

I Kings 21-22 –8 September 2022

“Glorifying God With Your Authority”

Introduction

- *We're in time of divided kingdom starting in 930BC
- *We now have 2 tribes in south called Judah led by a descendant of David & 10 tribes in north called Israel
 - *Judah lasts until conquered by Babylon (605 BC)
 - *Israel only til conquered by Assyrian (722 BC)
- *We're finishing our look at one of the darkest times in Israeli history: reign of Ahab/Jezebel in Israel (874-853BC)
- *I & II Kings demonstrate that a king's allegiance to God's Law is the key to success & protection
- *We all have realms of influence & authority
- *Do you believe you have the ability to persuade people both away from & toward God? You do!
- *Today, let's see 4 keys for using our authority to promote the glory of God**

1st key is to use God's principles evenly & equally (Chap 21:1-26)

Read Chap 21:1-4

1. Ahab pouts b/c a godly man won't violate God's Word (Lev 25:23) for him
2. Interesting the Naboth recognizes God's authority as supreme even over Ahab's

Read Vs 5-7

1. The answer is 'no he doesn't govern, he's an under shepherd'
2. God already set the Laws, he's just there to enforce them

Read Vs 8-16

1. When you resist ungodly men of power, your life is at risk
 - a. Matt 10:28 – Don't fear those that can kill the body, but fear the one that can kill the soul

2. Notice, Jezebel brings God into her deceit
 - a. She despised the *land* law, but used the *witness* law to her advantage
 - b. Do we use religious things to our advantage or to honor God?
 - c. Jesus healed on the Sabbath

Read Vs 17-22

1. Ahab is held responsible as the murderer b/c he has the power to make this murder happen...or not

Read Vs 23-26

1. Ahab worked hard at involving himself in wickedness
2. Jezebel stirred up Ahab
 - a. We're told to stir up other Christians to love and good works (Heb 10:24)
 - b. Jezebel is an anti-type of this for us

2nd key is to humble yourself under God's authority (Chap 21:27-22:10)

Read Chap 21:27-29

1. Humbling ourselves before God will ALWAYS move His hand
 - a. But do it sooner rather than later
2. Notice his humbling didn't lead him to change and repentance
 - a. He didn't restore Naboth's vineyard
 - b. He didn't tear down the pagan altars
 - c. Godly humbling works a change (Read II Cor 7:10 & II Chr 33:15)

Read Vs 1-4

1. Ahab stirs Judah to go with him to battle Syria to win back this Israeli city

Read Vs 5-10

1. Jehoshaphat is careful to hear from the Lord before acting, good for him (Achan from Joshua 7)

3rd key is to pursue God's will & truth, not your own (Chap 22:11-40)

Read Chap 22:11-14

1. You're either driven by self-will or God's truth, but they're not always the same

Read Vs 15-18

1. Micaiah sarcastic at first, tells then the truth of the disaster of this battle

Read Vs 19-23

1. Micaiah further prophecies that he was told about the lying spirit that would come to Ahab's prophets
2. All God needs to do is to withdraw His hand & allow Satan and his angels to act

Read Vs 24-25

1. When someone claim to speak for God but it's false, expect that God will rebuke them ...in time

Read Vs 26-28

1. Time will tell the truth of all things

Read Vs 29-33

1. Seems Ahab intended this to hide his kingship as a measure of protection that he wouldn't die

Read Vs 34-40

1. What seems like a random act of violence in war was actually known ahead by God Almighty

**4th key is to institute major changes when needed
(Chap 22:41-52)**

Read Chap 22:41-43

1. Jehoshaphat is generalized as a good king that didn't finish the job
2. He took away high places from Judah (II Chr 17:6), but didn't finish throughout the land (vs 43)

Read Vs 44-45

1. Peace w/ Israel isn't bad thing, but there's limit
 - a. Make peace; seek their turning to God, but don't support their efforts outside of His will
 - b. Once Micaiah said, "Don't go to war", they should have listened (Read II Chr 19:2-3)

Read Vs 46-47

1. II Chr 17:7-9 says he instituted Bible Studies throughout the whole land – changing the people
2. This enabled Jehoshaphat to move ahead with even more reforms than Asa his father

Read Vs 48-50

1. Originally Jehoshaphat joined Ahaziah in sea commerce (II Chr 20:35-37) but was chastised of the Lord for this
2. Seems he learned his lesson IAW vs 49

Read Vs 51-53

1. So we're set with Ahaziah son of Ahab in Israel and Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat in Judah

Conclusion

We need to use our authority for God's glory

1. **Use God's principles evenly & equally**
 - a. Don't be like Jezebel who used God's Law only when it was helpful to her
 - b. Be like Naboth, unwilling to break God's Law, even for the king
2. **Humble ourselves under God's authority**
 - a. Ahab humbled himself, but it was without repentance...so it did NO GOOD
3. **Pursue God's will & truth, not our own**
 - a. Have Micaiah's drive to present truth over comfort
4. **Institute major changes when needed**
 - a. Jehoshaphat instituted Bible Studies to affect the people
 - b. We tend to drift & need to reevaluate often