

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
AHAB'S DEATH
1 KINGS 22:34-40; 51-53

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Introduction

Tonight we wrap up the end King Ahab's life! We left him bleeding in the chariot last time. We will see both his death and the rise of his son Ahaziah!

I. WE SEE THE DEATH OF AHAB! (1 Kings 22:34-40)

Ahab is not the first nor the last person **that has tried to somehow get around what the Word of God has pronounced against them or escape the consequences of disobeying the Word of the LORD!**

There have been countless people who have **refused to heed the warnings of God's Word** only to destroy their lives. The reasons for their disobedience are many including **wrong beliefs** and a **wrong reasoning** from a **wrong heart!** *They may reason that:*

The Bible is not God's Word! It is just a bunch of religious junk!

What has happened to others won't happen to me!

I'll not get caught or punished!

Preachers just say the things in that Book to scare people!

There is nothing wrong with the way that I am living.

Who knows if the Bible is really true anyway?

Society has changed and the Bible needs to change too!

Whether one agrees with God's Word or not, it still is God's infallible Truth and ALL that He says in His Word will happen! Unheeded warnings lead to God bringing consequences for failing to heed the warnings! We can choose to disobey God, but we cannot choose what the consequences will be!

Isaiah 55:11— "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Matthew 24:35— "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Listen, there is **NO ONE** who can try to stop **God's Word, God's Will, God's Way, or God's Work** without suffering **God's Consequences – His Chastisement or His Judgment!**

God is Sovereign whether one chooses to believe He is or not!

Isaiah 46:11 – "...yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.

God is more powerful than we could ever imagine! He is more powerful than men's opinions, men's schemes, men's rejection, men's resistance, or men's plots to prove Him wrong! To try to prove the Lord wrong is not only foolish, it is futile!

When we left off last week we saw how **King Ahab tried to thwart God's plan. He tried to disguise himself to somehow foil God's judgment against him!** He was out to prove that God's Word spoken against Him by Macaiah was wrong! But he failed!

From this passage, we see what we have seen many times before throughout the Word of God—We see that **God is in control over the affairs of men!**

The LORD God Jehovah is God alone! He is Sovereign! He cannot be fooled! **His will cannot be thwarted! What the LORD says that He will do, He will actually do!**

Psalms 111:7— "The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure."

Matthew 5:18— "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Ahab's death here was part of God's Prophecy of judgment against him and his family as was the dogs licking up his blood!

This was just part of the consequences of his part in killing Naboth and Naboth's sons and stealing Naboth's vineyard!

But understand that **there were still consequences of Ahab's sin that came to fruition even after He died.** We will see those things when we get into the *Book of 2 Kings!*

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So we saw how Ahab's new ally, King Jehoshaphat of Judah, asked Ahab to ask for God's direction before going into the battle.

Micaiah, the singular prophet of God here, revealed that Israel would be soundly defeated if they went into the battle against Syria and that Ahab would lose his life!

And yet both Ahab and Jehoshaphat went against the Word of the LORD and entered into the battle with Syria anyway! A very foolish move for both kings! (Why bother to ask if don't heed?)

Ahab had become hardened to the Word of God! The LORD had revealed Himself in so many ways that should have brought Ahab to repentance of his sin and to faith in the LORD, but it didn't!

Ahab didn't care what God had to say through His Prophets! God's Word coming through these Prophets **were seen by him as being just the word of men, not the Word of God!** So Ahab did what he wanted to do! Stubborn rebellion is what it was!

Proverbs 29:1—He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Sin hardened Ahab's heart so that he could not properly respond to God! (Cf. Proverbs 1:20-33)

Jehoshaphat, on the other hand, had allowed himself to be influenced by aligning himself with this wicked man! He should not have been hanging around with the likes of Ahab! This should be a warning to each of us about the company we keep!

Proverbs 1:10—"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

Proverbs 4:14-15 – "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. 15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."

