Ahab’s Demise (1 Kings 22; 2 Chr. 17)
SR: 1 Kings 21:17-22

I. Introduction
II. The Kings
   a. The Wicked King Ahab
      i. Background
         1. He was extremely wicked (21:25-26)
         2. He had been given many opportunities to repent (21:27-29)
         3. Now he was going to receive his punishment (21:17-22)
      ii. His plan (22:1-3)
         1. He wants to take Ramoth-Gilead from the Syrians
         2. And tries to draw King Jehoshaphat into his war (22:3)
         3. He succeeds
      iii. His council (22:6-9)
         1. He had about 400 false prophets who would tell him what he wanted to hear (22:6)
         2. One true prophet warned him,
            a. He hated him (22:8)
            b. And would not listen (v. 17-18)
            c. And punished him for telling him the truth (v. 26-27)
         3. And did what he wanted (v. 29)
   iv. His battle (22:29-33)
      1. Disguising himself
      2. He made a stooge out of his friend King Jehoshaphat
      3. He tried to fool God
      4. He tried to avoid his judgment
      5. All the circumstances were in his favor
         a. He was disguised
         b. His friend was dressed obviously as a king
         c. The enemy had strict orders to only do battle with the king
         d. His friend nearly was killed but was spared
      6. The only circumstance that was against him was that God was against him
      7. He failed
   v. His demise (22:34-36)
      1. A “random” arrow hit him – The lot is cast in the lap (Prov. 16:33)
      2. He is mortally wounded
      3. He dies just as Elijah had prophesied (v. 37-38; cf. 21:17-22)
   b. The Righteous King Jehoshaphat (2 Chr 17)
      i. The account in 2 Chr. gives a different perspective more focused on Jehoshaphat
ii. His background
   1. A good king (v. 3-6)
   2. A blessed king
      a. Riches – v. 5
      b. Peace – v. 10
      c. Powerful – v. 12
   3. One major mistake
      a. Too close to the ungodly – 18:1
         i. He had married his son to Athaliah
            1. Jezebel’s daughter
            2. Will turn Jehoram toward Baal and idolatry just as Jezebel turned Ahab
            3. She also will corrupt her son Ahaziah when he is king
            4. When her son dies, she will kill all the rest of the royal family in an attempt to secure the throne for herself and her idolatrous homeland
            5. Only the providence of God prevents her from extinguishing the lineage through which the Christ was to come
            6. By allying with Ahab he is bringing about the murder own of his sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
            7. This is the worst marriage ever
   ii. It will almost get him killed

iii. His vacation in Samaria
   1. Feasted by wicked King Ahab – v. 18:2
   2. Convinced to join in his scheme – v. 3 – I am as you are

iv. His stand for truth
   1. He requested that the Lord be consulted – v. 4
   2. He requested a real prophet – v. 6
   3. He defended the prophet against the hatred of the king – v. 7
   4. He was weak
      a. He had already committed before he asked of God
      b. When the true prophet of God began to suffer mocking and violence at the hands of the false prophets, he did nothing
      c. When Micaiah was arrested for telling the truth, he did nothing
      d. His words, when he spoke, were righteous, but he mostly said and did nothing to stand for the truth
      e. He was weak, and Ahab knew it
f. When Peter was trying to mix with the wicked at Jesus’ trial he became so weak that he was afraid of a servant girl and denied Christ.

g. Jehoshaphat did not deny Jehovah with his mouth, but he was like some mentioned in Titus 1:16 NKJV “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

h. Prov. 25:26 – murky spring, polluted well

v. The battle
   1. He had already capitulated as a force for righteousness
   2. He was a pushover in the rest of Ahab’s plans
   3. Ahab seemed concerned only with getting what he wanted with minimal risk to himself, and Jehoshaphat went right along with it
   4. Only the providence of God spared his life (v. 31)

vi. His rebuke
   1. God had some words for him (19:1-3)
   2. He had married his son to Athaliah
      a. Jezebel’s daughter
         i. Will turn Jehoram toward Baal and idolatry just as Jezebel turned Ahab
         ii. She also will corrupt her son Ahaziah when he is king
         iii. When her son dies, she will kill all the rest of the royal family in an attempt to secure the throne for herself and her idolatrous homeland

      b. Only the providence of God prevents her from extinguishing the lineage through which the Christ was to come
         i. By allying with Ahab he is bringing about the murder own of his sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

      c. This is the worst marriage ever

   d. If the distinction we make b/w the righteous and the wicked is small, what will our children do?
      i. They will not hesitate to be even closer to wickedness than we are
      ii. If we ally ourselves politically, socially or otherwise with the unrighteous, our children may become their best friends, husbands or wives
      iii. And our grandchildren may come completely under the control of wickedness
and forfeit their souls because of our unwise alliances

iv. That is what happened to the sons of God in Genesis 6:1-2
   1. They married indiscriminately in the world
   2. Doomed the world to wickedness
   3. And their children and grandchildren to destruction in the flood of Divine judgment

v. That is what happened to the Jews who had returned from Exile (Neh. 13:24-27)
   1. They had married with other nations
   2. Their children could no longer speak the language of God’s people

III. The Prophets
   a. The False Prophets (1 Kings 22)
      i. Say what is desired (v. 6)
         1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life
            a. Instead of Repent or perish
         2. Lie in the name of God
      ii. Are known to be false by those who know the truth (v. 7)
      iii. Put on a show (v. 11)
      iv. Were in the majority (v. 12-13)
      v. Rude and violent to those who speak the truth (v. 24)
      vi. Judged by God (v. 25)
   b. The True Prophet
      i. Is pressured to conform (v. 13)
      ii. Speaks only what the Lord speaks (v. 14)
      iii. Got Ahab’s attention by mocking the false prophets (v. 15-16)
      iv. Delivered his message (17-23)
      v. Suffered mocking, abuse, imprisonment and deprivation for his message (v. 24-27)
      vi. Desired all to hear and believe, not just Ahab (v. 28)

IV. Conclusion
   a. The wicked
      i. Need to hear the message – repent or perish
      ii. Doom will come to the ungodly
   b. The righteous
      i. Need to maintain their integrity before the wicked
      ii. Not bind themselves with those that are in rebellion against God
      iii. If the world cannot tell the difference b/w us and them
          1. We cannot shine our lights
             a. While telling the wicked, “I am as you are and my people as your people”
b. And standing by while our wicked friends slander and mistreat the righteous with barely a word from us

2. We must separate ourselves - 2 Cor 6:14-18

iv. If God cannot tell the difference
1. Lot’s family in Sodom
2. We and our children and grandchildren will share in the punishment of the world
3. Rev. 18:2-4, esp. 4

v. Stand up for God, his truth and his people in the face of evil

vi. Be willing to say what needs to be said regardless of the consequences
1. Like Micaiah
2. The person who we are rebuking may not hear, but others will
3. They need to know that the word of the Lord has been spoken, whether it is heeded or not

c. INVITATION