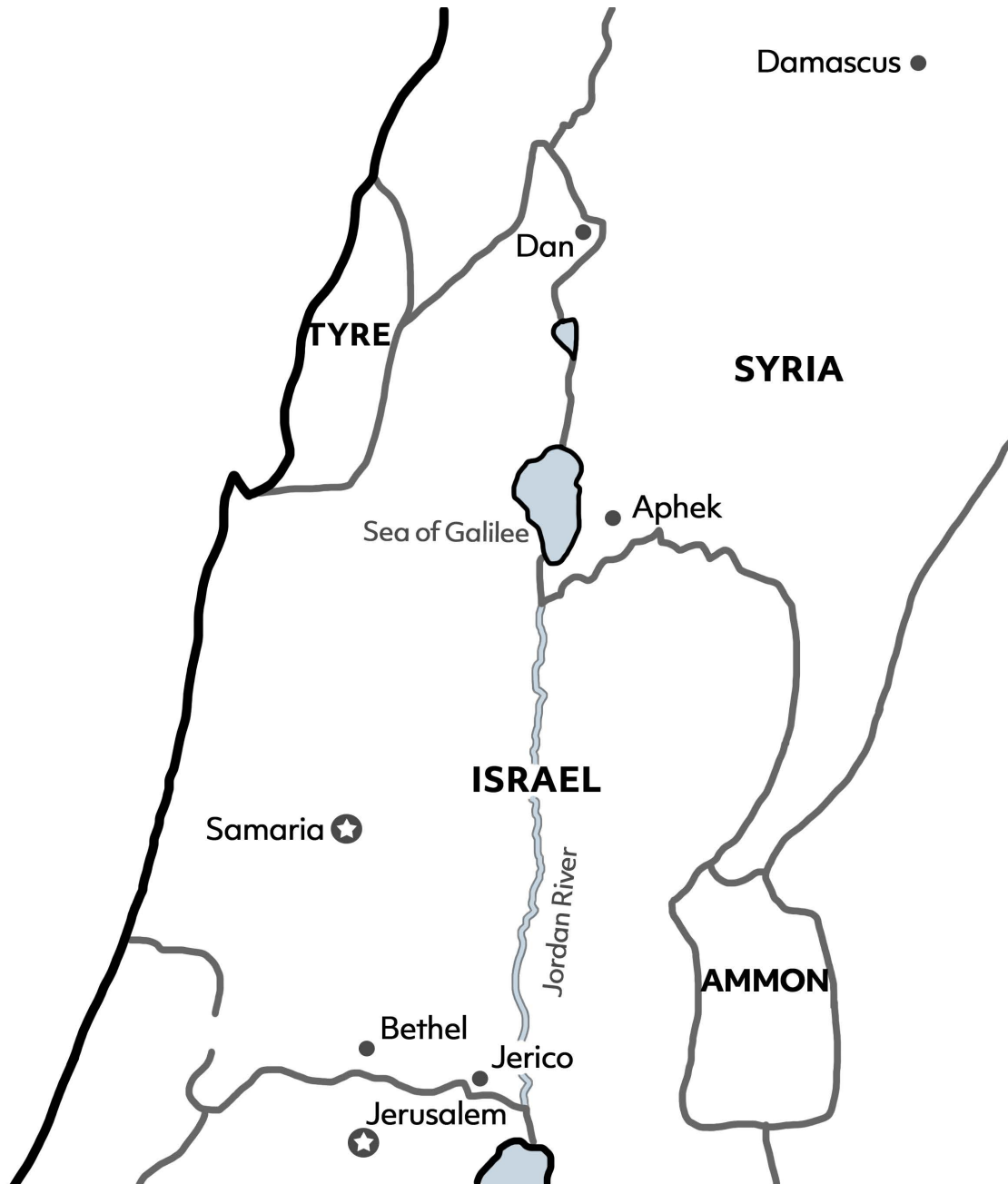


The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #22 | Ahab Spares Benhadad's Life but Dooms His Own - I

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1. Mark out the route which Benhadad took to attack Israel



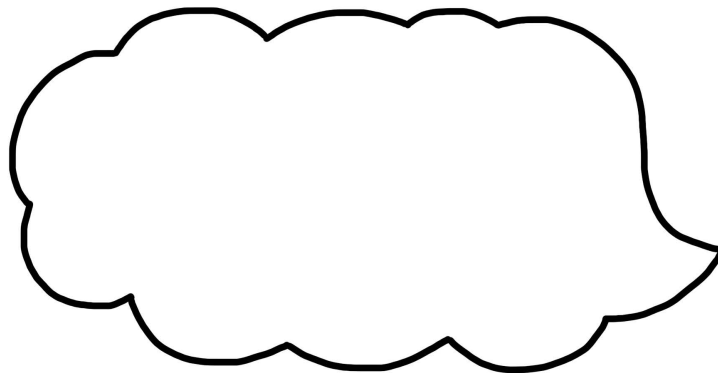
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2. 1 Kings 20: 1-13 has been summarized below. Using the helping phrases in the box below, fill in the conversation between King Ahab of Israel and King Benhadad of Syria in their respective speech bubbles.

