

1 Kings 20
War Between Aram & Israel
Lesson 15

God had been patient with Elijah, gently working with him when he was at a point of exhaustion. Elijah's desire was to serve God whole-heartedly. And, following his time alone with God on Mt. Horeb (Sinai), he was given an even greater mission--one that would transform his life. As for Ahab, who wanted both God and Baal on his side, God's patience was running out. Ahab had proven himself to be totally insensitive to the will of God and was now about to experience God's judgment.

Ahab king of Israel & Ben-Hadad King of Aram

1. What kind of forces did Ben-Hadad muster together to come against Samaria? (vs. 1)

2. He sent messengers to Ahab with terms for surrender. What did he want? (vs. 2, 3)

3. As Ahab looked out of the royal city onto the combined forces of 33 kings, what was his reply to Ben-Hadad's terms? (vs. 4)

4. After hearing Ahab's reply, Ben-Hadad sent messengers a second time. Expecting an acceptance of his surrender, Ahab was surprised with a new set of terms. What did Ben-Hadad want? (vs. 5,6)

5. What did Ahab do after receiving this second set of demands? (vs. 7, 8)

6. Following the counsel he'd received, how did Ahab diplomatically reply? (vs. 9)

7. How did Ben-Hadad receive this reply? (vs. 10)

8. Ahab sent the messenger back to Ben-Hadad with these words: *"One who puts on his armor should not boast like one who takes it off."* What do you think he meant?

9. How confident was Ben-Hadad of his victory? (vs. 12a)

10. When he received Ahab's proverb, what was his immediate reaction? (vs. 12b)

God's Word to Ahab

11. Verse 13 begins with the word, "meanwhile." Meanwhile back in Samaria, God sent a prophet to Ahab. What was God's message to Ahab? (vs. 13)

12. What do you learn about God from this?

13. What was Ahab's first reaction and what does that tell you about Ahab? (vs. 14a)

14. After receiving the details, Ahab summoned his troops. How many did Ahab have? (vs. 15)

Battle #1

15. What time of day did Ahab start his advance? (vs. 16a)

16. What was Ben-Hadad doing at the hour? (vs. 16)

17. How did Ben-Hadad find out about the advance and what did he do? (vs. 17, 18)

18. How confident of victory do you think Ben-Hadad was?

19. Ahab's young officers marched out of Samaria with the troops behind them. When Ben-Hadad's Arameans met them, what did the officers do and how did that affect Ben-Hadad? (vs. 19, 20)

20. King Aram and his men continued to advance. How did the battle end? (vs. 21)

21. How do you think Ben-Hadad took this?

22. God sent this unnamed prophet back to Ahab. What was the message this time? (vs. 22)

23. What was significant about the spring? (2 Samuel 11:1a)
24. During the off season, Ben-Hadad had sought the advice of his officials. Who did they give credit to for Israel's victory and why? (vs.23a & b)
25. How did they propose to increase their advantage in the next battle? (vs. 23c-25)

Battle #2

26. The rains of winter were finally over and spring arrived. Ben-Hadad mustered his troops just as the prophet had said. Where did they set up camp? (vs. 26)
27. The Israelites marched out to meet them. After a winter of preparations, what did the two armies look like as they faced each other? (vs. 27)
28. God's prophet came to Ahab a third time. What was his message? (vs. 28)
29. How long was the standoff between the two armies before they engaged in battle? (vs. 29a)
30. How did the battle go? (vs. 29, 30)
31. The battle didn't look good for Ben-Hadad and the kings. What words of encouragement did his officials give to him? (vs. 31b)
32. Since there was no better plan offered, Ben-Hadad followed what his officials had proposed. What message did he send to Ahab? (vs. 32)
33. After being so confident, Ben-Hadad was now at the mercy of Ahab. How did Ahab answer Ben-Hadad's earnest plea? (vs. 32c)

34. "The men took this as a good sign...." They had gone to Ahab hoping for mercy and it seemed they were about to get what they came for. Ahab sent word to get Ben-Hadad. What gesture did Ahab extend to Ben-Hadad when he arrived? (vs. 33)
35. Confident that he would not be put to death, what did Ben-Hadad offer Ahab? (vs. 34a)
36. What did that include? (1 Kings 15:20)

The prophet & Ahab

37. Once again God sent a message to Ahab through a prophet. This time God used an object lesson to get his attention. What did the prophet request and how was it accomplished? (vs. 35-38)
38. As Ahab passed by, the prophet called out to him appealing to the king's role as judge. What case did he present? (vs. 39-40a)
39. What sentence did the king give? (vs. 40b)
40. At that point, the prophet whipped off his disguise and the king immediately recognized him. The prophet then delivered God's message. What was the message? (vs. 41, 42)
41. How does the text say Ahab responded to this graphic illustration? (vs. 43)