

JUST DESERTS. 1 KN. 22:29-40. 6/04/23. #61.

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<sup>29</sup> So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead. <sup>30</sup> And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. <sup>31</sup> Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel." <sup>32</sup> So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel!" Therefore they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out. <sup>33</sup> And it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him. <sup>34</sup> Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." <sup>35</sup> The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot. <sup>36</sup> Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!" <sup>37</sup> So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. <sup>38</sup> Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken. <sup>39</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, the ivory house which he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? <sup>40</sup> So Ahab rested with his fathers. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

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1. An abundance of warning

- a. Ahab had been told several times that he would be killed for the evil he had done
  - a1. Since he let Ben Hadad escape execution, Ahab's life would be taken in the place of his
  - a2. Elijah met Ahab on Naboth's field & told him that the dogs will lick Ahab's blood where they licked Naboth's blood
  - a3. Micaiah told Ahab that he saw Israel scattered over the hills without a master
  - a4. Micaiah described a scene in heaven where God allowed a spirit to go forth to put a lying tongue in Ahab's prophets so that Ahab would go to battle & die
- b. Not only did Ahab have plenty of witness to his fate, but Jehoshaphat heard the prophecy as well, but decided to go to battle with Ahab
- c. God's warnings are true, as are its consequences when they are violated
- d. Gal. 6 sowing & reaping = universal principle

2. Trying to cheat death

- a. Ahab decides he is going to foil the prophecy
  - a1. He has Mic. locked up until he returns
  - a2. Ahab dresses as a common soldier so that he would not be recognized as the king
- b. Jehoshaphat dressed in his royal robes
- c. Ben Hadad ordered his 32 captains to fight Ahab
  - a1. They chase Jehoshaphat, thinking that he was Ahab, but cease chasing him
  - a2. Since Ahab was in disguise, they could not spot him among the troops

3. Justice served

- a. An arrow shot at random pierced Ahab between the ribs where the 2 plates of armor are tied
  - a1. Since God had decreed that Ahab would die, there was nothing "random" about this event from God's viewpoint
  - a2. Like Ruth who "happened to glean" on Boaz's field, God orchestrates events to accomplish His will
- b. Ahab directed the charioteer to take him from the field of battle for he was wounded
  - a1. Ahab suffers all afternoon & then dies
  - a2. The chariot is taken to the spring on Naboth's field where they washed the blood from the chariot & dogs lick the blood (the stream "where harlots bathe" or in Targum "where the shields are washed" – a purging of sin)
- c. God's judgment can't be denied
- d. Again, there is reference to the *Chronicles of the Kings of Israel* = lost (Ahab built an ivory house)
  - a1. Is. 65:17 all deeds not done to honor the Lord will be lost
  - a2. Ahab's name will not be remembered
- e. Ahab is buried & Jehoshaphat returns to Judah (troops died for an unworthy cause)
- f. Ahaziah reigns in his father's place (like his dad)
- g. It is foolish to resist the will of God