



# Apostasy Always Fails to Prevail

Lesson 18 • 1Kings 20 – 22

## An Overview of 1Kings 20 – 22

**Chapters 17 – 19** have focused on **loyalty** of Elijah but now we are going to focus on the **apostasy** of Ahab.

**Chapters 20 – 22** reminds that no matter how bad it gets: **APOSTASY WILL ALWAYS FAIL to PREVAIL!**

## Why Is There Always a “Pay Day Some Day” for Apostates?

### 1. Apostates and Their Apostasy Will Always FAIL to Prevail in the End.

1Kings 20 – 22

#### Ahab the Apostate Fails to Prevail as King Over Israel!

*“Are you the king of Israel or not?” Jezebel demanded. 1Kings 21:7 (NLT)*

*So [the prophet Micaiah] said, “I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, like sheep which have no shepherd. And the LORD said, ‘These have no master. Let each of them return to his house in peace.’” 1Kings 22:17*

#### ► 1Kings 20 – Ahab fails to **EXECUTE** the LORD’s brutal enemy.

1. King Ben-Hadad of Aram swears he will overwhelmingly **CONQUER** Ahab’s Kingdom. (1-12)

*“Then Ben-hadad sent messengers to [Ahab] and said, ‘May the gods punish me and do so severely if Samaria’s dust amounts to a handful for each of the people who follow me.’” 1Kings 20:10 (CSB)*

2. But the LORD shows **GRACE** in judgment and sends an unnamed prophet to tell Ahab the LORD will deliver Israel...**TWICE!** (13-30)

3. King Ahab obeys the Word of the LORD to a point but **FAILS** to execute the LORD’s brutal enemy. (31-34)

4. A certain prophet of the LORD comes to pronounce “reap what you sow” **JUDGMENT** on Ahab and his kingdom. (35-43)

*He said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.’” 1Kings 20:42*

#### Apostasy **DENIES** the Lord’s Covenant Retribution!

*Apostates reject God’s just condemnation of unbelieving rebels and will suffer the same consequences for their unbelief.*

#### How Does King Ahab Respond?

*“So the king of Israel went to his house **sullen and vexed**, and came to Samaria.” 1Kings 20:43*

#### ► 1Kings 21 – Ahab fails to **EMBOLDEN** the LORD’s loyal remnant.

1. King Ahab **COVETS** his neighbor’s vineyard and seeks to trade or pay for it. (1-2)

2. Naboth **REJECTS** the offer out of loyalty to the LORD and his forefathers. (3)

*“But Naboth said to Ahab, “The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” 1Kings 21:3*

#### How Does King Ahab Respond?

*“So Ahab came into his house **sullen and vexed** because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.” 1Kings 21:4*

3. Queen Jezebel steps in and **ACTS** like the false goddess and false prophetess that she is. (5-7)

*Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 1Kings 21:7*

4. Two worthless men give **FALSE** witness against Naboth and he is stoned to death for cursing God and the king. (8-16)

**Apostasy DESPISES the Lord's Covenant Revelation!**

*Apostates rebel against God's just commands to love Him with all their heart and to love others as yourself.*

5. Elijah is sent by the LORD to pronounce "reap what you sow" **JUDGMENT** on Ahab and Jezebel. (17-26)

► **1Kings 22 – Ahab fails to ESTEEM the LORD's loyal prophet.**

1. King Ahab talks King Jehoshaphat of Judah into **ATTACKING** King Ben-Hadad of Aram. (1-4)
2. King Jehoshaphat **ESTEEMS** the LORD and His Word more than King Ahab: *He wants to hear from the LORD before going to war.* (5-12)

**Judah's King Jehoshaphat DESIRES a True Prophet**

*"Please inquire first for the word of the LORD...Is there not yet a prophet of the LORD here that we may inquire of him?" (5, 7)*

**Israel's King Ahab DESPISES the True Prophet**

*"There is YET ONE MAN by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I HATE him, because he does NOT prophesy good concerning me, but evil. He is Micaiah..." (8, 16, 18).*

3. The prophet Micaiah pronounces "reap what you sow" **JUDGMENT** on Ahab if he goes to war. (13-28)

**The LORD's Prophet Micaiah DECLARES the True Word**

*"As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak...Therefore, hear the word of the LORD...  
Now therefore BEHOLD...BEHOLD...  
if you indeed return safely the LORD has not spoken by me...Listen, all you people" (14-28)*

4. King Ahab goes to war in a **disguise** and seeks to **DECEIVE** the LORD, the enemy, and King Jehoshaphat. (29-33)

**Apostasy DECEPTIVELY DEFIES the Lord's Covenant Reign!**

*Apostates refuse to recognize God's just control over all things in the universe, including them.*

5. The prophet Micaiah's prediction comes true in God's **PROVIDENCE** as a random arrow pierces the joint in Ahab's armor, he dies in his chariot, and the dogs lick up his blood. (33-40)

## 2. Apostasy Fails to Prevail Because the Word of the LORD **RULES** Over All.

**Why Does the Word of the LORD Rule Over All?**

- So, **YOU** may know that He is the LORD, who keeps His promise of loyal love to His covenant people. 1Kings 20:13

*"Thus says the LORD, 'Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver them into your hand today, and you [Singular!] shall know that I am the LORD.'" 1Kings 20:13*

- So, **ALL PEOPLES** may know that He is the LORD, who keeps His promise of loyal love to His covenant people. 1Kings 20:13

*"Thus says the LORD, 'Because the Arameans have said, "The LORD is a god of the mountains, but He is not a god of the valleys," therefore I will give all this great multitude into your [Plural!] hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'" 1Kings 20:28*

**Apostasy Will Always Fail to Prevail Because God's Word Always Rules Over All!**

So, **REPENT** as the LORD delays His judgment, because "pay day someday" will come sooner than you think. And **REMAIN LOYAL** in the "big things" and the "little things" even in the worst of times, because it will be worth it in the end.

