

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #23 | Ahab Spares Benhadad's Life but Dooms His Own -II

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1. We have learnt the main story of King Ahab's war against King Benhadad of Syria.

In 1 Kings 20:35, there is a shift to a sub-story about a prophet. This two stories finally merge when the prophet in the sub-story meets King Ahab in the main story.

1 Kings 20:35-37

35 And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him.

36 Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him.

37 Then he found another man, and said, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded him.

2. What does 1 Kings 20:35-37 teach?

- This passage teaches us to hit another, and to command others to be violent to others.
- This passage teaches us that disobedience to God's command has consequences



The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #23 | Ahab Spares Benhadad's Life but Dooms His Own -II

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1 Kings 20:38-40

38 So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with ashes upon his face.

39 And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver.

40 And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it.

3. This passage makes it very clear that the prophet was responsible for the custody of the man.

However because he failed to k__p the c____d, and was negligent, the consequence was clear - the prophet's life shall be taken for the life of the man.

The emphasis in this account is o_____e to the command.

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #23 | Ahab Spares Benhadad's Life but Dooms His Own -II

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1 Kings 20:41-43

41 And he hasted, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets.

42 And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.

43 And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria.

4. The prophet was commanded to keep the man, but he allowed the man to escape. In this parable, the prophet disobeyed the command.

King Ahab was commanded to k __ | King Benhadad, and not let him escape.

Ahab had d _____ God's command.

When God says evil must be hated and good must be pursued, we should not call evil, g ____, and good, e ____. We should not make a wrong, r _____, neither a right, w _____.

We must realise that disobedience is d _____, and it has its due reward - punishment by God who has shown his mercy repeatedly.