

June 27 Answers

- 1) Ahab's second battle with Ben-Hadad of Syria. Ahab led his troops into battle against Ben-Hadad at **God's** command (1 Kgs 20:22, 28, 42). When he arrived in the plain near Aphek, his army looked "like two little flocks of **goats**" in comparison to the Syrian forces (1 Kgs 20:27). Ahab camped there and waited for **seven** days. That was plenty of time for him to become filled with fear and doubt, yet he stayed and fought by **faith**! But like **Saul**, he refused to **fully** carry out God's command (cf. 1 Sam 15). Once again, Ahab teaches us that partial obedience is **disobedience**. Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab out of obedience to God's **law** (cf. Num 36:7-9; Naboth was likely from the tribe of Issachar while Ahab was from the tribe of Manasseh). This may have been what prompted Jezebel to use the law as a weapon against Naboth *and* his **sons** (cf. Lev 24:10-16; 2 Kgs 9:26). When Ahab heard what Jezebel had done, he **approved** of her wickedness by taking **advantage** of her actions. This teaches us that when we knowingly **allow** someone under our authority to do wrong and get away with it, we become an **accessory** after the fact to their sin (1 Kgs 21:19). God said to Elijah, "Do you see how Ahab has **humbled** himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his **son's** days I will bring disaster upon his house" (1 Kgs 21:29). Ahab was the **only** king in Israel (northern kingdom) who humbled himself before God. Don't tell me grace and mercy are not in the OT! Did God judge Ahab's sons for Ahab's sin? Ahab's sons **followed** his ungodly example, and by joining their father in hatred toward God, they brought God's judgment down on themselves (cf. Exod 20:5-6).