

1 Kings 20: Fighting for His Name's Sake

War

- **Chapter 19:**

1. Jezebel Threatens Elijah
2. Elijah Runs
3. Elijah Wines
4. Elijah Quits
5. Elijah is Retired/Elisha Put in his place as top Prophet

When we are feeling disgruntled, tired, irritated...had enough of serving the King
Never forget... **it is a Privilege to serve** ...and the reward is great

- **Chapter 20:**

1. Back to Story of King Ahab and Northern Kingdom
2. Idolatry Rampant in spite of 450 now room-temperature [dead] false-prophets

Focus now off Elijah and on Northern Kingdom led by King Ahab and Jezebel

I. God of the Hills

1 Now **Ben-Hadad 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.

- Nation of **Syria**: Formerly known as Aram; Damascus the Capital

Ben-Hadad: Not a name but a Title for Syrian Kings
Meaning Ben-Hadad "son of Hadad" AKA the god of storms/thunder

- **Three Ben-Hadad's**: 1st, 2nd and 3rd [Here in text 2nd]
- **History thus far**:
 1. Kingdom of Israel is split
 2. King Baasha in North previously laid siege to King Asa in Southern Kingdom
 3. Asa asks Ben-Hadad I of Syria to help

Ben Hadad 1st would side with whoever paid him more. Asa won.

1 Kings 15:18 Then Asa [King southern kingdom] took all the silver and gold that was left in the **treasuries of the house of the Lord** and the treasuries of the king's house, and delivered them into the hand of his servants. And King Asa sent them to Ben-Hadad

Ben-Hadad 1st helps Asa [S] defeat Baasha [N]

- **Text: Ben Hadad 2nd [860-842B.C.]: Now lays siege to Ahab's Northern Kingdom**
 1. Gathers alliance of 32 Kings
 2. Gathers Horses and chariots
 3. **Surrounds Samaria**: Capital of Northern Kingdom
- Israel weakened after 3.5 years of doubt

Ben-Hadad 2nd **now wants** spoils/loot/booty of Northern Kingdom

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.'"

- I own your Silver/Gold
- I own your prettiest wives
- I own your children

4 And [Ahab] king of Israel answered and said, "**My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all** that I have are yours."

All I have are yours... and I am also yours

- Messengers tell Ben Hadad...and come back to Ahab

5 ... "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.'"

- **Tomorrow** I will rummage through all your stuff and take the best
- **Demand for total/complete surrender**

**Satan: If you do not serve me I will take everything that is precious to you
Give the enemy an inch and he takes a foot.**

1. Just rest a while
2. Just drop my guard a little
3. Just let down my resistance for a minute

"I'll just give up a little of the ground the Lord has given me"
Satan wants it all...

7 So the [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.**"

- **Advice of Elders:** Compromise but not completely v9
- **Command of God:** No compromise with evil

9 Therefore [Ahab] 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.”

To deny a tyrant on one point is [in his mind] to deny him on every point

- **Enemy wants it all:** “When I’ m done with your kingdom there will be nothing left”

NOTE: It is not Ahab’s Kingdom...it is Gods Kingdom

Silver, Gold, Wives and Children all belong to the Lord...**thus it is the Lord’s Fight**

- **David knew the battle was the Lords... not his**

1 Samuel 17:46 [David to the giant] This day **the Lord will deliver** you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. 47 Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for **the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hands.”**

- **What’s your Giant?**

1. Fear
2. Intimidation
3. Manipulation
4. Bullying
5. Loss of your “precious things”

You belong to the Lord...thus the Battle is the Lords. He will fight for what is His

Romans 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

IF God demonstrated that He is for us by sending His Son...
What enemy has a chance against us as we trust in Him? **A. NO ENEMY**

- **Message of Ben-Hadad:** When I’m done with you even the dust will be scarce

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

- **Don’t brag about victory before the war begins**

What happened to Ahab? God speak through His anointed in spite of them

John 11:49 ... [Caiaphas high priest] “...it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” 51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but **being high priest that year he prophesied** that Jesus would die for the nation

- God speaks through His anointed Priests, Prophets, Kings
 1. In spite of them
 2. For His purpose

3. For His Namesake

Holy Spirit came upon Ahab and gave him courage. **We have the indwelling Spirit**

2 Timothy 1:7 ...God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

▪ **Overcome Fear:**

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Power of God | At our disposal [dü'-nä-mēs] |
| 2. Love of God | Love casts out all fear |
| 3. Sound Mind | Godly Discipline |

1 Timothy 1:8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things

- It was **God's will** that Ahab resists Ben-Hadad thus God speaks through Ahab...