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Jehoshaphat, (through peer pressure or whatever) failed to listen to Micaiah as well!

As Ahab went into battle, we saw that he **disguised himself** as just another soldier but **Jehoshaphat wore his royal robe essentially putting the target on his back rather than Ahab's.**

Ahab **would not outwardly admit that he believed God's warning.** But these actions of his shown in disguising himself show that secretly **in his heart he did believe it.** He believed it but, but thought he could thwart God's Word! But we see that it did not work!

The Syrian army thought Jehoshaphat was Ahab which is what Ahab wanted. What was Jehoshaphat thinking to let Ahab talk him into such a plan as this? Jehoshaphat came out of this battle alive, but only because of the LORD!

2 Chronicles 18:31— "...but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him."

And then on top of that we'll see next time as we will see that a prophet of the LORD came with a message for Jehoshaphat saying that the wrath of the LORD was on him for having helped Ahab!

Back to Ahab: Ahab may have been **disguised and hidden** among his troops, but **the LORD still found him!** Ahab's attempt to foil God's Word was all for naught!

A certain man shot an arrow at random! "*At a venture*", means *in simplicity, i.e. ignorantly, without care, or choice, or any design, or thought of reaching Ahab.* He just pulled back the bow and let her fly!

This arrow mortally wounded Ahab, hitting him in the joints of his breastplate. He bled to death in his chariot and died that evening. **Ahab had been warned three times of his death but he could not foil God's plan.** 20:42 – The unnamed prophet; 21:19 – Elijah in Naboth's vineyard; 22:17-23– Micaiah on the eve of battle.

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If God says something is going to happen, you can count on it happening! The arrow that hit Ahab was a **missile guided by the LORD** just as much as David's stone was guided to the head of Goliath.

That arrow **overcame every obstacle to accomplish God's will!** It overcame Ahab's **camouflage**, his **armor**, his **unbelief**, and his **defiance**.

The timing was right and the place was right though it was a **"random"** arrow. The world would say the man that shot the arrow just got lucky! But, there is no such thing as luck!

Like an orchestra playing in unison, **God brought all the factors together to fulfill His Word and will! No one can foil God's Word or will. He is God!**

God is sovereign and all powerful! Nothing happens without His allowing it! He can overcome the impossible or whatever obstacle men put in His path to thwart His plans!

e.g. Israel was cornered and threatened by the Egyptian army at the Red Sea. God opened the Red Sea and drowned the Egyptian army.

Three Hebrews stood for the Lord in Babylon and were thrown into a fiery furnace. The Lord protected them in the furnace.

Daniel was thrown into a lions' den for praying and the LORD shut the mouths of the lions.

Again, there is nothing that can be done to foil God's plan or His Word!

The fact that the LORD is in control of every aspect of our lives should give us who know Him great comfort!

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Nothing happens to us without His allowing it!

Romans 8:28—And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

May God help us to be yielded and surrendered to the LORD's will in our lives all the time.

May we never get to a point where we try to foil God's will or plans in our lives.

II. WE SEE THE RISE OF AHAB'S SON, AHAZIAH! (Vs 51-53)

Ahab's son, Ahaziah, reigned in his stead! **Just as Ahab had a sentence of death hanging over his head from the Word of the LORD—so did Ahaziah! (1 Kings 21:21-22)**

Nevertheless, the LORD allowed Ahaziah to reign over Israel for two years! (Vs 51)

Ahaziah learned everything evil and nothing good from both his mom and dad! Sadly, Ahab (and all the way back to Jeroboam's) evil legacy was a major part of his inheritance!

Also, Ahaziah apparently learned absolutely nothing from the LORD and the LORD's dealings with his dad! (Vs 52)

And lastly, Ahaziah served the god of his father and mother! (Vs 53)

When we get to the first chapter of **2 Kings**, we'll see his short reign come to an end!

When I get back from vacation, LORD willing, we will look at the end of Jehoshaphat's life as we close out our study on **1 Kings!**