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YouTube Prayer Link

Turn your back on God and do what pleases you

Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered his whole army and some of the kings of the allied nations to fight against Israel. Ahab's messenger from King Ahab of Israel offered Ben-Hadad terms of peace, but Ahab rejected the request, and war broke out. The Syrians attacked the Israeli camp first, but Israel defeated them, and then on the plains. However, the king of Syria decided to reorganize his army, and the prophet of Israel prophesied to Ahab that God would hand over the Syrian army to the Israelites.

In the second battle, the Israeli army defeated the Aramaic army, and the king of Syria fled. But Syria's servants told Ben-Hadad that the gods of Israel were only the gods of the mountains and the plains, and that if they fought in the mountains, the gods of Israel would defeat them. Ben-Hadad then came again against Israel, this time in the mountains, and Israel was defeated. However, God's prophet told Ahab that he would be victorious and that he would capture Benhadad alive in battle.

Ahab led the Israeli army to fight the Syrians again, eventually defeating them and capturing Ben-Hadad alive. Ahab then made a pact with Ben-Hadad to spare his life, and Ahab was gracious to him twice, but he did not know his sin, and did not know that Ben-Hadad king of Syria was destined to be killed, but called him his brother, and made a covenant with him and let him go. Therefore God sent a prophet to Ahab, "This is what the LORD says: Because thou hast let away those whom I am destined to destroy, thy life shall be in his place, and thy people shall be in the place of his people. 』

Doing what pleases oneself behind God's back is a betrayal of faith and morality. When a person chooses to pursue personal desires and ignore God's will, they tend to go down an unorthodox path, which can lead to inner emptiness and confusion.

First, doing what pleases oneself behind God's back means betraying one's own faith. Christianity teaches people to follow God's ways guided by love and truth. When a person chooses to pursue his own selfish desires and goes against God's will, he often feels inner conflict and uneasiness.

Second, doing what pleases oneself behind God's back can lead to moral depravity. When a person is only concerned with pursuing personal pleasure and enjoyment, without regard for the interests and feelings of others, he tends to behave selfishly and immorally. This can include cheating, harming others, or violating the law.

Above all, doing what pleases you behind God's back can lead to inner emptiness and loneliness. For one pursues temporary, worldly pleasures rather than lasting peace and joy. This kind of behavior tends to make people feel nihilistic and lost because it has no real value and meaning.

Therefore, it is a wrong choice to do what is pleasing to you behind God's back. Instead, Christians are taught to be God-centered and follow God's ways so that they can find true meaning and purpose in their lives. By submitting to God's will, Christians can experience inner peace and joy instead of the emptiness and confusion that comes with pursuing fleeting worldly pleasures.

Therefore, when we choose to do things that God does not like behind His back, our hearts are often filled with pain and conflict. This pain comes not only from the rupture of the relationship with God, but also from the inner pain caused by the reproach of the conscience and the harm done to oneself and others. Only by returning to the bosom of God can we find true comfort and liberation.

There are many passages in the Bible that emphasize not to turn away from God's teachings. Here are some examples:

Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous, and do not be afraid, and do not fear them, for the Lord your God is with you; He will not leave you, nor forsake you. This chapter encourages people not to turn their backs on faith in God, who is always with man.

Deuteronomy 4:23: "Take heed that you do not forget the covenant that the Lord your God made with you, and make for yourselves an idol, which the Lord your God forbids you to do." This passage warns people not to forget the covenant they have made with God and not to do things that God forbids so as not to turn their backs on Him.

Deuteronomy 7:9: "You know, teach your children and your children the signs and wonders that the Lord did in Egypt on the day before your eyes the gods and wonders which the Lord did to Pharaoh and to all his land in Egypt." This chapter emphasizes passing on God's teachings to future generations so that they do not turn their backs on God.

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, not in your own understanding, but in all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths." This chapter teaches people to rely entirely on God, not on their own wisdom and power, so that they do not turn their backs on Him.

These chapters remind us to remember God's teachings and not to turn away from His will and commandments lest we go down the wrong path.

### We pray together

Lord, we humbly pray before you. We admit that we are weak and that we are easily lost. Lord, we confess that we have forsaken you, that we have turned our backs on your will, that we have pursued our own lusts and forgotten your love and mercy.

