

1 KINGS CHAPTER 20

¹ And the son of Hadad gathered all his forces, and went up and besieged Samaria, *he* and thirty-two kings with him, and all *his* horses and chariots; and they went up and besieged Samaria, and fought against it. ² And he sent into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, "Thus says the son of Hadad: ³ 'Your silver and your gold are mine, and your wives and your children are mine.'" ⁴ And the king of Israel answered and said, "As you have said, my lord, O king, I am yours, and all mine *as well*." ⁵ And the messengers came again, and said, "Thus says the son of Hadad: 'I sent to you, saying, "You shall give me your silver and your gold, and your wives and your children.'" ⁶ For at this time tomorrow, I will send my servants to you, and they shall search your house, and the houses of your servants, and it shall be that all the desirable objects of their eyes on which they shall lay their hands, they shall take *them*.'"

⁷ And the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, "Take notice now and consider, that this man seeks mischief; for he has sent to me concerning my wives, and concerning my sons and concerning my daughters; I have not kept back from him my silver and my gold." ⁸ And the elders and all the people said to him, "Do not listen or consent." ⁹ And he said to the messengers of the son of Hadad, "Say to your master, 'All things that you have sent to your servant about at first I will do; but this thing I shall not be able to do.'" And the men departed, and carried back the answer to him. ¹⁰ And the son of Hadad sent to him, saying, "God do so to me and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for foxes to all the people, even my infantry." ¹¹ And the king of Israel answered and said, "Let it be sufficient; let not the humpbacked boast as he that is upright." ¹² And it came to pass when he returned him this answer, he and all the kings with him were drinking in tents. And he said to his servants, "Form a trench." And they made a trench against the city.

¹³ And behold, a prophet came to Ahab king of Israel, and said, "Thus says the Lord: 'Have you seen this great multitude? Behold, I give it this day into your hands, and you shall know that I *am* the Lord.'" ¹⁴ And Ahab said, "By whom?" And he said, "Thus says the Lord: 'By the young men of the heads of the districts.'" And Ahab said, "Who shall begin the battle?" And he said, "You." ¹⁵ And Ahab numbered the young men, the heads of the districts, and they were two hundred and thirty. And afterwards he numbered the people, every man fit for war, seven thousand. ¹⁶ And he went forth at noon, and the son of Hadad was drinking *and* getting drunk in Succhoth, he and the kings, thirty-two kings, *who were* his allies. ¹⁷ And the young men, the heads of the districts went forth first; and they sent and reported to the king of Syria, saying, "There are men that have come forth out of Samaria." ¹⁸ And he said to them, "If they come forth peaceably, take them alive; and if they come forth to war, take them alive; ¹⁹ and let not the young men, the heads of the districts go forth of the city." And the force that was behind them ²⁰ killed each one the man next to him; and each one a second time killed the man next to him. And Syria fled, and Israel pursued them; and the son of Hadad, the king of Syria, escaped on the horse of a horseman. ²¹ And the king of Israel went forth, and took all the horses and the chariots, and attacked *the enemy* with a great slaughter in Syria. ²² And the

prophet came to the king of Israel and said, "Strengthen yourself, and observe, and see what you shall do; for in the spring of the year the son of Hadad king of Syria shall come up against you."

²³ And the servants of the king of Syria said, "The God of Israel *is* a God of mountains, and not a God of valleys; therefore has he prevailed against us; but if we should fight against them in the plain, assuredly we shall prevail against them.

²⁴ Therefore do this: Send away the kings, each one to his place, and set princes in their place. ²⁵ And we will give you *another* army according to the army that was destroyed, and cavalry according to the cavalry, and chariots according to the chariots, and we will fight against them in the plain, and we shall prevail against them." And he did according to their voice. ²⁶ And it came to pass at the return of the year, that the son of Hadad reviewed Syria, and went up to Aphek to war against Israel. ²⁷ And the children of Israel were numbered, and came to meet them. And Israel encamped before them as two little flocks of goats, but Syria filled the land.

²⁸ Then the man of God came, and said to the king of Israel, "Thus says the Lord: 'Because Syria has said, "The Lord God of Israel *is* a God of the hills, and He *is* not a God of the valleys," therefore will I give this great army into your hand, and you shall know that I *am* the Lord.'" ²⁹ And they encamped opposite each other for seven days. And it came to pass on the seventh day that the battle drew on, and Israel attacked Syria, *even* a hundred thousand footmen in one day. ³⁰ And the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and the wall fell upon twenty-seven thousand men that were left. And the son of Hadad fled, and entered into an inner chamber, into a closet.

³¹ And he said to his servants, "I know that the kings of Israel are merciful kings: let us now put sackcloth upon our loins, and ropes upon our heads, and let us go forth to the king of Israel, if by any means he will save our souls alive." ³² So they put sackcloth upon their loins, and put ropes upon their heads, and said to the king of Israel, "Your servant the son of Hadad says, 'Let our souls live, I pray.'" And he said, "Does he yet live? He is my brother." ³³ And the men divined, and offered drink offerings; and they caught the word out of his mouth, and said, "Your brother the son of Hadad." And he said, "Go in and fetch him." And the son of Hadad went out to him, and they caused him to go up to him into the chariot. ³⁴ And he said to him, "The cities which my father took from your father I will restore to you; and you shall make streets for yourself in Damascus, as my father made streets in Samaria; and I will let you go with a covenant." And he made a covenant with him, and let him go.

³⁵ And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the Lord, "Strike me." And the man would not strike him. ³⁶ And he said to him, "Because you have not heeded the voice of the Lord, therefore behold, as you depart from me, a lion shall kill you." And he departed from him, and a lion found him, and killed him. ³⁷ And he found another man, and said, "Strike me." And the man struck him, and wounded *him*. ³⁸ And the prophet went and stood before the king of Israel by the road, and bound his eyes with a bandage.

³⁹ And it came to pass as the king passed by, that he cried aloud to the king, and said, "Your servant went out to war, and behold, a man brought *another* man to me, and said to me, "Guard this man; and if he should by any means escape, then your life shall go for his life, or you shall pay a talent of silver." ⁴⁰ And

it came to pass, that your servant looked round this way and that way, and the man was gone." And the king of Israel said to him, "Behold, you have also destroyed snares *set* for me." ⁴¹ And he hastened to take away the bandage from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him, that he was one of the prophets. ⁴² And he said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Because you have allowed this man appointed to destruction to escape out of your hand, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'" ⁴³ And the king of Israel departed, confounded and discouraged, and came to Samaria.