Tell Benny to "bring it on"

12 And it happened when Ben-Hadad 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.

- **Command post:** Within the siege around hill of Samaria
- **Drinking:** "Take it easy we got this in the bag" arrogantly waiting to walk in...

Messengers to Ben Hadad: Ahab says bring it on...

- And they got ready to attack the city...

13 **Suddenly** a prophet 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.**'"

- **Unnamed prophet:** Not Elijah/Elisha but one of the 7000 Elijah didn't know about

You are going to have Victory Ahab?

- What? **For His Name's sake**

1 Samuel 12:22 ...the Lord will not forsake His people, **for His great name's sake**, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people.

Psalms 23:3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness **For His name's sake.**

Psalms 106:8 Nevertheless He saved them **for His name's sake**, That He might make His mighty power known.

1 John 2:12 I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you **for His name's sake.**

- **What:** I will give you victory
- **Why:** That I will be glorified

Victories in our life are won...

- That God may be glorified...not us
- That the unsaved will know there is a God in Heaven that acts on behalf of man

I will give you victory...today

14 So Ahab said, "By whom?" And he said, "Thus says the Lord: 'By the young leaders of the provinces.'"

- The young men will prevail against the enemy

1 John 2:13b... I write to you, **young men**, Because you have overcome the wicked one.

1 John 2:14b... I have written to you, **young men**, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

- The young men will lead
- The young men will fight
- The young men will win

1 Timothy 4:12 Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

14b...Then [Ahab] said [to the prophet], "Who will set the battle in order?" And he answered, "**You.**"

- Who will run this operation? **YOU.**

15 Then [Ahab] 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**. 16 So they went out at **noon**.

- Only 232 Young Men leading 7000 others

Show down at High-Noon

16b...Meanwhile Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings helping him were getting drunk at the command post.

- Not taking this seriously. They don't know Israel's God...

1 Samuel 17:42 ...when the [Giant] looked about and saw David, **he disdained him**; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking. ⁴³ So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴ And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

- In our flesh we are not very intimidating that God may get the glory

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."

- If they are surrendering... Take them alive
- If they want to fight... Take them alive?

Either drunk/Wanted Prisoners/Wanted to kill them slowly

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 the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the cavalry. 21 Then the king of Israel went out and attacked the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians **with a great slaughter.**

- **Young men emerge:** Behind them 7000 others
- **On the offence:** Attack and pursue
 1. Ben Hadad escapes on horse with rest of cavalry
 2. **Ahab...** went out and attacked Syrians with Great Slaughter?

Spirit of the Lord is on King Ahab

1. Ahab represented Israel
2. Israel represented God's People
3. God's people are associated with God's Name
4. Thus God will fight/win on behalf of His people/for His Name's sake/ in spite of Ahab

God's Promise: The Messiah will come from Judah

Syria was about to take the Northern Kingdom and eventually the **Southern Kingdom** For His Names sake and the promise to His people and to us...God helped Israel

- Israel killed the Syrians with *great slaughter* on the hills of Samaria...

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."

- **Prophet to Ahab:**
 1. Go take a shower and chill out
 2. Strengthen yourself because it ain't over
 3. There're coming back in the spring

SUMMARY God of the Hills

II. God of the Plain

23 Then the servants of the king of Syria said to him, "**Their gods are gods of the hills.** Therefore they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they.

- **Pagan God's are proprietary**; i.e. demons control certain real estate
- Gabriel and Michael fight demons [princes] controlling certain real estate

Daniel 10:20 [Gabriel to Daniel] "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the **prince [demon] of Persia**; and when I have gone forth, indeed the **prince [demon] of Greece** will come. [NOTE: *Clearly not* earthly princes in the context]

- **God is not proprietary**...He owns everything and is ultimate authority

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome

- Syrians [Arameans]: He is only God of the hills...

