answered her, "Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, 'sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard

in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

7. Jezebel his wife said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

8. So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him.

9. In those letters she wrote,

Proclaim a day of Fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people.

10. But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them testify that he has cursed both God and the King. Then take him out and stone him to death.

11. So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth Naboth's city did as Jezebel directed in the letters she had written to them.

12, They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place among the people.

13, Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges against Naboth before the people, saying, Naboth has cursed both God and the King. So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent word to Jezebel, "Naboth has been stoned and he is dead." She told Ahab "Go for it Ahab - Take the vineyard of Naboth the Gilead. There To Crown It As His Own. ~~Say to him~~ <sup>Give</sup> The Vineyard He Refuses To Sell You. Naboth Is No More! Naboth Is Dead."

<sup>16</sup> The minute Ahab Heard That Naboth Was Dead, He Set Out for The Vineyard of Naboth The Jezebelite And Convinced It for His Own.  
<sup>17-19</sup>

Then God Spoke In And Spoke To Elijah The Tishbite, "On Your feet, Go Down And Confront Ahab Of Samaria, King Of Israel. You'll find him In The Vineyard of Naboth, He's Gone

1Kings 2.

There To Claim It Has His Own. Say To Him:  
'God's Word: What's Going On Here? First Murder,  
Then Theft? Then Tell Him, 'God's Justice': The Very  
Spot Where The Dogs Lapped Up Naboth's Blood,  
They'll Lap Up Your Bloods — That's Right, Your  
Bloods."

<sup>20</sup> Ahab Answered Elijah, "My Enemy, So,  
You've Run Me Down!"

<sup>21-22</sup> "Yes I've Found You Out," Elijah Said,

"AND Because You've Bought Into The  
Business Of Evil, Despising God. I Will Most  
Certainly Bring Doom Upon You, Make Mince-  
meat Of Your Descendants, Kill Off Every Single Male  
wrecker Who's Ever Remotely Connected With  
The Name Ahab. And I'll Bring Down On  
You The Same Fate That Fell On  
Jehoram Son Of Ahab And Baasha Son Of  
Ahab — You've Made Me THAT Angry By  
Making Israel Sin."

23-24

As for Jezebel, God said, "Dogs will eat over the flesh of Jezebel all over Jezebel. Anyone tainted by Ahab who dies in the city will be eaten by stony dogs, corpses in the country will be eaten by crows."

25-26

Ahab, pushed by his wife Jezebel and in open defiance to God, set an all-time record in making big business of evil. He indulged in outrageous obscenities in the world of idols, copying the Amorites whom God had earlier kicked out of Israelite territory.

27.

When Ahab heard what Elijah had to say, he ripped his clothes to shreds, dressed in penitential rough burlap, and fasted. He even slept in a coarse burlap pasamas. He tiptoed around like a mouse.

28-29

Then God spoke to Elijah. "Do you see how penitent yet submissive Ahab has become to me? Because of his remorse I'll not bring the doom during his lifetime, Ahab's son though will get it!"



