

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 55 – Elijah Flees For His Life Through Ahaziah's Reign In Israel (I Kings 19-22)

1. What was Jezebel's reaction when Ahab told her all that Elijah had done?

- “And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time” (I Kings 19:1-2).

2. Was Elijah ready to stand up against Jezebel?

- No: “And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there” (I Kings 19:3).

3. Did God fulfill Elijah's request to die?

- No: “But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then **an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.** And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the **angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.** And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God” (I Kings 19:4-8).

4. What does God do to deal with Elijah as he feels alone as a prophet?

- “And he said, I have been very jealous [zealous] for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and **I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.** And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, **the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.** And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, **What doest thou here, Elijah?** And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and **I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.** And the LORD said unto him, **Go,** return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and **Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room.** And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay. Yet **I have left me seven thousand in**

*Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him” (I Kings 19:10-18).*

- There is an application for us today in this text (**Romans 11:1-5**).
- Elisha will end up anointing Hazael in Syria when Benhadad is ill (**II Kings 8:7-16**).
- Elisha will also take on the anointing of Jehu (**II Kings 9**).

5. Does Elisha follow Elijah?

- Yes, after saying goodbye at home (**I Kings 19:19-21**).
- Consider an application from Jesus as He expects dedication without looking back (**Luke 9:57-62**).

6. Was Ahab willing to give in to the first request of Benhadad, the king of Syria?

- Sure was: *“And Benhadad the king of Syria gathered all his host together: and there were thirty and two kings with him, and horses, and chariots: and he went up and besieged Samaria, and warred against it. And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Benhadad, Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine. And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have” (I Kings 20:1-4).*

7. How did Ahab reply to Benhadad’s second request?

- *“And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Benhadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, and thy wives, and thy children; Yet I will send my servants unto thee to morrow about this time, and they shall search thine house, and the houses of thy servants; and it shall be, that whatsoever is pleasant in thine eyes, they shall put it in their hand, and take it away. Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this man seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for my wives, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not. And all the elders and all the people said unto him, Hearken not unto him, nor consent. Wherefore he said unto the messengers of Benhadad, Tell my lord the king, All that thou didst send for to thy servant at the first I will do: but this thing I may not do. And the messengers departed, and brought him word again” (I Kings 20:5-9).*

8. What was Benhadad doing when he ordered the preparations for battle against Israel?

- Drinking [BDB Hebrew lexicon says drinking to be drunk] (**I Kings 20:12; cf. 16**).

9. How was Ahab going to stand against the multitudes Benhadad was bringing against Israel?

- God wanted to establish His reign, so God would order and win the battle as the prophet told Ahab (**I Kings 20:13-21**).

10. How did Israel know that Benhadad would come again at the return of the year?

- A prophet told Ahab (**I Kings 20:22**).

11. What did the servants of the king of Syria advise their king to do?

- “And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, **Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they.** **And do this thing,** Take the kings away, every man out of his place, and put captains in their rooms: And number thee an army, like the army that thou hast lost, horse for horse, and chariot for chariot: and we will fight against them in the plain, and **surely we shall be stronger than they** . And **he hearkened unto their voice, and did so**” (I Kings 20:23-25).
- They failed to realize they were up against the God of all things (II Kings 19:15, Psalms 91:1, and Daniel 5:18-21).

12. With Israel heavily outnumbered in this second battle against Syria, why were they able to be victorious?

- “And the children of Israel were numbered, and were all present, and went against them: and the children of Israel pitched before them like two little flocks of kids; but the Syrians filled the country. And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the LORD, Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD. And they pitched one over against the other seven days. And so it was, that in the seventh day the battle was joined: and the children of Israel slew of the Syrians an hundred thousand footmen in one day. But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Benhadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber” (I Kings 20:27-30).

13. What happened to the twenty-seven thousand men who left while they were in Aphek?

- “But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; then a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the men who were left. And Ben-Hadad fled and went into the city, into an inner chamber” (I Kings 20:30).

14. What happens to Benhadad as he fled from Israel’s army?

- “And his servants said unto him, Behold now, we have heard that **the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings:** let us, I pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel: **peradventure he will save thy life.** So they girded sackcloth on their loins, and put ropes on their heads, and came to the king of Israel, and said, Thy servant Benhadad saith, I pray thee, let me live. And he said, Is he yet alive? **he is my brother.** Now the men did diligently observe whether any thing would come from him, and did hastily catch it: and they said, Thy brother Benhadad. Then he said, Go ye, bring him. Then Benhadad came forth to him; and he caused him to come **up into the chariot.** And Benhadad said unto him, The cities, which my father took from thy father, I will restore; and thou shalt make streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria. Then said Ahab, I will send thee away with this covenant. **So he made a covenant with him, and sent him away**” (I Kings 20:31-34).

15. Why did the prophet want smitten and what events took place concerning this prophet?

- “And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him. Then said he unto him,

*Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him. Then he found another man, and said, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded him. So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and **disguised himself** with ashes upon his face. And as the king passed by, **he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver. And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it. And he hastened, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets. And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people. And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria**" (I Kings 20:35-43).*

16. How did Ahab end up getting Naboth's vineyard?

- Naboth knew it was wrong with God to give his inheritance at Ahab's request (**I Kings 21:3**), so he declined the king's request. When Jezebel sees that Ahab's spirit is sad (**I Kings 21:5**), she decides to FORGE letters with her husband's seal instructing the nobles to have false charges of blasphemy brought against Naboth to have him killed. So, after Naboth is stoned (**I Kings 21:13**), Jezebel tells Ahab to take the vineyard and he does (**I Kings 21:14-16**).

17. What message did Elijah bring to Ahab?

- *"And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine" (I Kings 21:17-19).*

18. What happened when Elijah came to see Ahab?

- *"And Ahab said to Elijah, **Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?** And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD. Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, and will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin. And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, **The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.** Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat. **But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.** And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. **And it came to pass,***

when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly” (I Kings 21:20-27).

19. Why did God decide to wait to bring evil to Ahab’s house?

- Because he humbled himself TEMPORARILY (I Kings 21:29).

20. What was the difference between the four hundred prophets brought for advice about taking Ramothgilead from Syria and Micaiah the prophet?

- He was hated by Ahab because he would not be a puppet like all of the other prophets were (I Kings 22:1-8).
- Instead of saying what man instructed, He would say what God instructed: “And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good. And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak” (I Kings 22:13-14).

21. Did Micaiah tell Ahab good news concerning the battle for Ramothgilead?

- After some obvious sarcasm, he laid out the truth plainly and what hated for it: “So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king. And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD? And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee. But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself” (I Kings 22:15-25).

22. What did king Ahab instruct to be done with Micaiah?

- “And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace. And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you” (I Kings 22:26-28).

23. What happens to Ahab?

- He died in battle as Micaiah prophesied and according to the words of Elijah the dogs licked up his blood (**I Kings 22:29-38**).

24. Who reigned after Ahab?

- Ahaziah, his son (**I Kings 22:40**).

25. As we return to the history of the kings of Judah (of which some information has overlapped already with Jehoshaphat), what kind of king was Jehoshaphat?

- *“And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places. And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel. Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he shewed, and how he warred, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land. There was then no king in Edom: a deputy was king. Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber. Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not. And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and **Jehoram his son reigned in his stead**” (**I Kings 22:41-50**).*

26. Was Ahaziah, son of Ahab, a “chip off of the old block” (like his father Ahab)?

- He was like his dad AND mom: *“Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother, and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin: For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done” (**I Kings 22:51-53**).*