

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

LESSONS FROM A WICKED KING

1 Kings 16-17

INTRODUCTION: **1 Corinthians 10:11 NKJV** Now all these things happened to them as **examples**, and they were written **for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

Greek for admonition is vouthesia

Vous – mind

Tithomi – to place

Vouthesia – to place in our minds

We are to receive in our minds the lessons from these examples given us by the Holy Spirit to warn and instruct us.

Today we look at the life of a wicked king. His name is King Ahab.

Ahab was a real flesh and blood man, not just a legend or story. His father was King Omri who was himself both a powerful and evil king who ruled the northern ten tribes and called itself Israel.

In fact, in the royal inscriptions of the Empire of Assyria, the nation of Israel was often called THE HOUSE OF OMRI, even long after his death.

Ahab, Omri's son, who reigned in his father's place after his death, is named in the Assyrian royal archives in association with a battle with Shalmaneser III at Qarqar, a very famous battle recorded in history.

I tell you these things just to boost your confidence that what we are reading in the Scripture is absolutely true. What the Bible says about Ahab, Jezebel, and the prophet Elijah really happened just as God's Word declared.

And we are to take the warnings, instructions, challenges and encouragements that come out of their lives into our minds and our hearts so that we will be instructed by the Word of the Lord and so that we can respond to His Word in faith and faithfulness.

So let us begin to read about this wicked king Ahab.

1 Kings 16:30–33 NKJV 30 Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. 31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat (who put

two golden calves and altars in Israel to turn people away from worship of YHWH), that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. 32 Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 33 And Ahab made a wooden image. **Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.**

THE LIFE OF AHAB REMINDS US OF THE REALITY OF THE ANGER OF THE LORD GOD.

Understandably, people today try to wash the thought of the anger of the Lord from their minds. They want to think and want us to think....

- That the God of the O.T. is a God of wrath.
- But the God of the New Testament is a God of love and mercy.
- Our God is and has always been a God of love and mercy!
- And the O.T. reveals Him as such.
 - When Adam and Eve sinned, God made the very first promise of redemption.
 - When Cain murdered his brother because Abel was obeying God, God kept others from murdering Cain in turn by putting a mark upon him.
 - When the world was totally corrupt with the wickedness of both men and fallen angels, Noah and his family found grace in the eyes of the Lord!
 - And I could continue all morning to talk about God's love and mercy as revealed in the O.T. through Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, Isaiah and Jeremiah, Daniel and Esther, Nehemiah and Ezekiel, and many, many more!
- But likewise the N.T. reveals the holiness and justice of God, including His divine wrath, directed at sin and those who will not forsake it and repent.
- In preparation for my trip to Brazil in late May to train pastors and leaders, I have just completed a review of what the Bible says will happen in the end times, times that are closer than they have ever been before, and times which I remain convinced shall begin before I die.
- Some of you younger ones look at me and say, "Well they better hurry, old man," and I tell you I believe those times are hurrying and will arrive suddenly and unexpectedly for the vast majority of people in our world.

- For the redeemed, who have put their trust in Jesus Christ, who out of love and mercy, bore our sins upon the cross, the beginning of these end times will be filled with shouts of joy and hallelujahs. It will be a time of rejoicing such as we have never experienced when the words of the Holy Spirit through Paul are fulfilled.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 NKJV 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- But for the lost... BUT FOR THE LOST! For those who have declined the gracious invitation of the Savior to come to trust in Him
 - Who scoffed at the preacher's warnings that the wages of sin is death,
 - Who were too busy having fun to repent of the sin in their lives,
 - Who were too preoccupied with making money to give any attention to making provision for eternity ...
- TO THE LOST, those without Christ, Jesus said of this time, at the beginning of the end times, ...

Matthew 24:40–42 NKJV 40 Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. 42 Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

And He said,

Matthew 24:21 NKJV For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

- My friend, it is the N.T. that tells us the very most about these end times and the seven years of tribulation that the lost who rejected Jesus shall enter. During the first months of that terrible period, more than one-fourth of the population of the earth will die.
- Of that time we read, in the N.T., in the Book of Revelation

Revelation 6:15–17 NKJV 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on

the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Oh, dear friend, listen, not to my opinion, but to the Word of God.

- God is love and is rich in mercy and does not desire that any should perish.
- But God is holy, holy, holy, and altogether righteous.
- And Jesus declared

Matthew 13:49–50 NKJV 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Oh, dear lost friend, listen! Know, or be reminded, that the anger of God against sin and sinners who reject Him is real.

- Respond to the love and mercy of God by trusting in Jesus as your Lord and Savior today.
- For as Ahab discovered, without Christ, you too will discover personally that the wrath of God against those who reject His Son who shed His blood upon the cross to offer forgiveness and eternal life – the wrath of the Father and of the Son are real and will be poured out upon all unbelievers.

Old man, like me, listen. Every breath we draw is on borrowed time. And when we breathe our last, our opportunity for salvation is over. There is no second chance. If you have not trusted Christ, chunk your pride in the trash, and turn to Him in faith while you can.

Young lady, listen. I know you are so healthy and vibrant, and you are confident of many years of life ahead, but the trumpet can sound before this day is over, and you who are without Christ will be left behind. And few people will be dying of old age during the tribulation! The young will be killed as quickly as the old!

I know, some of you are thinking, right now, "Bro. Mike, quit this! You are scaring me."

I hope so. Because if you are scared because you have not put your trust and loyalty in God's own dear Son who offers to forgive you and let you live with Him forever, you need to be scared. Because if you die without Christ, I will not be able to scare you out of hell.

I tell you, friend, Ahab wishes someone had scared him enough

- to cause him to repent and tear down that temple he built to the pagan god Baal.

- He wishes he would have been frightened by the righteous wrath of God enough to have burned the wooden image of the false goddess Asherah that he made.
- Ahab wishes with all his heart that he had listened to Elijah's words about the one true and living God, YHWH by name, who had, even at that point in history, already promised that Messiah, God's own Son, would come and provide a way for those who believed to have their sins cleansed and live with God forever.
- Ahab is in the flames of hell at this moment. He has been there for 2,890 years!
- And in those nearly 3 millennia of suffering and agony, he has barely opened the wrapper of eternity!
- And every moment of every day of every week of every year, he wishes he had repented of his sin and believed in Messiah.
- But it is too late. No one can repent in hell. No one can turn in faith to Christ in hell.
- You know what else? Nobody can warn their loved ones or friends who are lost either.
- In Luke 16, Jesus told us about a man who went to hell.
 - After he learned there was no hope of getting out.
 - He wanted to warn his brothers less they come there also.
 - But he couldn't.
 - He was told, "They have the Scriptures, just like you did."
 - The Spirit of God has made the truth available.
- Just as the Spirit has done for each of us during our lives, even today.

LEARN from this wicked king.

BE WARNED that the anger of the Lord is real and directed toward those who refuse to repent and reject His Messiah Son as their Lord and Savior.

Come today to faith in Christ.

John 3:16 NKJV For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son...

Romans 10:8-9 NKJV 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Matthew 10:32-33 NKJV 32 "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. 33 But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.