Here they imagined that God could be molded into an image that they wanted or could relate to. "The art of god-making is very common among men. Instead of going to revelation to see what God is, and humbly believing in him as he reveals himself, men sit down and consider what sort of God he ought to be, and in so doing they are no wiser than the man who makes a god of mud or wood or stone." [Spurgeon]

- God is our God both on the Mountaintops *and in the Valleys*...
 1. When we get a promotion and when we lose our job
 2. When our marriage is happy and when it seems hopeless
 3. When we win and when we lose
 4. When we rejoice at birth and when we grieve at death...God is God

Psalm 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

- Never changes. He is our Rock

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Perfect stability belongs alone to God; he alone, of all beings, is without variability or shadow of a turning. He is immutable; he will not change. He is all-wise; he need not change. He is perfect; he cannot change. [Spurgeon]

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is **no variation** or shadow of turning.

The specific lights are the celestial bodies that light up the sky, both day and night. The sun and stars never stop giving light, even when we can't see them. Even so, there is never a shadow with God. When night comes, the darkness isn't the fault of the sun; it shines as brightly as before. Instead, the earth has turned from the sun and darkness comes. [Hiebert]

- Even when all changes...God remains the same.

- **Servants of Ben Hadad:**

1. God of Israel is only the God of the hills
2. We must fight His people on the plain...

24 **So do this thing:** Dismiss the kings, each from his position, and put captains in their places; 25 and you shall muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse and chariot for chariot. Then we will fight against them in the plain; surely we will be stronger than they." And he listened to their voice and did so.

- **Servants continue to give advice...**

1. Fire the Kings
2. Hire Military guys
3. Build up the Army to its former strength

NOTE: Prepare using all our human strength and we will win

- Ben Hadad listened to his servants...

26 So it was, in the spring of the year, that Ben-Hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel.

- **Spring:** Time to gain spoils. Gain territory. Expand your kingdom...

2 Samuel 11:1 It happened in the spring of the year, **at the time when kings go out to battle**, that David sent ... [his army out] But David remained at Jerusalem.

- **Spring is in the air:** Syria gathers up the troops

27 And the children of Israel were mustered and given provisions, and they went against them.

- Provisions for war with enemy...that which is need for victory
- Food, Water, **Body Armor...**

We are called "make war".

Without engaging in conflict there will be no victory. [NJC]

Psalm 144:1 Blessed be the Lord my Rock, **Who trains my hands for war**, And my fingers for battle—2 My loving-kindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues the peoples under me.

- **Trains:** Teaches, instructs, become expert at/us accustomed to war

You must either be overcome of evil, or you must yourself overcome evil: one of the two. You cannot let evil alone and evil will not let you alone. You must fight, and in the battle you must either conquer or be conquered. The words before us remind me of the saying of the Scotch officer to the Highland regiment when he brought them up in front of the enemy and said, "Lads, there they are: If you don't kill them, they'll kill you." So does

Paul [in Ephesians 6] marshal us in front of evil, and like a wise general he puts us on our mettle by saying, "Overcome, or be overcome." [Spurgeon]

Military uniform is essential to both physical and Spiritual victory

- **We are not to trust in our own strength but God provides...**

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the **evil day**, and having done all, to stand.

1. Helmet	Salvation	Jesus
2. Breastplate	Righteousness	Jesus
3. Belt	Truth	Jesus
4. Shoes	Gospel	Jesus
5. Shield	Faith	Jesus
6. Sword	Spirit	Jesus [Offence able to lap off enemies head]

- **Every piece is indispensable/ every piece speaks of Jesus.**
- Not to trust in our own strength but the armor provided

...do not vainly dream that the life which you admire in others will readily be reproduced in yourself. Excellence comes of effort; they labored and watched, and prayed, and trusted in the Lord, or they never would have become what they were, and be assured there is no royal road for you, you too must wrestle hard [then] victory will be won. [Spurgeon]

- Strive to enter the rest of the Lord

27b...Now the children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, while the Syrians **filled the countryside.**

- **Israel like Two little flocks of Goats:** Not very intimidating?
- Syrians "flooded" the countryside. It is an looking like "evil day" for Israel

Isaiah 59:19 So shall they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the **enemy comes in like a flood**, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

- **Raise up standard:** Lit. Send the enemy packing, fleeing, defeated
- Satan will send his army against Israel in the Great Tribulation...

Revelation 12:15 So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. 16 But the earth helped the woman, and the **earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood** which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth.

- Syria floods the plain with soldiers...

28 Then a man of God came and spoke to the [Ahab] king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Because the Syrians have said, "The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys," therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the Lord.'"