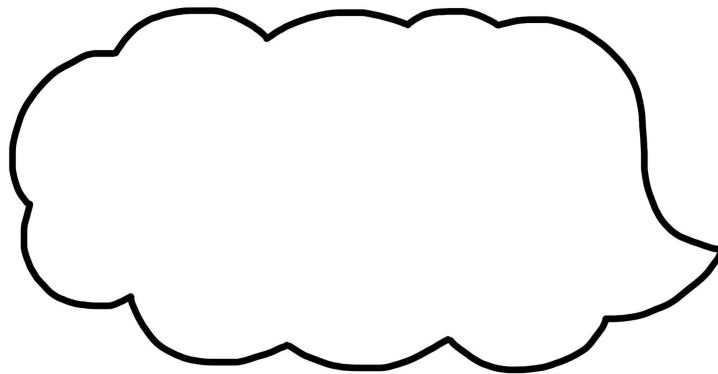
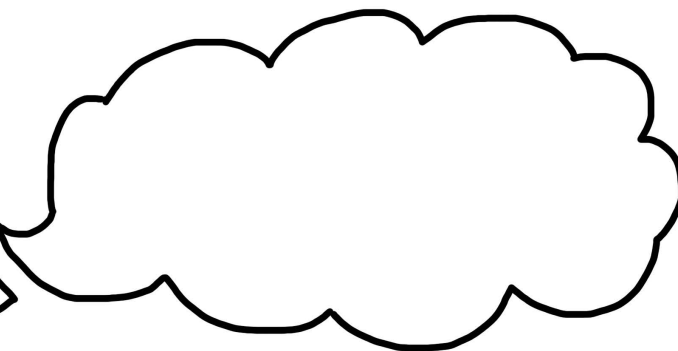
"I am thine, and all that I have"	"I will search thine house and thy servants' houses, and what is pleasant, I will take away"	"Thy silver, gold, wives, children and all the goodliest are mine!"
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Benhadad,
King of Syria



Ahab,
King of Israel



Benhadad,
King of Syria

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1 Kings 20:7-8

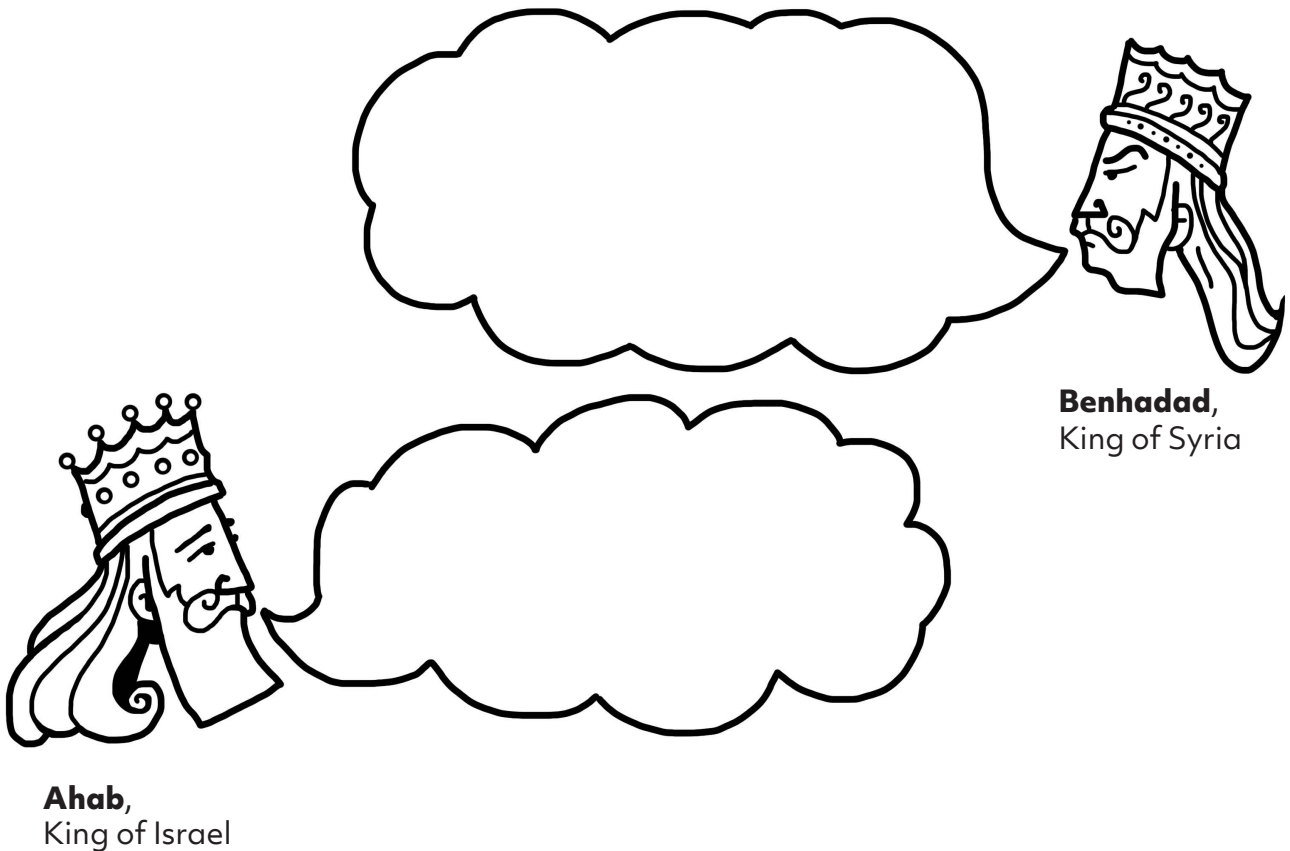
7 Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, ...

