

**Ladies Bible Class**  
**Jan. 12, 2023**

**Ben-Hadad Attacks Samaria**

**Read 1 Kings 20: 1-12**

1. Who are the characters in this section? What are their roles?

Read 1 Kings 22: 37 *So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried him there.*

2. What does Ben-Hadad ask of Ahab? What was Ahab's response? Why do you suppose he responded this way?

3. What was Ben-Hadad going to do in v. 6? What was Ahab's response to this demand?

4. What is the meaning of v. 11?

**Let the Fighting Begin-Ahab Defeats Ben-Hadad**

**Read v. 13-21, 22-34**

5. Who is the prophet? What was his message?

6. How would you describe the military power Ahab had? How did the battle go? Who won, how did they win?

7. Summarize what happen v. 22-34. What did the Arameans believe about their loss of the battle? How did they plan to improve their position in the next battle?

They believed that Israel's god was a god of the hills.

**Read Ps. 121: 1** *I lift up my eyes to the hills where does my help come from?*

**Ps. 15: 1** *Lord, who may dwell in sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?*

**Ps. 24: 3** *Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?*

8. What was the outcome of the battle? What did Ben-Hadad ask for? How did Ahab respond?

Henry points out that God is merciful to those who repent. Seen repeatedly in the OT with the children of Israel.

**Read 1 John 1: 9-10** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives*

**Ps. 86: 15** *But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.*

The Lord, a God is Merciful and Gracious (gives many examples of God's mercy and love for his people in the Bible.)

They fall into five expressions:

1. a God merciful and gracious
2. slow to anger,
3. abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,
4. keeping steadfast love for thousands,
5. forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin

John Piper <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-lord-a-god-merciful-and-gracious>

example of consequences of sin

Jonah

**Read Joel 2: 12-13** *Return to the LORD 12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, <sup>i</sup>“return to me with all your heart, <sup>i</sup>with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13 and <sup>k</sup>rend your hearts and not <sup>l</sup>your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, <sup>m</sup>for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; <sup>n</sup>and he relents over disaster.*

**Read Ex. 34: 6-7: 6** *The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, <sup>d</sup>“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and <sup>e</sup>gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast <sup>f</sup>love and faithfulness, 7 <sup>g</sup>keeping steadfast love for thousands, <sup>h</sup>forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but <sup>i</sup>who will by no means clear the guilty, <sup>i</sup>visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”*

## A Prophet Condemns Ahab

### Read v. 35-43

9. What are your thoughts about the “sons of the prophets and his companion”?

10. In the situation that the prophet described, what did Ahab decreed should happen to the servant who lost the prisoner?

In Matt. 25: 15 the note says that a talent was a unit of weight (about 75 lbs.) and then became of unit of coinage. 1 talent=60 minas; 1 minas=100 drachmas; 1 drachmas= 1 day’s wage (Luke 19: 13 note)

Drachma-silver coin of ancient Greece dating back to the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century, used in modern Greece, now obsolete; 1 talent=15 years’ wages about 1 million US \$ today

11. What was Ahab instructed to do with Ben Hadad? What was the consequence of not following God’s instructions? Who does God forgive and who doesn’t he forgive

12. What can we learn from this chapter for our lives?

## References

Concordia Self-Study Bible. New International Version

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-lord-a-god-merciful-and-gracious>

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/1-kings/20.html>