

LESSON PLAN

AHAB AND BENHADAD

1 Kings 20

Lesson Memory Verse: Ephesians 5:17 "Be not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

Lesson Aim: Knowing God's will and doing it will show God that you want to please Him.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – Be plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Has your mother ever told you to carry out the garbage? Has she ever asked you to wash the dishes? What would happen if you did not do it? (You would get into trouble.) I am sure that you do not like to get into trouble, so why didn't you obey your mother? (Let the children answer.) Your mother has a right to expect you to help her. Everyone should work in the home, when they are able, not only the parents. When you obey your mother, it will show that you want to please her.

God also has work for you to do. What kind of work does God want you to do? (Help your parents; do your school work and Bible lessons so you are trained well; tell your friends about Jesus and invite them to church; pray for your pastor and missionaries that you know; write to missionary children.) When you do the work that He asks of you, you show that you love Him and want to please Him. Our memory verse for today tells us that you should know what God wants you to do. Of course, when you know it, you should do it if you love Him and want to please Him.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse today is Ephesians 5:17. Is this verse in the Old or New Testament? (New) Let us find it in our Bibles. Our verse tells us not to be unwise about His will. That means God wants us to be aware of what He wants us to do. He wants us to understand His will for our lives. He wants us to understand His plans for our lives. Then He wants you to follow His plans. How can you find out what God has planned for your life? (Pray and read the Bible.)

When you are taught a new game in gym class at school, you must listen to the teacher so that you will know exactly what you have to do to play the game correctly. You might ask some questions about the game and try to memorize its rules. Then you must follow the rules to have a good time playing the game. Your life is like a game. God knows the rules and He gives them to you in the Bible. If follow His rules, you will know how to live your life. Read your Bible every day, memorize its verses and pray for God to help you understand His rules. Then you will know how God wants you to live each day. When you follow God's rules, you will please Him and you will live a life that is a winner.

Meaning of a word and phrase in our memory verse:

"Unwise" – be unaware

"Will of the Lord" – what the Lord wants us to do

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our lesson today we will learn what happened when King Ahab did not follow God's rules.

I. The Demand of Benhadad (20:1-11)

Benhadad, the king of Syria, sent a message to Ahab, the king of Israel and said that he would stop fighting him if he would give him all of his gold and silver and other precious things, even his wives and his children. Ahab had done many evil things since he had become the king of Israel. He had disobeyed God's rules and even worshipped idols and false gods. This had made the Lord very angry with Ahab, so He took away His protection of Israel. Since Ahab was without God's help, he decided to surrender to Benhadad. Then Benhadad sent another message to Ahab and said that he would send his servants to take, not only the things of Ahab, but also the precious things of Ahab's people. This caused Ahab to seek advice from the leaders of his country. The leaders decided that they would not let Benhadad do what he wanted. If Ahab had been obeying God's rules and worshipping God as he should have, he would not have had this problem.

WE: If we are wise, we will know who God is and what His will is for our lives. We will obey His rules that are found in the Bible. Then we will please Him and not make the bad choices like Ahab made and get into serious troubles.

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II. The Defeat of Benhadad (20:12-21)

Benhadad thought that Ahab was going to surrender, so he went to relax and to drink wine. He drank so much that he became drunk. Meanwhile Ahab had been told by a prophet of God that he should send his army into battle against Benhadad's army, and that they would win. God decided to help the people of Israel, probably because Benhadad was so proud. God hates pride. God also wanted to show His mercy and kindness to Ahab even though he had been evil and unthankful. Just as God's prophet had promised, Ahab's army defeated Benhadad's army, but Benhadad escaped on a horse during the battle. God showed Ahab His will through a prophet. When Ahab listened to the Lord's will and did what the prophet told him to do, everything worked out well for Ahab.

WE: If we know God's will for our lives and do it, then God will be pleased and He will help us win our battles against bad people that cause problems in your life. But be careful not to be proud, like Benhadad, or God will not be pleased and will be against you.

III. The Double Defeat of Benhadad (20:22-30)

Once more the prophet came to Ahab with a message from God. He told him to get ready for another battle with Benhadad. Benhadad's servants decided that Ahab won because his gods were powerful in the hills. So they decided they would fight Ahab again, but this time they would fight him in the plains. They did not know that it was the Lord God who was helping Ahab. He is the ruler over all the earth. On the day of the battle the Lord gave Ahab's army the power to defeat the Syrians a second time. Why? Ahab's army (Israel) pleased God when they obeyed Him.

WE: We will have many battles to fight in our lifetime, but if we obey God's rules. We will please Him and He will help us win every time,

IV. The Doom of Ahab (20:31-43)

When Benhadad lost his second battle, he fled to a city, but there he was trapped by Ahab's army. Quickly he sent his servants to Ahab to beg for mercy and to ask that he might live. Ahab not only let Benhadad live, but he also let him go free. The trouble with this decision was that it was not God's will. Benhadad was not supposed to be given freedom, but was supposed to die for his wicked sinful life. Ahab had failed to check with the Lord to find out what he should have done with Benhadad. By not checking with the Lord, he sinned. As a result, God sent a prophet to him once more to give him another message. However, this time it was not a good message. The Lord told Ahab that he would have to lose his life because he let Benhadad go free. This shocking news brought turned his joy into gloom.

WE: Before we make any decision, we will be wise to pray and ask God to show us His will so we can do it and please Him. This is the only way to live a life for God that will bring us joy and peace...

BE (for Action): When did Ahab do God's will? (When he was told to fight against Benhadad two times) When did Ahab fail to do God's will? (When he let Benhadad go free) How can we know God's will? (We should ask God to show us His will and He will show it to us from the Bible.) How will He show it to us from the Bible, when we do know all that the Bible says? (It may be some verses that you have read. Or, it may be some lesson that you have heard from your Bible teacher. Or, it may be a message from your pastor. Or, it may be some instruction that your parents have given to you from the Bible.). If you still do not know God's will, you can ask the pastor or some older Christian that knows the Bible and they may be able to help you find God's will. Be sure they give you help from the Bible, because that is how God talks to us today. What should you do when you know God's will? (Do it right away.) Let us ask God to help us know His will and to do it so we can please Him.