

Ahab & The Lying Spirit **2 Chronicles 18.18-21**

1. The attitude of God towards evil

- a. the situation with Ahab - behind the scenes look at what God can do
- b. warnings that should be heeded.

2. Why

- a. **1 Kng 12.26-27** - fear of Jereboam
- b. **1 Kngs 12.28-29** - idols in two locations (Bethel & Dan)
- c. **1 Kngs 12.31** - priests of the lowest sort - not of the sons of Levi
- d. **Ex 20.3** - have no other gods before them
- e. **Jas 3.1** - be ye not many masters - greater condemnation
- f. **1 Pet 4.11** - speak as the oracles of God
- g. **John 12.49** - Christ - the words that the Father gave him
- h. **1 Kings 16.31** - married Jezebel - Sidon
- i. **1 Kings 16.32** - introduced baal worhsip
- j. **1 Kings 18.4** - killed the prophets of God
- k. **Ezek 18.23** - does not desire the death of the wicked - repent
- l. **Acts 2.38** - repent
- m. **Matt 18.6** - better if a millstone were placed around neck
- n. **Psm 119.128** - hates every false way
- o. **Acts 20.29** - grievous wolves not sparing the flock
- p. **2 Thess 2.3** - must be a falling away first

3. God will oppose and destroy

- a. **2 Chron 18.19** - who shall entice Ahab
- b. **Josh 24.20** - will turn and do you hurt after that he has done you good
- c. **Rev 2.5** - candlestick to be taken away - no longer recognized (Ephesus)
- d. **Matt 15.13** - every plant that Father hath not planted rooted up
- e. **Jude 3** - earnestly contend for the faith
- f. **2 John 10** - reject those who do not come with this doctrine
- g. **2 Chron 18.20-21** - lying spirit to be in the mouths of the prophets of Ahab

4. Compromise & confusion

- a. **James 1.8** - double minded man unstable
- b. **2 Pet 2.15** - Balaam was willing to curse the people of God for a price
- c. **Num 31.8** - Balaam destroyed for what he had done
- d. **2 Tim 4.3** - those who would heap to themselves teachers having itching ears
- e. **2 Thess 2.11** - send strong delusions on those who did not receive love of the truth
- f. **1 Cor 5.6** - leaven leaveneth the whole lump - small amount of error
- g. **James 2.10** - offend in one point is guilty of all
- h. **John 14.15** - if ye love me keep my commandments

4/16/06 a.m.

Ahab & The Lying Spirit **2 Chronicles 18.18-21**

2. Why

1 Kng 12.26-27 - And Jeroboam said in his heart, Now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: 27: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.

1 Kings 12.28-29 - Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 29: And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan.

1 Kings 12.31 - And he made an house of high places, and made priests of the lowest of the people, which were not of the sons of Levi.

Ex 20.3 - Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Jas 3.1 - My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

1 Pet 4.11 - If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;

John 12.49 - For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

1 Kings 16.31 - And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

Kings 16.32 - And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

1 Kings 18.4 - For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

Ezek 18.23 - Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?

Acts 2.38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Matt 18.6 - But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better

4/16/06 a.m.

Ahab & The Lying Spirit

2 Chronicles 18.18-21

for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Psm 119.128 - Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

Acts 20.29 - For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

2 Thess 2.3 - Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

3. God will oppose and destroy

2 Chron 18.19 - And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner.

Josh 24.20 - If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

Rev 2.5 - Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Matt 15.13 - But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

Jude 3 - Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

2 John 10 - If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

2 Chron 18.20-21 - Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? 21: And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so.

4. Compromise & confusion

4/16/06 a.m.

Ahab & The Lying Spirit
2 Chronicles 18.18-21

James 1.8 - A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

2 Pet 2.15 - Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

Num 31.8 - And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

2 Tim 4.3 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2 Thess 2.11 - And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

1 Cor 5.6 - Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

James 2.10 - For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

John 14.15 - if ye love me keep my commandments

4/16/06 a.m.

As we look at the event that occurred in the life of Ahab we can see that there is much to be learned from the attitude that God shows us. This is an unusual event in that we are given a behind the scenes look if you will at how God can and will work against those who are evil in his sight. As we view this there are several points that come to mind that will help us to understand just what is happening.