Lord, we feel remorse and guilt. We know our faults, we know our mistakes. But, Lord, we also know that you are merciful, you are forgiving, and you are loving. Forgive us for our transgressions, and accept us back into your arms.

Lord, we long to renew our relationship with you, and we long to walk with you and be with you. Give us the strength and wisdom to help us not turn away from your will or forsake your love again. May we always remember your grace and love, and always fear your name.

Lord, thank you for all that you have given us. We pray for Your blessings and guidance

In the name of Jesus Christ we ask, amen.

### 1 Kings 20

20:1 Benhadad king of Syria gathered together all his army and led thirty-two kings and came up with chariots and horses to besiege Samaria.

20:2 And he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said unto him, Thus saith Benhadad,

20:3 Thy silver and gold shall be mine, and the most beautiful of thy wives and sons and daughters shall be mine.

20:4 And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord my king, according to thy word, I and all that I have shall be thee.

20:5 Then the messenger came and said, "Thus saith Benhadad, I have sent to thee and thou shalt give me thy money and thy wife and sons and daughters."

20:6 But tomorrow about this time I will send my servants to you, and search your house, and the house of your servant, and take away all that is in your eyes, and all that is desired in your eyes.

20:7 And the king of Israel summoned the elders of the kingdom and said unto them, Behold how this man is plotting against me, and he sent unto me for my wife and my sons and my daughters and gold and silver, and I did not refrain from him.

20:8 The elders and the people said to the king, "Do not listen to him and do not allow him."

20:9 Therefore the king of Israel said to the messengers of Benhad, "You have told my lord the king, that the servants obey whatever the king once sends to his servants." but what is required this time , i cannot follow . The messenger went to reply to Benhada.

20:10 And Benhadad sent to Ahab, saying, If the dust of Samaria is enough to follow every one of my men, may the gods punish me severely.

20:11 And the king of Israel said, Thou shalt tell him, saying, Let him that put on his helmet and wear his armor as he that takes off his helmet.

20:12 When Ben-Hadad and the kings were drinking wine in the tabernacle, when they heard this, they said to his servants, "Stand in line." They formed a formation to attack the city.

20:13 And a prophet came to King Ahab of Israel and said, Yahweh thus said, Do you see this great crowd? I will give them into thy hand this day, and thou shalt know that I am Yahweh.

20:14 Ahab said, By whom? He replied, "Yahweh said that by following the young men of the governors." ahab said , who do you want to lead ? he said , I want you to take the lead yourself .

20:15 So Ahab numbered the young men who followed the governor, two hundred and thirty-two, and then numbered the Israeli-listed soldiers, seven thousand.

20:16 At noon , they went out of the city . Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings who helped him were drinking bitterly in the tabernacle.

20:17 The young men who followed the governor went out of the city first. Ben-Hadad sent for a visit, and they reported that someone had come out of Samaria.

20:18 He said that if they came out to speak peace, they would be captured alive. if they go out for war, they must be captured alive.

20:19 The young men who followed the governor went out of the city, and the soldiers followed them.

20:20 and every man shall kill every man when he sees an enemy. The Syrians fled, and the Israelites pursued them. Benhadad king of Syria fled on horseback with the horsemen.

20:21 And the king of Israel went out of the city, and smote the chariots and horses, and slew the Syrians with great might.

20:22 The prophet came to the king of Israel and said to him, "Be strong, and be careful how you may be prepared." for for by this time in the year next the king of Syria will come up against you.

20:23 And the servants of the king of Syria said unto the king of Aram, The gods of the Israelites are the gods of the mountains, and therefore they are superior to us. But in the plains we will fight against them , and we will surely prevail.

20:24 Thus shall the king do so, and turn away the kings, and send the captains of the army in their place.

20:25 and according to the number of soldiers lost by the king , we will recruit another army , horses and horses , and chariots , and we will win the battle against them in the plains . And the king listened to the words of his servants, and walked.

20:26 The following year, Benhada ordered the Aramans to go to Aphrodes to fight the Israelis.

