

Week 10 Elijah the Prophet.

Wednesday Bible Study

Death of an Evil King 1 Kings 22:1-39

1. A Lost City. 1 Kings 22:1-5; (2 Chron. 18)

King Jehoshaphat went down to see King Ahab. They had formed an alliance. Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram married Ahab's daughter Athaliah. After three years in a treaty God did not approve of to begin with, Ben-Hadad had not fulfilled his promise to Ahab to return certain cities to him including Ramoth Gilead. 1 Kings 20:34.

2. Wise advice from Jehoshaphat. 1 Kings 22:5-9

“The King should not say such a thing.” this reveals the very stark contrast between the two. Ahab and Jehoshaphat view the prophets of the Lord completely opposite of one another.

Want to see where a nation is heading? What do its leaders say about the prophet of God and the Word of the Lord? With Whom do they surround themselves? What a contrast between these two kings. 2 Chron. 17:3-6, 1 Kings 21:25-26.

Ahab listens only to those who will affirm him in his evil.

3. The Prophet Micaiah and Ahab. 1 Kings 22:9-18

This can appear to be a problematic text, but it really isn't. He is advised by the messenger to agree with the false prophets— But Micaiah, tells him he can only speak what the Lord tells him to speak. So what is going on in verse 15? Well, apparently the prophet is a bit sarcastic with Ahab, because of Ahab's reply. These are living breathing people. Shouldn't we assume that Micaiah had grown weary of Ahab at this point? Of Course!

4. A dialogue in Heaven. 1 Kings 22:19-28

We need to just let this say what it says. This is the decree of the Lord. God will either directly judge or hand people over to their evil. Psalm 81:8-12; Acts 7:37-42; Acts 14:14-18. He will do so with individuals and nations. This is why it is so very important for God's people to be faithful to Him. 2 Chron. 7:13-14.

Because of Ahab's stubbornness, the Lord has decreed disaster. Verse 23.

5. The Battle that brings the death of an Evil King. 1 Kings 22:29-36

The Lord's prophecy is fulfilled. Ahab is killed, the armies are routed. It is fitting that his chariot was washed where the prostitutes bathed. Ahab, throughout his life had prostituted himself with false Gods. (1 Kings 21:25-26) He married a pagan woman, allowed her to do evil under his authority. He worked his own evil and followed the advice of evil prophets. God in his grace would have forgiven. He provided Elijah and Micaiah and others to speak into his life— yet Ahab rejected truth again and again. (In retrospect, the LORD was not pleased with Jehoshaphat in this particular incident, (2 Chron. 19:1-3) However, God had mercy on him because he did truly believe and sought the Lord. That makes all the difference!

