

Life Lessons from I Kings 20-22

Chapter 20

Overview

AHAB'S DEFEAT OF SYRIAN ARMY

V1 – Syria besieged Samaria – Capital of Northern Tribe/Kingdom

V11 – Great proverb!

V13 – Prophet tells Ahab the Lord will deliver Syrian Army into his hands

V22 – Prophet tells Ahab that the Syrians will attack again in the Spring

V23 – Syrians think it's because Israel's gods are gods of hills, so they will fight them in the plains

V28 – Prophet tells Ahab because Syrians think this, He will deliver them again!

V34 – Ahab makes a treaty with Ben Hadad

Life Lesson #1

Why Would God Do That?

* Why would God do this for HIM? For the people as they follow him?

* Remember who this is? I Kings 16:29-34

* God tells us why! V13 & V28 – “you shall know that I am the LORD (YHWH)”

* To know Him as God, THE ONE & ONLY

* To know His Name – He is not an “Impersonal Entity”

* To know that He is the Victor in the Valleys, He is Victor in the Plains; He will never leave nor forsake you!

Application – Do you know God?

* Know Him as the One/Only God; Know Him by name?

* Know Him as The God of the Hills & Plains & the Valleys of your life

* Is this the God that you tell of, portray to others?

Chapter 21

Overview

AHAB'S CONDEMNATION/REPENTANCE

V4 – Ahab was Equally Wimpy as He was Wicked!

V9-10 – Heard of any equally trumped up charges that cost someone His life??? JESUS! (Matt 27:60-66)

V11 – Tells a lot about “the people” who did just as she said!

V18 – Notice God knows Exactly What happened, Where it happened & Who was part of it! Sends Elijah!

V20 – Ahab's names for Elijah – “My Enemy”; 17:18 – Is that you, O troubler of Israel? (Actually Man of God)

V19-24 – Actually contains 3 Separate prophecies; fulfillment of which are all recorded in 1 & 2 Kings

V29 – After all that – He humbles himself before the Lord

Life Lesson #2

The God of 2nd, 3rd, 4th Chances

1st – Crowned King; 2nd – Elijah's Victory; 3rd – Ending of the Drought; 4th – 1st Defeat/Syrians, 5th – 2nd Defeat
6th – V29 When Ahab finally humbles himself before an All Knowing, All Seeing, All Powerful God!!!

V29a - God wants us to know He is the God of Chances, but he is also the God of Justice – V29b

Exodus 34:6-7 ⁶And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.”

Application

* Do you know God is the God of 2nd, 3rd, 4th chances...But He is also a God of Justice???

* The way to the mercy of God is to humble ourselves to His Knowing, Seeing, Power & Righteousness!!!

James 4:6-10 ...“God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Chapter 22

Overview

AHAB & JEHOSHAPHAT'S COUNSELORS

V2 – Jehoshaphat went to see King Ahab, his father-in-law (2 Ch 18:1)

V4 – Good Intention; Bad Decision!

V5 – Counsel of the Prophets of Israel vs. the counsel of the Prophet of God (Micaiah)

V19 – Just like the famous verses in Isaiah 6:1 ¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

V22 – View into the Spiritual Realm – Lying Spirits – Lord says – Go

V30 – Out of ignorance/denial/unbiblical (unequally yoking) even for best reasons, Doesn't get it – It's a set up!

V33 – What actually happens in more spiritual detail is found in 2 Ch 18:31

V34 – God is in control!

V38 – Fulfills the prophecy in 21:19

V39 – Ivory House found in Samaria in 1901-1910 & 1931 Expeditions

V41-50 – Jehoshaphat's Reign – 10 verses here, 4 Chapters in 2 Chr

V52 – Followed the ways of BOTH Father & Mother!

Life Lesson #3

Quality Not Quantity

* What counts in the counsel we receive? Quantity or Quality

V6 – 400 said GO!

* What counts in the counsel we receive? What/Who do we give Authority to speak into our lives?

V7 – Jehoshaphat asked if there were any Prophets of God, Not of Israel!!!

Application

* Unlike food – often times quantity out weighs quality

* When it comes to Counsel – Not just Go, BUT GOD! Need to Choose our Source for Quality!

Proverbs 30:5-6 ⁵Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. ⁶Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.