- **Because of Syria's presumption and for My Name's sake**

1. I will give you victory over every enemy you see right now
2. You Ahab will know that I am the Lord...not idols you have been worshiping

As soon as you are washed in Christ's blood and clothed in His righteousness, you must begin to hew your way through a lane of enemies, right up to the eternal throne. Every foot of the way will be disputed; not an inch will Satan yield to you. [Spurgeon] But he must!

- **...that only could have been God**

1. That healing
2. That job
3. That relationship
4. That reconciliation
5. That comfort
6. That wisdom
7. That victory...but how quickly we forget. "Did you bring us here to die?"

- Air on in the valley is thick with smell of imminent war

29 And they encamped opposite each other for seven days. So it was that on the seventh day the battle was joined; and the children of Israel killed one hundred thousand foot soldiers of the Syrians in one day. 30 But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city...

- Stare down for Seven Days then clash
- God of Israel raises up His standard
 1. 100,000 Syrians dead in one day
 2. Remnant run into the city for protection

And just in case we think it was a coincidence...

30b...then a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the men who were left.

- Seeking protection from God's Judgment within the walls of the city
- 27,000 [All those in the city of Aphek] crushed by a wall that just happened to fall

**When the Lord will raises up a standard against an unrepentant sinful world...
There will be nowhere to hide**

Revelation 6:12 [Read] I looked when [Jesus] opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, **hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains**, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and **hide us from** the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the **wrath of the Lamb!** 17 For the great day of His wrath has

come, and **who is able to stand?**"

- At the White Throne Judgment there will be no place to hide. It will be too late...

There's a room where the light won't find you; Holding hands while the walls come tumbling down. When they do, I'll be right behind you [Tears for Fears; Everybody Wants to Rule the World]

- Even death is no escape for those who deny Jesus Salvation
- There is only one Place to hide from God's Judgment: Into the arms of Jesus

Who is able to stand? Those leaning on the Savior

30c...And Ben-Hadad fled and went into the city, into an inner chamber.

- Obviously Ahab will find him and kill him...right?

III. Ahab's Compromise: No Quarter

31 Then [Ben-Hadad's] servants said to him, "Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Please, let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will **spare your life.**"

Israel has merciful Kings; i.e. known to be kind to enemies

- **Servant's 1st advice:** Fight them in the valleys? v 23
- **Servant's 2nd advice:** Surrender. You stay here...
 1. **We** will dress in sackcloth
 2. **We** will put a rope around our heads

If we surrender...maybe Ahab will spare your life

32 So [Ben-Hadad's servant's] wore sackcloth around their waists and put ropes around their heads, and came to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-Hadad says, '**Please let me live.**'" And he said, "**Is he still alive? He is my brother.**" 33 Now the men were watching closely to see whether any sign of mercy would come from him; and they quickly grasped at this word and said, "**Your brother Ben-Hadad.**"

Message from "your servant" the King of Syria: "Please let me live"

- **Servants watch/listen for any sign of mercy**

"Is he still alive? He is my brother."

Yes...brother pagan/brother idol worshiper

- **Enemy looks for a chink in our armor/ any sympathy for the devil or sin...**
 1. Lord gives us victory over certain sin we are struggling with
 2. We rejoice in our deliverance

3. After a while we begin to look back with rose colored glasses

Exodus 2:23 ... the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the bondage.

OT a Physical representation of a NT Spiritual Truth

- Bondage in Egypt and under Pharaoh/Bondage
- Bondage to world system and devil. Bondage to sin...

What made the situation in Egypt unbearable was not only the slavery but also its extreme harshness. The Egyptian masters worked the Israelites "ruthlessly" (befarekh, Exod. 1:13, 14) and made their lives "bitter" (marar, Exod. 1:14) with "hard" (qasheh, in the sense of "cruel," Exod. 1:14; 6:9) service. As a result, Israel languished in "misery" and "suffering" (Exod. 3:7) and a "broken spirit" (Exod. 6:9). Work, one of the chief purposes and joys of human existence (Gen. 1:27-31; 2:15), was turned into a misery by the harshness of oppression. [TOW Project]

This is a picture of what sin does in our lives

- **Our enemies are ruthless:** World, Devil, Old Sinful Nature; i.e. Flesh
- **Ultimate Goal of Enemy:** Keep us in bondage to something/anything

**So many in bondage to alcohol/chemicals/sex/greed
No Programs can set you free...only Jesus**

Ephesians 5: 15 See then that you walk **circumspectly, not as fools but as wise**, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but **be filled with the Spirit...**

Wise people walk circumspectly: Not heads in sand but looking at end results of choices

- We were designed to be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God. Period.
- Sin is intended subvert the Holy Spirit's leading by controlling our mind/body
- Result is a life that is as children of Israel in Egypt...
 1. Bitter
 2. Hard
 3. Cruel
 4. Miserable
 5. Ultimately left with a Broken Spirit

God set us free!