1 KINGS 20–22			
PAY DAY SOMEDAY – Apostasy Fails to Prevail Because God’s Word Rules Over All!			
Chapter 20		Chapter 21	Chapter 22
AHAB Fails as King	<b>Fails to EXECUTE the LORD’s Brutal Enemy</b> <i>King Ben-Hadad of Aram/Syria</i>	<b>Fails to EMBOLDEN the LORD’s Loyal Remnant</b> <i>Naboth the Vineyard Owner in Jezreel</i>	<b>Fails to ESTEEM the LORD’s Loyal Prophet</b> <i>Micaiah the Prophet of the LORD</i>
APOSTASY Falling Away from the LORD	<b>DENIES</b> <b>the LORD’s Covenant Retribution</b>	<b>DESPISES</b> <b>the LORD’s Covenant Revelation</b>	<b>DECEPTIVELY DEFIES</b> <b>the LORD’s Covenant Reign</b>
Faithful TRUE Prophets	<b>UNNAMED PROPHET</b> (13, 22) <b>A MAN of GOD</b> (28) <b>A CERTAIN MAN of the SONS of the PROPHETS</b> (35, 41-42) <b>Another MAN (Prophet?)</b> (37)	<b>ELIJAH the TISHBITE</b> (17-19, 21-22, 28-29)	Judah’s King Jehoshaphat <b>DESIRES</b> a True Prophet (5, 7) Israel’s King Ahab <b>DESPISES</b> the True Prophet (8, 16, 18) <b>The LORD’s True Prophet MICAIAH DECLARES the True Word</b> (14-28)
Unfaithful FALSE Prophets	<b>A True (?) Prophet DISOBEYS</b> (35-37)	<b>Jezebel ACTS Like a False Goddess &amp; False Prophetess</b> (7)	<b>400 False Prophets Are DECEIVED by the LORD</b> (6, 11-13, 24) <b>The False Prophet Zedekiah DEFIES the LORD</b> (24)
The LORD’s Reap What You Sow Judgment	<b>After King Ahab’s Failure to Execute</b> He said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘ <b>Because you have let go out of your hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his and your people for his people.</b> ’” (42)	<b>After King Ahab’s Failure to Embolden</b> “You shall speak to him saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, ‘ <b>Have you murdered and also taken possession?...In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs shall lick up your blood, even yours...</b> I have found you, because <b>you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD. BEHOLD, I will bring evil upon you,</b> and I will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male...I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam...and like the house of Baasha... <b>The dogs shall eat Jezebel...the dogs shall eat, and the birds of heaven shall eat.</b> ’” 21:19-24  <b>After King Ahab Humbles Himself</b> “Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah...‘ <b>Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son’s days.</b> ’” 21:29; see 2Kgs 1; 9–10	<b>After King Ahab’s Failure to Esteem</b> “Now therefore, BEHOLD, <b>the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and the LORD has proclaimed disaster against you.</b> ” (23)  “ <b>Now a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor...the king...died...and the blood...ran into the bottom of the chariot.</b> ” (34-35)  “They washed the chariot... <b>and the dogs licked up his blood (now the harlots bathed themselves there), according to the word of the LORD which He spoke.</b> ” (38)
AHAB’S Responses	<b>To the LORD’s Word of Retribution</b> “So the king of Israel went to his house <b>sullen and vexed,</b> and came to Samaria.” (43)	<b>To Naboth’s Word of Refusal</b> “So Ahab came into his house <b>sullen and vexed...</b> and <b>he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.</b> ” (4-5)  <b>To LORD’s Word of Retribution</b> “When Ahab heard these words, that <b>he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently.</b> ” (27)	<b>To Jehoshaphat’s Word of Request</b> “There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but <b>I hate him,</b> because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.” (8, 16, 18)  <b>Results in DECEPTIVE DEFIANCE that ends in his DEATH!</b>
TIME	<i>Was this during Elijah’s 40 days of wilderness wanderings, time on Mt. Carmel, and finding Elisha (1Kgs 19:3-21)?</i> <b>The second battle took place in the Spring (22, 26)</b>	<b>“Now it came about after these things”</b> (1), referring to the two battles that took place in the previous year?	<b>“And three years passed without war between Aram and Israel. It came about in the third year...”</b> (1-2)
Swearing OATHS	<b>King Ben-Hadad:</b> “May the gods do so to me and more also, the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people who follow me” (10; cf. 2Kgs 13:7)	<b>Naboth:</b> “The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” (3)	<b>Micaiah:</b> “As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak.” (3)