8 And all the elders and all the people said unto him, Hearken not unto him, nor consent.

3. After Ahab refused to give in to Benhadad, what happened next? Fill in the speech bubbles using the helping phrases below:

"The dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me"

"Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off"



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4. What do these two idiomatic phrases mean?

a) "The dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me"

b) "Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off"

1 Kings 20:13-14

13 And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

14 And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou.

The Kings of Judah and Israel

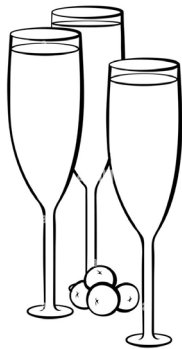
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5. The Syrian army was no small army. The fact that they had _____ - ____ kings tells us that they are not only a big nation but also a big army. Ahab knew that the Israelite army could not compare with the Syrian army. However, by promising victory to Ahab, Ahab was to know that God is LORD.

Before this incident, Ahab witnessed the display of God's greatness and power when he sent fire down to consume the sacrifice which Elijah prepared. Baal's prophets were f_____ in their efforts to call upon their god. They failed to call for fire down from heaven. In this instance, Ahab was about to witness yet another display of God's greatness and power in giving him victory over the Syrians.

How was Ahab to conquer the Syrians? Unlike the fire which was sent from heaven, victory will not be "sent down", but Ahab himself had to lead the young princes of the provinces to fight the Syrian army.



By God's sovereign guidance, the Israelite army led by Ahab met the Syrian army at noon time, a time when all thirty-two kings were _____! The kings were not able to discern the attack, and thus many Syrians, horses and chariots were killed. However, Benhadad managed to escape on a horse.

The Kings of Judah and Israel

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5. After this victory, the prophet told Ahab not to be complacent, for the Syrians would launch another attack _____ year. In the Syrians' minds, they thought, "Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we; but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they. ... and we will fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they." (1 Kings 20:23) The Syrian kings thought that gods were able to exert their power and influence only over a fixed _____ . Outside of that place, they thought that gods were limited in their ability. So Benhadad gathered his army and met the Israelite army at Aphek.

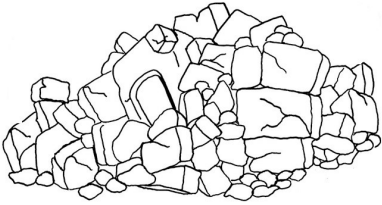
Just as in the first attack, the Israelite army was out n _____ . Scripture describes the Israelite army as "two little flocks of _____ " as compared to the Syrian army which "filled up the country". In preparation for the second attack, another man of God approached Ahab and said, "Because the Syrians have said, The LORD is God of the hills, but he is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and ye shall know that I am the LORD." (1 Kings 20:28). Once again, God intervened to save Israel to prove that he is the all-powerful and _____ God - there is no other God than the LORD God. As David sings, "1 The _____ is the LORD's, and the _____ thereof; the _____, and they that dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)