- **As Israel...how quickly we forget!**

Exodus 14:11 [Pharaoh closes in...] Then they said to Moses, "Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? 12 Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, 'Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness."

- **Life gets tough/drop our guard/we are enticed and eventually deceived:**

1. Our old friends/life that were killing us start looking better
2. **Begin to doubt the goodness of the God who set us free...**

Exodus 16:3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

- **We begin to despise God; i.e. His deliverance and provision...**

Numbers 21:5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this **worthless bread.**"

Enemy tempts us to rewrite history when things get tough...

...To forget about the cruelty of the enemy of our souls and the bondage to sin

- **The Truth:** Ben-Hadad was an evil enemy
 1. Came to take Ahab, Wives, Children, Servants...everything

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that [you] may have life, and that [you] may have it more abundantly.

2. Lord gave victory to Ahab
3. Ahab forgets the fear, misery, shame of Ben-Hadad's threats

He is my brother...he's not so bad

- **The Lie:**
 1. Those days were not so bad
 2. Those "friends" were fun
 3. Those sins made me feel alive!

Those days, those friends, those sins were killing you until God stepped in

- **Satan tempts us to ask...Are they still alive?**
- Ahab asks "Is he still alive? Maybe he's changed. Not so bad."

Are you sympathetic toward the things God in His goodness delivered you from?

Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

- If we are living in these sins we better check if we are truly in the faith

Are we backsliding or not actually saved. Some taste the truth/delivered but not saved

- Better for these not to have heard the truth/been delivered...

2 Peter 2:21 ...it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to

them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

- If we do not seek Christ after deliverance...we will end up worse than we began...

Matthew 12:43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. [AA/NA]

- **Ben-Hadad:** My brother/my old friend...

33b...So [Ahab] said, "Go, bring him." Then Ben-Hadad came out to him; and he had him come up into the chariot.

- Getting Cozy with the enemy
- Peter warmed himself by the fire of the enemy. Denied Lord 3x

If you yield to-day, you will have to **yield more** to-morrow. [Spurgeon]

We underestimate the enemies cruelty...become a traitor to Christ

I fear that, sometimes, in our endeavors to be sweet in disposition, we have not been strong in principle. "[Love]" is a word that is greatly [shouted] nowadays; but, often, it means that, in trying to be courteous, **we have also been traitorous**. [Spurgeon]

34 So Ben-Hadad said to [Ahab], "The cities which my father took from your father I will restore; and you may set up marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria."

- **It will be just like it was before! Fun, frolicking, no consequences**
- We'll get the old band back together again

34b...Then Ahab said, "I will send you away with this treaty." So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.

- No prayer
- No consulting God

Treaty/Compromise/Agreement with Evil. Buy

Not paying for two tickets to paradise but **one ticket to torment and life that is...**

1. Bitter
2. Hard
3. Cruel
4. Miserable
5. Ultimately left with a Broken Spirit

- Marriages Christians and non-believers/Business partners. **Ticket to torment...**

2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what

fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

- I just want to be NICE???

Those who regard a sort of effeminate benevolence to all creatures alike as the [summit] of virtue are very much in favor with this degenerate age; these look for the salvation of the damned, and even pray for the restoration of the devil. [Spurgeon]

I know what the Word says but this will work out for us...Famous last words.

SUMMARY Ahab's Compromise

IV. Consequence of Compromise: Fun and Frolic?

35 Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the Lord, "**Strike me, please.**" And the man refused to strike him. 36 Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord, surely, as soon as you depart from me, a lion shall kill you." And as soon as he left him, a lion found him and killed him.