First of all we have to ask our selves why God would **seek the destruction of Ahab** and his reign. We have to remember that although they have drifted into idolatry, this is a kingdom of God's people. We find that the path away from God began many years earlier as Jereboam sought to **alter the worship of God out of fear**. To this end he established **idols in two locations** (Dan and Beersheba) and then chose **men of the lowliest sorts to be priests**. This in turn was **acceptable to the people** since they no longer had to go to Jerusalem to worship. This was a violation of the law of God - **the very first commandment was that they were to have no other Gods before them** and this was a powerful statement in rejecting God. This only worsened as the years went by so that more evil was introduced into the kingdom over time. Kings were leaders and as such had a very great influence over the mind and direction of the people. James tells us today that if we are to be in that type of position - one which would influence the spiritual direction of others that we are to be warned that there is **a greater condemnation** for those who will do this. (**Jas 3.1**). Peter warns that if we speak we are to **speak as the oracles of God** and not of our own will. **Even Christ did this** by speaking those things which God had given to him and nothing more or less. Christ of course is our example of what we are to be and what we are to do. So we find that Ahab, following this idolatrous thinking only made matters worse in that he continued to lead the people away from God. One of the ways that he did this was to marry **Jezebel, the daughter of the king of Tyre**. This was in violation of the fact that had warned about taking **wives of the inhabitants of the land** as this would influence them and their actions. Jezebel had introduced the **worship of baal** into the land and had **killed many of the prophets** who served the Lord. Ezekiel tells us that **God does not desire the death of the wicked** but that he desires that those who are evil should repent. This is the same message that was taught on the day of Pentecost as **Peter told those people there to repent** of the sins that they had committed against God and to submit to his authority and not the ideas that they held to. We find that influence of Ahab had been such that he had corrupted an entire nation. Christ acknowledged that there would be those who would cause others to stumble but stated that it would have been better for that person if a **millstone were tied around their neck and they were thrown into the sea**. That is an extreme remark but it is one that tells us what **God's attitude is toward falsehood** and those who would promote it. Today false doctrine abounds in the world and sometimes that falsehood takes root even among God's people. Paul warned about this in his address to the Ephesian elders stating that after he had departed there would be **grievous wolves** who would enter in, some of which would arise from among their own number and pervert the gospel. Paul later tells of **a falling away that would occur later** and this is the same situation that we have in the life of Ahab as God takes counsel against him.

Second we are warned that if we pursue a path that is opposite that which God would have us follow that he will use **His means to destroy us**. This was told to the children of Israel as Moses warned the people that God would **turn and do them hurt after he had done so many** good things for them. (). In John's vision on the isle of Patmos, Christ there warns in this vision of the fact that there are groups of his people who will have their **candlestick taken away**

if they do not repent of that which they are doing. This of course means that Christ will not recognize any thing that he has not established and those who fall away through their own error are rejected. Christ stated that there would come a time when **every plant that his Father had not planted would be rooted up**. We cannot ignore the responsibility that we have to live and teach the word of God faithfully and to fail to do this, willingly will reap the wrath of God. Jude tells us that we must **earnestly contend for the faith** that was once delivered to the Saints and the way that we do that is to continue in the word, the doctrine that has been delivered. John tells us that if there is any who will come to us and **does not have this doctrine that we are to reject that individual** - Christ will not recognize the things that these people do and neither can we. There are those who believe that we should never speak against the beliefs of others and this is becoming a prevalent thing in our society. We cannot however accept those things that God does not accept. In this particular instance Ahab was to be visited by a spirit who would become a **lying spirit in the mouths of those prophets that Ahab trusted**. The interesting thing about this is that Ahab should have known what the will of God was and should have understood the warnings that were contained in it. The same is true of us today. We must be aware of the dangers of believing in those things that God does not sanction and leads to the third point that this situation brings out.

Ahab, in his rejection of God apparently was aware of his evil and there were times when he sought out the prophets of the Lord who he hoped would tell him what to do to avert catastrophe. The problem is that Ahab did not have an honest heart in these things. This is the same thing that James warns us about. James states that we must **not be double minded**, that is we must not confuse ourselves on the issues of right and wrong simply because we do not wish to accept those things that God states. **Balaak was willing to curse the people of God** for a price although he knew full well that he should not do this. His human desire and greed got the better of his judgment and his nature, that of being one who desired to do as he pleased eventually led to **his destruction for the evil that he had done**. Today people will seek out those who will tell them what they want to hear. Paul states that in the latter days there would be those who would have **itching ears who would turn away from the gospel**. If we surround ourselves with those who teach and practice what God does not allow then we will eventually bring spiritual destruction on ourselves. Paul, speaking of this attitude, in his warnings of the falling away, or apostasy as we know it, states that God will send **strong delusions on those who do not receive the love of the truth**. If we do not love God nor respect his truth as it has been revealed then we will only find ourselves opposing God. In this way we cannot stand justified before God. The problem with Ahab was that he loved himself more than he loved God. Ahab for the most part had completely rejected God. We find that it only takes a small error to lead us astray. Paul, speaking of sin compares this to leaven in bread. He states that only a **small amount will leaven** all. In the same way even the smallest error will lead us into a state of spiritual condemnation. James states that those who **offend in one point** are guilty of all and we find that there are doctrines in the world that sometimes are very close to what God states in his word, and there are others that have drifted so far away from the truth that those who have adopted this attitude are unable to recognize it when it is presented.

The final result of all this is that we can fail to learn to love God. Christ stated that if we **love him we will keep his commandments**. The question that we need to ask is do we love God. Do we love him enough to sacrifice those ideas that we may be holding to that are not in

accordance with his will. If we love God then we will accept what he has given us and we will obey it.