The Kings of Judah and Israel

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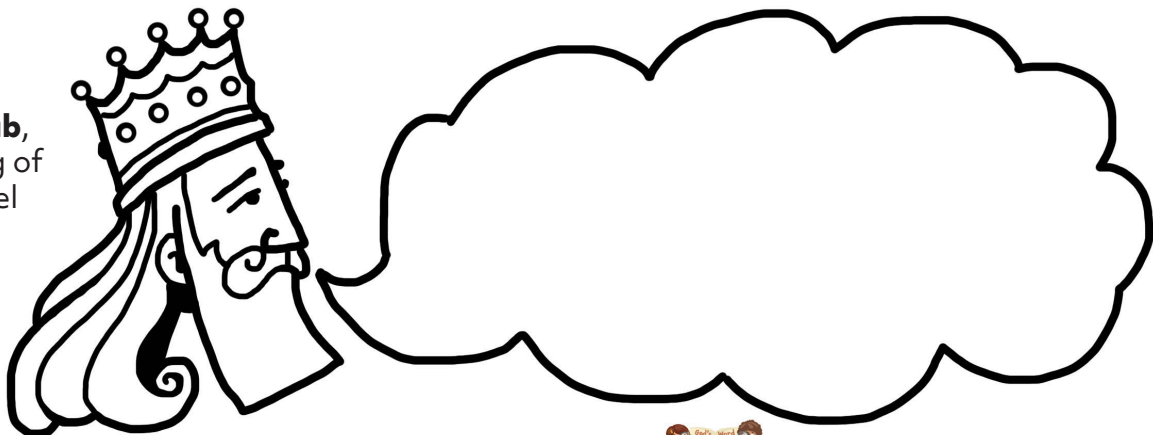
God gave the Israelite army victory, and in one day, the Israelite army killed 100000 footmen. The rest fled to the city, _____, and about 27000 of them hid behind a wall, which was likely a defence fortress. Once again, God intervened by causing the wall to fall. It was definitely not an earthquake that brought the walls down, but God's divine destruction of what the Syrian thought to be their safe-haven. If God could bring down the walls of the city of J_____, what was one city wall in Aphek? God showed that he is full of greatness and power.

But Benhadad escaped by hiding in a city chamber. His servants told Benhadad, "we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are _____ kings: let us, I pray thee, put sackcloth on our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and go out to the king of Israel: peradventure he will save thy life." (1 Kings 20:31).

This time the servants of Benhadad advised him to appeal to Ahab's mercy, for they "heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings". 1 Kings 20:31. They pretended to be s_____ and regretful, by putting on sackcloth, and begged that Ahab would let Benhadad live!

6. What was Ahab's response to the servants' plea? Read 1 Kings 20:32 and write it in the speech bubble below.

Ahab,
King of
Israel



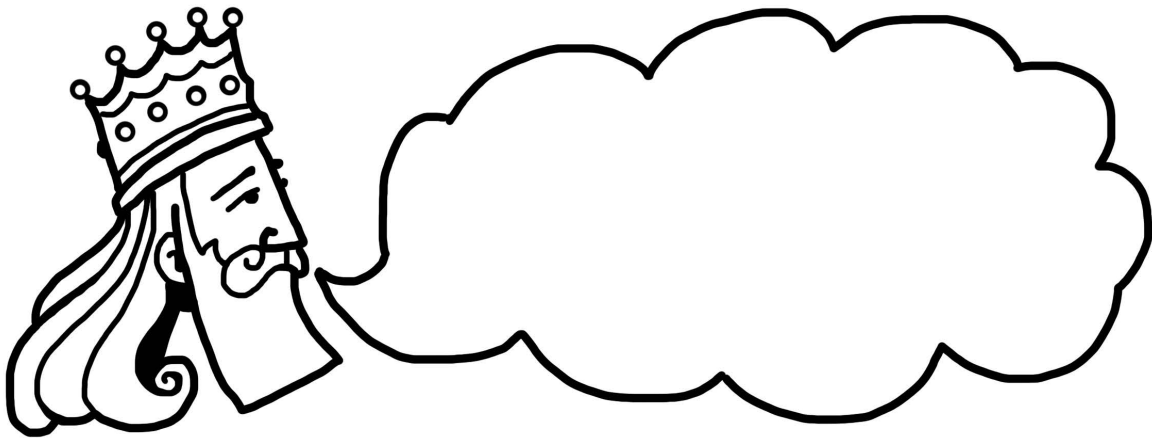
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In gratitude to Ahab's mercy to spare Benhadad's life, Benhadad promised to return the cities which Benhadad's father took from Ahab's father (King ____), and build streets in Damascus for Israel.

7. What was Ahab's response to Benhadad's offer? Read 1 Kings 20:34 and write it in the speech bubble below.



Ahab, King of Israel

8. Scripture Memorisation

Isaiah 26:10

Let _____ be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not _____
righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and
will not _____ the _____ of the LORD.