

# 1 KINGS 20:1-22 "I AM THE LORD, AHAB!"

Ben Hadad II is the new character here

- Syrian King
- Palace in Damascus
- Would not of had a rule if Elijah had done what God asked him to, in the order He asked him to.



Allied with Ben-Hadad II were **32 kings**, probably rulers of neighboring city-states. Together they **went up** the hill of **Samaria and attacked it**, placing it under siege.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Thomas L. Constable, "1 Kings," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 529.

1 Now Ben-Hadad II, the king of Syria, gathered all his forces together; **thirty-two kings were with him, with horses and chariots.** And he went up and besieged Samaria, and made war against it.

2 Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, “Thus says Ben-Hadad:

3 ‘Your silver and your gold are mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine.’ ”

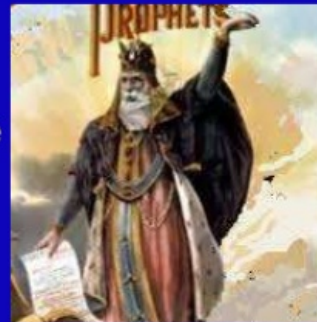
4 And the king of Israel answered and said, “My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all that I have are yours.”

- Overwhelming odds – would appear surrender the only option, but not if you are the friend of God.
  - **Ahab’s response: Immediate surrender.**

1 Kings 20 (*Benhadad demanded*)<sup>3</sup> Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine. <sup>4</sup> And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have. **Immediate surrender!**



He didn't pray.  
He didn't call for the  
man of God.



- Why wasn't Ahab interested in God's input into this problem?
  - **Charles Haddon Spurgeon:** “A primary qualification for serving God with any amount of success, and for doing God's work well and triumphantly, **is a sense of our own weakness.** When God's warrior marches forth to battle, strong in his own might, when he boasts, “I know that I shall conquer, my own right arm and my conquering sword shall get unto me the victory,” defeat is not far distant. God will not go forth with that man who marches in his own strength.”  
“Those who serve God must serve Him in His own way, and in His

*strength, or He will never accept their service. That which man doth, unaided by divine strength, God can never own.”*<sup>2</sup>

- **Ben-Hadad II will not be satisfied once Ahab gives in**
  - Apparently Jezebel was not one of his “loveliest brides”!
    - No matter how “outwardly” a woman can be, it really is her heart that reveals her beauty.
- **Lust – the “flesh”, knows no boundaries** – never satisfied
  - Always wants more
  - Leaves men and women empty and broken.
- **Lucifer knows no boundaries** – he will pursue you and eat you alive if you have not the Lord Jesus Christ as your **King**.

**5** Then the messengers came back and said, “Thus speaks Ben-Hadad, saying, ‘Indeed I have sent to you, saying, “You shall deliver to me your silver and your gold, your wives and your children”;

**6** but I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants. **And it shall be, that whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they will put it in their hands and take it.’ ”**

- Having gained victory over the believer – Satan comes back for more, and more, AND MORE

**7** So the king of Israel (Ahab) called all the elders of the land, and said, “Notice, please, and see how this man seeks trouble, for he sent to me for my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold; **and I did not deny him.”**

**8** And all the elders and all the people said to him, **“Do not listen or consent.”**

- **Trouble follows the man of sin.**
  - Everywhere he goes.
  - Three foes in life as a Christian
    - The World, the attractions of everything that will addict you.
    - The Devil, Lucifer – his prideful, stubborn lifestyle
    - The Flesh, your own lustful desires

**Ephesians 2:1–10**

**1** And you He made alive, who were **dead** in trespasses and sins,

<sup>2</sup> Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*, Complete and unabridged; New modern edition. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006).

**2** in which you once walked according to **the course of this world**, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,  
**3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in **the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.  
**4** But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,  
**5** even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)**,  
**6** and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,  
**7** that in the ages to come **He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**  
**8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,  
**9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.  
**10** For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**9** Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben-Hadad, "Tell my lord the king, 'All that you sent for to your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do.'" And the messengers departed and brought back word to him.

**10** Then Ben-Hadad sent to him and said, "The gods do so to me, and more also, if enough dust is left of Samaria for a handful for each of the people who follow me."

- So, Ahab resists now
- He will give no more
- He does what any Godly man would have done in the beginning – refuse the addict further fuel.

**James 4:7–10**

**7** **Therefore submit to God.**

**Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

**8** Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

**9** Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

**10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

**1 Peter 5:8–9**

**8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

**9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith,** knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

**11** So the king of Israel (Ahab) answered and said, “**Tell him, ‘Let not the one who puts on his armor boast like the one who takes it off.’**”

**12** And it happened when Ben-Hadad II heard this message, as he and the kings were drinking at the command post, that he said to his servants, “Get ready.” And they got ready to attack the city.

**13** Suddenly a prophet (Elijah?) approached Ahab king of Israel, saying, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Have you seen all this great multitude? **Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD.**’”

- **Oh, Lord, prevent me from requiring You to prove to me that “I AM the Lord.”**

- **When will I learn Your ways?**

*Psalm 86:11–13*

**11 Teach me Your way, O LORD;**

I will walk in Your truth;

Unite my heart to fear Your name.

**12** I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,  
And I will glorify Your name forevermore.

**13 For great is Your mercy toward me,**

And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

**14** So Ahab said, “By whom?” And he said, “Thus says the LORD: **‘By the young leaders of the provinces.’**” Then Ahab said, “Who will set the battle in order?” And he answered, “You.”

**15** Then he mustered the **young leaders** of the provinces, and there were two hundred and thirty-two; and after them he mustered all the people, all the children of Israel—seven thousand.





## Moriah Chapel, Wales, England

- Rev. Seth Joshua was a Forward Movement Minister in Cardiff at the beginning of last century. He had been praying for years that God would send an ordinary young man who worked in the coal mines or the fields to lead a Revival in Wales.
- Early in 1904 at New Quay in Cardiganshire Rev. Joseph Jenkins was praying earnestly that a change might come over the churches of the area. One Sunday morning in February, a young people's prayer meeting was being held at his church. **He asked the young people to share with the others anything that had happened to them in connection with their religion. A young girl named Florrie Evans rose to her feet and said, "I love Jesus Christ with all my heart."** Immediately, the whole meeting seemed to catch fire. Young people found it easy to pray and to talk about their experiences.

**16** So they went out at noon.

**Meanwhile Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings helping him were getting drunk at the command post.**

**17 The young leaders of the provinces went out first.** And Ben-Hadad sent out a patrol, and they told him, saying, "Men are coming out of Samaria!"

**18** So he said, "If they have come out for peace, take them alive; and if they have come out for war, take them alive."

**19** Then these young leaders of the provinces went out of the city with the army which followed them.

**20** And each one killed his man; so the Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them; and **Ben-Hadad II**, the king of Syria, escaped on a horse with the cavalry.

**21** Then Ahab, king of Israel, went out and attacked the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great slaughter.

God defeated King Benhadad of Syria.

But the Syrians will be back.

The devil always comes back.



Luke 4 <sup>12</sup> And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

<sup>13</sup> And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from Him for a season.

**22** And the prophet came to the king of Israel and said to him, “Go, strengthen yourself; take note, and see what you should do, for in the spring of the year the king of Syria will come up against you.”

- One day the Dragon of Old will be put away for ever
- Now is the time to prepare for war, never let your guard down
- Put on, and keep on, the FULL ARMOR OF GOD. (Eph 6:10-20)