



1

The reign of Ahab son of Omri 1 Kings 16:29-22:50

- Elisha 1 Kings 19:19-21
 - Following God's instruction, Elijah found Elisha and indicated God's choice of the prophet to take his place.
 - Elisha showed his commitment to this calling by sacrificing his team of oxen and using the wood to cook the meat for a farewell meal.

2

The reign of Ahab son of Omri 1 Kings 16:29-22:50

- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad, king of Syria, amassed a confederation of 32 kings and invaded the Northern Kingdom, making their way to Samaria, the capital.
 - He sent to Ahab demanding he hand over the best of his wives and children and his treasure to which Ahab agreed.

3

The reign of Ahab son of Omri 1 Kings 16:29-22:50

- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad, king of Syria, amassed a confederation of 32 kings and invaded the Northern Kingdom, making their way to Samaria, the capital.
 - Ben-hadad then sent word that he would send his men to come into Samaria and take whatever they wanted.
 - Ahab and his leaders refused his request.
 - Ben-hadad threatened to totally destroy Samaria.
 - Ahab retorted that he should not make such boasts before the battle is fought.

4

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- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad, king of Syria, amassed a confederation of 32 kings and invaded the Northern Kingdom, making their way to Samaria, the capital.
 - A prophet of Yahweh came to Ahab with the message that God would give victory over Ben-hadad's forces.
 - Ben-hadad and these other kings were so confident that they were drinking excessively and saw no threat even when the Israelites came out against them.

5

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- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad, king of Syria, amassed a confederation of 32 kings and invaded the Northern Kingdom, making their way to Samaria, the capital.
 - A prophet of Yahweh came to Ahab with the message that God would give victory over Ben-hadad's forces.
 - Note the extremely small number of the army of Israel compared to earlier battles between the Southern and Northern Kingdoms.
 - The Syrians and their forces were defeated.

6

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- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad, king of Syria, amassed a confederation of 32 kings and invaded the Northern Kingdom, making their way to Samaria, the capital.
 - The prophet of Yahweh returned with the warning that Ben-hadad would regroup and come against Ahab again in the spring.

7

The reign of Ahab son of Omri 1 Kings 16:29-22:50

- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad renewed the invasion of the Northern Kingdom in the spring as predicted.
 - His advisors suggested that the "gods" of the Israelites only had power over the hills and suggested that the battle be fought in the plain.
 - They further suggested military commanders to take the place of the kings in leading the assault.

8

The reign of Ahab son of Omri 1 Kings 16:29-22:50

- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad renewed the invasion of the Northern Kingdom in the spring as predicted.
 - Ben-hadad again came with what appeared to be an overwhelming force.
 - God purposed to allow Ahab to defeat Ben-hadad's forces since the Syrians has characterized Yahweh as having limited power and authority.

9

The reign of Ahab son of Omri 1 Kings 16:29-22:50

- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - Ben-hadad renewed the invasion of the Northern Kingdom in the spring as predicted.
 - True to the word of the prophet, the Syrian forces were defeated.
 - Ben-hadad escaped and sought and received mercy from Ahab who let him live.
 - Ben-hadad promised to restore captured cities and give Ahab access to Damascus.

10

The reign of Ahab son of Omri 1 Kings 16:29-22:50

- Ahab's wars with Syria 1 Kings 20:1-34
 - God sent a message to rebuke to Ahab for allowing Ben-hadad to live.
 - The prophet was sent by God to deliver the message to Ahab in a dramatic fashion.
 - The key to the rebuke is the revelation that God had devoted Ben-hadad to destruction.
 - That Ahab is held accountable for this presupposes that this was a part of the message about his victory over the Syrians that was not recorded.

11

Lessons

- The call to follow God requires the deliberate choice to make the life adjustments necessary to fulfill that calling.
- God gives abundant opportunity to know and serve Him. 20:13,28
- Before we get too upset about the skewed view people have of God we may need to look into a mirror.

12

Lessons

- God gives evidence to the people of the world that He is the one true and living God. 20:28
- Position devoid of integrity leads to defeat.
- Never let your personal feelings override the clear instruction of God.
- The only proper response to God’s rebuke is repentance.
