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Word War III

Lesson 20 • 1Kings 20

What Is 1Kings 20 All About? A War of Words Rooted in a War of Worldviews!

The Word of the LORD Rules Over All Because the LORD of the Word Rules Over All!

Word War I Is a War of Words Between Two KINGS. (2-21)

The Brutal Bully Ben-hadad vs. the Disloyal Apostate Ahab!

King Ben-hadad is a bully that has a mighty army to back-up his boastful words, but King Ahab is a blow-hard in a hopeless situation that can't back-up his boastful words!

► **Worldly Power BOASTS in Physical Strength. (1-12)**

Thus Ben-hadad says...Thus Ben-hadad says...Ben-hadad sent to him and said, "May the gods do so to me and more also, if the dust of Samaria will suffice for handfuls for all the people who follow me." (19-21)

► **Word War I Is Won by the WORD of the LORD that Rules Over All. (13-21)**

- 1) By His spoken Word, the LORD is revealing Himself to be **ALL-Knowing** and **ALL-Powerful**. (13-18)

*Now **BEHOLD**, a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'Have you seen all this great multitude? **BEHOLD**, I will deliver them into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'" (13)*

- 2) Israel wins WWII but the King Ben-hadad **ESCAPES**, while King Ahab kills all the chariots and horses. (19-21)

*They killed each his man; and the Arameans fled and Israel pursued them, and **Ben-hadad king of Aram escaped on a horse with horsemen. The king of Israel went out and struck the horses and chariots, and killed the Arameans with a great slaughter.**" (19-21)*

Word War II Is a War of Words Between GODS. (22-34)

The "Small God" Theology of Ben-hadad's Servants vs. the "Big God" Theology of the LORD's Prophet

Foolish theology is rooted in a "Little GOD" who only rules over certain places and people, but wise theology is rooted in a "Big GOD" whose Word rules over all.

► **Worldly Wisdom TRUSTS in "Small God" Theology.**

- 1) Ben-hadad's servants speak foolish words rooted in "**SMALL GOD**" theology. (23-25a)

*We **lost** last time, but we'll **win** next time because they have **small gods** like our gods!
They aren't **all-mighty** They aren't **all-knowing** They aren't **all-present***

- 2) Ben-hadad **FOOLISHLY** trusts in "Small God" theology. (25b)

*"And [Ben-hadad] listened to **their voice** and did so."*

► **Word War II Is Won by the LORD of the Word Who Rules Over All. (22, 28-30)**

- 1) The LORD's prophet speaks wise words rooted in "**BIG GOD**" theology. (28)

"Then a man of God came near and spoke to the king of Israel and said, 'Thus says the LORD...'" (28)

*"I AM" the God who is **ALL-Knowing** –*

*"I AM" the God who is **ALL-Present** –*

*"I AM" the God who is **ALL-Powerful** –*

- 2) Godly wisdom prepares for battle by trusting in **SPIRITUAL** strength more than physical strength. (22)

GO! Strengthen yourself in the LORD by knowing His Word and discerning His will and His ways, so you can walk in them to DO ALL that the LORD had commanded you to do!"

"But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God." 1Samuel 30:6

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:8-9; see Joshua 1:5-9; Jeremiah 11:3-7; 32:23

- 3) Israel wins WWII in ways that remind us of the battle of **JERICHO** but King Ben-hadad **ESCAPES...again!** (29-34)

King Ben-hadad escapes once again but he is **foolishly trusting** in "**Small God**" theology (29-30)

"I am going to **HIDE** ("fled") so no one **KNOWS** where I am!" The God of Israel is **not ALL-KNOWING!**

"I am going to **HIDE** where no one can **SEE** me ("inner room")!" The God of Israel is **not ALL-PRESENT!**

"I am going to **ESCAPE** this small god and **LIVE** to see another day!" The God of Israel is **not ALL-POWERFUL!**

King Ahab fails to execute Ben-hadad because he too is **foolishly trusting** in "**Small God**" theology (31-34)

Word War III Is a War of Words Over Complete **OBEDIENCE**. (35-43)

The Complete Obedience of the Loyal vs. the Partial Obedience of the Disloyal

The LORD of the Word rules over all, therefore all must obey His Word completely.

Learning from "His Story"

- **The Spiritual Combat of WWI** – The **WORD** of the LORD Rules Over All!
- **The Spiritual Counsel of WWII** – The **LORD** of the Word Rules Over All!
- **The Spiritual Commitment of WWII** – The **LORD** and His **WORD** Rule Over All, Therefore All Must Obey Him and His Word Completely.

➤ **ALL Must Obey His Word.** (29-30)

If the **LORD who speaks** rules over all the world, then **EVERYONE** must obey Him – **no exceptions!**

Lessons for the Loyal Remnant to Remember

- 1) You reveal your heart by obeying His Word **NO MATTER WHAT!**

We reveal that our hearts are united with the LORD's loyal remnant by obeying His Word no matter what and at any cost.

- 2) There are **always CONSEQUENCES** to partial obedience.

Partial obedience is a peril that plagues us all and results in partial blessing at best or eternal cursing at worst.

➤ **ALL of His Word Must Be Obeyed.**

If the **Word that is spoken** rules over all the world, then **EVERY COMMAND** must be obeyed – **no exemptions!**

Lessons for Disloyal Rebels to Remember

- 1) You fail to completely obey His Word, because your heart is either **not** fully **SURRENDERED** or has **never** been **CONQUERED**.

*In what areas of your life are you choosing **partial obedience** over total obedience?*

*Is this evidence that your heart is **not** fully surrendered or has **never** been really conquered by the LORD who rules over all?*

- 2) You reveal the **true CONDITION** of your heart by **how** you respond to the spoken Word of the LORD.

How does your response to the Word preached and taught reveal your true heart condition? 1Samuel 15:22-23; 2Timothy 3:16-17

Are You a Rebel at Heart?

- Are you **intentionally obeying** all that the LORD has commanded and requires of you?

There is only One person in all the world that can say "YES" to that question at all times and in all ways – the true King, Jesus Christ!

"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,' declares the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23-24

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

- Are you **spiritually preparing** to obey all that the LORD commands and will require of you?

There is only one way in all the world to be spiritually prepared and win the war of words on a daily basis – be ruled by King Jesus!

"By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action." Daniel 11:32

"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." 1Corinthians 16:13-14

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:10-12