- **Prophet:** By very definition speaking Word of God
 1. **To his Neighbor:** "Please punch me in the face". **No.**
 2. **A lion is going to eat you. NOTE: He said "please"**

37 And [the Prophet] found another man, and said, "**Strike me, please.**" So the man struck him, inflicting a wound.

- Another man who saw what happened?
- Punched prophet in face gave him a shiner/black eye

38 Then the prophet departed and waited for the king by the road, and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. 39 Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king

- **God is dealing with Ahab...**
 1. Prophet waits at bus stop for Ahab to pass by
 2. Bandage covering wound/his identity
 3. Sees Ahab through bandage and...

Prophet Cried out to King Ahab!

39b... "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, 'Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.' 40 While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone."

- I was in the middle to the battle

- I was charged by *your commander* to guard a prisoner to await judgment
- While he was in my care I got busy with my own stuff and he got free...

Penalty for letting him escape? He said I would pay with my life or give all I have

40b...Then the king of Israel said to him, "So shall your judgment be; you yourself have decided it."

You said it! You let a prisoner go who you had charge over. You must die.

- Ahab now taking off his sword...

41 And [the prophet] hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. 42 Then [the prophet] said to [Ahab], "Thus says the Lord: 'Because you have let slip out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'"

- **Ben-Hadad was appointed to utter destruction!**

V14 Ahab asked Go "Who will set the battle in order?" **And he answered, "You."**

1. But...You wanted to be nice/cuddle up to what I call evil
2. You wanted to look like a good guy and let him live

"...therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people."

Judgment for compromise may not happen immediately...but it will happen

Compromise is rebellion against the Living God...Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...Witchcraft brings demonic influence to whatever/whoever it touches

- **Ahab:**

1. Will repent and gain some time but...
2. Ultimately will be utterly destroyed as he was to do to Ben-Hadad

You must either be overcome of evil, or you must yourself overcome evil: one of the two. You cannot let evil alone and evil will not let you alone. You must fight, and in the battle you must either conquer or be conquered. [Spurgeon quoted previously]

43 So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and displeased, and came to Samaria.

- **Back to Jezebel:**

1. Sullen
2. Displeased

Genesis 4:6 [Cain very angry/countenance fallen after offering not accepted by God] So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its

desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”

- **Lord means Lord:** He says what is good/evil...true/false

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

- God would deal with Ahab in Ch. 22

**Ahab’s compromise would lead to unspeakable misery for Israel
Even 9 Years after Ahab’s death**

- **Did not deal with sin when he had the chance...**

Matthew 12:45 ...the last state of that man is worse than the first.

- **I’m back!**

2 Kings 6: 24 [Read] And it happened after this that Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered all his army, and went up and besieged Samaria. 25 And there was a great famine in Samaria; and indeed they besieged it until a donkey’s head was sold for eighty shekels of silver, and one-fourth of a kab of dove droppings for five shekels of silver. 26 Then, as the king of Israel was passing by on the wall, a woman cried out to him, saying, “Help, my lord, O king!” 27 And he said, “If the Lord does not help you, where can I find help for you? From the threshing floor or from the winepress?” 28 Then the king said to her, “What is troubling you?” And she answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow.’ 29 So we boiled my son, and ate him. And I said to her on the next day, ‘Give your son, that we may eat him’; but she has hidden her son.” 30 Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and as he passed by on the wall, the people looked, and there underneath he had sackcloth on his body. 31 Then he said, “God do so to me and more also, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat remains on him today!”.

- Siege
- Famine
- Cannibalism

God: “Ben-Hadad is Mine...he is evil...he is appointed to destruction and you let him live”
Now his offspring are killing/tormenting My people

Never would have happened if Ahab dealt with Ben-Hadad
As we are to deal with our enemies; Castoff the World, Crush the Devil, Crucify the flesh
No Quarter/No Mercy/No Sympathy for what God says is evil

- **Never ever looking back after God delivers us...**

2 Corinthians 7:10 ...godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

- Lot’s wife’s last act in this life was to look back...

Genesis 19:23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. 24 Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

- God said Sodom was evil: Lot's wife questioned God on that
- God will deal with Ben-Hadad

2 Kings 8:14 [Ben-Hadad II sends servant to Elisha for healing] Then [the servant] departed from Elisha, and came to his [Ben-Hadad], who said to him, "What did Elisha say to you?" And he answered, "**He told me you would surely recover.**" 15 But it happened on the next day that [the servant] took a thick cloth and dipped it in water, and spread it over his face so that he died; and Hazael reigned in his place.

Instead of turning to God after victory/deliverance Ahab gave the enemy ground...
...and caused unimaginable misery to himself and others