

The Book Of 1 Kings

Wednesday Noon Bible Study

Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Pastor Henry Wallace

Lesson 59 What God Requires for Victory

Here's a lesson I need to know and remember. As a matter of fact, every leader needs to learn this lesson.

1st Point Always Seek the Lord First (1 Kings 20:14)

- In these verses we will learn the steps to victory
 - **First;** King Ahab asked the prophet what strategy should be employed.
 - **We can't overemphasize how important it is for us to make this the very first step**
 - Note the answer from the prophet in **verse 14** is the LORD will use the young officers of his army.
 - **Secondly;** in **verse 14** the King asked who was to lead them into battle.
 - The answer to this question is crystal clear; *King Ahab, you are to lead the people into battle.*

2nd Point Two Very Different Approaches (1 Kings 20:15-16)

- One approach led to victory.
- The other approach led to defeat.
- In **verse 15** King Ahab **is preparing**
- In **verse 16** King Ben-hadad **is partying.**
- So King Ahab is preparing his troops as instructed.
- The enemy is surprised, unprepared for the attack of God's people.
- They routed the enemy.
- As a matter of fact, the text tells us in **verse 22** that it was a **...great slaughter.**
- Again, we are reminded as saints of God to heed the words of **1 Peter 5:8**

3rd Point Keep Looking to The Lord (1 Kings 20:22-25)

- King Ahab has defeated King Ben-hadad.
- According to **verse 20**, King Ben-hadad escaped with his life.
- But guess what? The threat isn't over; for we read in these verses that the prophet goes again to King Ahab and warns him that he should expect King Ben-Hadad to attack again.
- **Let's remember that Satan came and sought to tempt our Lord three times!**

- Even today, the enemies of God's people are continually attacking them; us the CHURCH.
- So now we will learn that the Lord will give HIS people the second victory.
- As the LORD had revealed to HIS prophet in **verse 22**, the next spring King Ben-Hadad would assemble his troops and once again seek to attack God's people.
- Once again, we see, THE INSANITY OF SIN! We know the definition of insanity.

4th Point Superstition Will Never Prevail (1 Kings 20:23)

- **I'm always amazed at what people believe that is rooted in superstition!**
- Here's another example of people being led by superstition.
- This King Ben-Hadad receives advice that is based on superstition.
- This reminded me of Pharaoh who had his soothsayers, and magicians to give him advice.
- **Listen to this craziness:**
 - King Ben-Hadad advisors tell him that the reason he lost the first battle is because Israel's gods were the gods of the hill.
 - So, this time don't fight them in the hills, but rather fight them in the lowlands of the plains and Israel's gods would not help them.
 - **WOW! Utter foolishness. Our God is the Sovereign God of The Universe. HE is the LORD of Heaven & Earth.**
 - Guess what? According to **verse 25**, Ben-Hadad followed their advice.

5th Point The God Who Is Our Fortress (1 Kings 20:26...went up to Aphek.)

- This place, Aphek, means "*fortress*".
- What a wonderful truth! The Psalmist tells us in **Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer....**
- Aphek (the *place called a fortress*) is the place where HE who is Israel's fortress will deliver them from the hands of their enemy.
- You have the vast host of Arameans meeting the small force of Israel.
- As a matter of fact, in **verse 27** we see that Israel's forces looks like *two small flocks of goats*, compared to the enemy forces **...that filled the country...**

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