

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
AHAB VS. BENHADAD-PART 2
1 KINGS 20:7-13

Introduction

In the first six verses of this Chapter, we saw how Benhadad, the king of Syria, had laid siege against and warred against Samaria! As he laid siege, he sent messengers to King Ahab and demanded that he deliver his silver, his gold, his wives, and his children over to him.

Ahab did not resist at all. In fact, Ahab sent a message of surrender back to Benhadad saying that he and all that he had belonged to Benhadad.

Well, evidently Benhadad thought that Ahab had surrendered a little too easy and must have been holding out on him because he followed up his original demand with a more far reaching demand!

Benhadad was going to send his servants in the next day to ransack Ahab's house as well as the houses of his servants and take whatever they found to be desirable!

And that is where we left off. We've all heard the phrase, "*Don't count your chickens before they're hatched*". Well, that's pretty much what Benhadad had done here! He's been used to defeating kings and having them submit everything to him and going on to the next town. He was probably already thinking about what he was going to do with the spoils from Ahab and Israel! Only this time he was messing with God's people.

I. WE SEE AHAB'S RESISTANCE! (Vs 7-9)

Ahab, who had not consulted with the LORD or anyone else about his initial surrender, finally called the elders of Israel together for a consultation meeting.

Both the elders and the people advised Ahab to resist Benhadad. Ahab, was willing to up hold the first part of Benhadad's demands. But he informed him that he wasn't going to allow him to ransack his home and the home of his servants like he asked! (What a wimp!)

When our life is out of touch with the LORD, our priorities and our thinking tend to get all out of wack. That's where Ahab was in his life!

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Our adversary, the devil, desires to take every precious thing that we have! On top of that he wants to shackle us and enslave us!

That is why the Word of God challenges us over and over again to resist the devil!

Ephesians 4:27 – "Neither give place to the devil."

Ephesians 6:11 – "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

James 4:7-10 – "7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

WE SEE AHAB'S RESISTANCE...

II. WE SEE BENHADAD'S RESPONSE! (Vs 10)

While Ahab seemed to lack a backbone to protect his family, his freedom and his finances, the same cannot be said about Benhadad.

The testosterone was flowing heavy through Benhadad! (He was kind of like: "*Oh yeah, who does this punk Ahab think he is anyway? I'll show him who the man is!*") We see Benhadad responded here with a typical macho man response!

He used intimidation and threats to sway Ahab and Samaria to yield to him! He threatened to strip the city so bare himself that there wouldn't even be enough dust left to split between those that would follow in behind him. (Remember, he had 32 other kings he had defeated fighting with him!)

Ordinarily, Benhadad was used to sending "*his servants*" in to do his light work! But the indication here is that he was going to delight in handling Ahab and company himself.

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And he would do such a job on them that the when the other 32 kings with him came behind him to “*mop up*” there wouldn’t be enough left for them to split handfuls of dust for their efforts!

Benhadad had been used to using bullying tactics because they worked for him in the past! And because those tactics worked in the past, it made him have the big head thinking they would work this time too!

Proverbs 16:18 – “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”

Proverbs 18:12 – “Before destruction the heart of man is haughty...”

Proverbs 11:2 – “When pride cometh, then cometh shame...”

Proverbs 29:3 – “A man's pride shall bring him low...”

WE SEE AHAB’S RESISTANCE...BENHADAD’S RESPONSE...

III. WE SEE AHAB’S COUNTER RESPONSE! (Vs. 11)

For the first time Ahab says something that actually made some sense!

Think about what he is saying here. The man who puts on his harness of armor hasn't fought the battle yet. The man taking off his armor is the one who has fought the battles.

Ahab was warning Benhadad of his presumption of the outcome of the battle! Benhadad was boasting like one taking his armor off after the battle before he had even harnessed up for the battle!

(i.e. Benhadad was counting his victory before it was fought!)

The Bible warns over and over again about presuming what will happen tomorrow and being overconfident.

Proverbs 27:1 – “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”

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Boasting about tomorrow usually leads to carelessness! A cocky, overconfident attitude can lead a person to drop their guard or be caught off guard. We will see that Benhadad was making that mistake.

Boasting of tomorrow always demonstrates pride! It denies that God is in control over one's life! The attitude that says, “*I'm in control and I'm going to do what I want to do*” can lead to some big surprises.

Ancient Babylon made that mistake!

Isaiah 47:10-11 – “10 For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. 11 Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.”

James warned us about thinking this way!

James 4:13-16 – “13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

IV. WE SEE BENHADAD’S ORDER TO ATTACK! (Vs 12)

Benhadad was boozing it up with his troops when Ahab’s message got back to him! The fact that he felt secure in getting drunk here shows that he was overconfident, cocky, and boastful in wartime!

When he received the message from Ahab, being drunk he exploded with rage and gave his troops the command to attack Samaria!

There were at least two big problems here for Benhadad!

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- 1. First he was controlled by whatever he was drinking!**
That's the problem with drinking! You can't control it because it controls you!

Proverbs 20:1 – “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”

Ephesians 5:18 – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”

- 2. Secondly, he was ignited by his anger!**
And could I say that the drinking magnified his anger!

Proverbs 14:17– “He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly...”

Proverbs 14:29–“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.”

Ecclesiastes 7:9–“Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.”

These two things together brought forth “The Perfect Storm” in his life! (By the way if you've never seen the movie “**The Perfect Storm**”, don't bother—nobody lived through it!)

So, what triggers you? What sends you into orbit and causes you to lose your control and lose your temper? Oh how we need to be so very careful that we are not dominated and directed by our anger!

For Benhadad, it was when Ahab told him he couldn't have his way!

V. WE SEE THE LORD INTERVENE! (Vs 13)

An unnamed prophet brought Ahab an encouraging message of promised deliverance from the LORD so that Ahab would know that He was the LORD!

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By the way, this unnamed prophet proves that Elijah was not the only prophet in the land as he had thought in his depression!

Ahab should have been convinced at Mt. Carmel, don't you think? But he wasn't! **But the LORD gave Ahab another chance to know Him!**

God wants us to know Him, walk with Him, and talk with Him. **God was giving Ahab an opportunity to change and to trust the LORD!**

He still gives folks that opportunity today! I've seen the LORD send wake up calls to folks who were not following Him like they should!

Some use the wake up calls to get right with God and some don't get right even after having received multiple wake up calls from God!

Revelation 3:20– “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

Don't miss the opportunities God gives you to get back in fellowship with Him!

Don't miss the opportunities God gives you to serve Him!
Opportunities to serve the LORD are gifts from God to express our love to Him, to help others, to receive future blessings and rewards, to develop a ministry for God's purposes and for His glory!

Neglecting opportunities to get right with God or to serve God is tragic!

Romans 14:12– “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

The opportunities that the LORD sends our way may be here today, but gone tomorrow! Boast not thyself of tomorrow!