20:27 The Israelites also gathered their troops, prepared food, and went out to meet the Aramans, and set camp against them, like two little flocks of goats. but the Syrians filled the land.

20:28 And a man of God came to the king of Israel and said, Yahweh thus saith, Since the people of Syria say, "I am the god of the mountains, and not the god of the plains: therefore I will deliver this great multitude into your hand, and you will know that I am Yahweh."

20:29 The Israelites and the Aramans camped relative to each other for seven days, and by the seventh day the two armies were fighting. On that day the Israelites slew a hundred thousand Syrians with foot soldiers.

20:30 The rest fled to the city of Apheria. The walls collapsed, crushing the remaining 27,000 men. Benhadad also fled into the city and hid in a very tight house.

20:31 And his servants said unto him, We have heard that the kings of Israel were merciful kings, and now we might as well gird our loins with sackcloth around our loins, and tie our heads with cords, and go out to surrender to the king of Israel, or he may keep the king's life.

20:32 So they girded sackcloth around their loins, and put cords on their heads, and went to the king of Israel, and said, Then Hadah the king's servant said, Spare my life. Ahab said, Is he still alive? He is my brother .

20:33 And when they were attentive to his breath, they hurried to his words, and said that Benhada was the brother of the king. And the king said, Go and ask him. Benhadad went out to the king, and the king asked him to get into the chariot.

20:34 And Benhadad said unto the king, I will return the cities which my father hath taken from thy father. You can set up a market in Damsea, as my father did in Samaria. And Ahab said, I made a covenant thus with thee, and let thee go, and made a covenant with him, and let him go.

20:35 One of the disciples of the prophet said to his companion at the command of Jehovah, "Strike me." The man would not hit him .

20:36 And he said unto the man, Thou wilt not listen to the words of Yahweh, and if thou shalt leave me, a lion will bite thee to death. As soon as the man left him, he met the lion and killed him.

20:37 Then the disciples of the prophet met a man and said to him, "Beat me." And the man smote him, and wounded him.

20:38 So he went, blindfolded himself with a turban, changed his face, and waited for the king by the wayside.

20:39 And when the king passed by, he cried unto the king, saying, While the servant was in the array, a man was brought with him, and said unto me, Watch over this man, and if thou lose him, thy life shall take his place. Otherwise, you will hand over a piece of silver.

20:40 The servant was in the midst of the chaos , and the man was not seen . And the king of Israel said unto him, Thou hast made thyself determined, and thou shalt judge thee in the same way.

20:41 He hurriedly removed his hood, and the Israelite kings recognized him as a prophet.

20:42 And he said unto the king, Thus saith Yahweh, Because thou hast let go of the man whom I am destined to destroy, thy life shall be his life, and thy people shall be his people.

20:43 So the king of Israel returned to Samaria sullenly and entered his palace.

The main content of Kings 20 is as follows:

Ben-Hadad king of Syria gathered his whole army and some of the kings of the allied nations to fight against Israel. Ahab's messenger to King Ahab of Israel offered Ben-Hadad terms of peace, but Ben-Hadad demanded the total exploitation of Israel, which Ahab refused, and war broke out. The Syrians attacked the Israeli camp first, but Israel defeated them, and then on the plains. However, the king of Syria decided to reorganize his army, and the prophet of Israel prophesied to Ahab that God would hand over the Syrian army to the Israelites.

In the second battle, the Israeli army defeated the Aramaic army, and the king of Syria fled. But Syria's servants told Ben-Hadad that the gods of Israel were only the gods of the mountains and the plains, and that if they fought in the mountains, the gods of Israel would defeat them. Ben-Hadad then came again against Israel, this time in the mountains, and Israel was defeated. However, God's prophet told Ahab that he would be victorious and that he would capture Benhadad alive in battle.

Ahab led the Israeli army to fight the Syrians again, eventually defeating them and capturing Ben-Hadad alive. Ahab then made a deal with Ben-Hadad to spare his life, and the king of Syria

promised not to attack Israel again. But God's prophet warned Ahab that if he did not kill Ben-Hadad as God had commanded, evil would befall him and the Israelites.

Some important verses from 1 Kings 20:

20.1-11: Ben-Hadad king of Syria comes with a large army against Israel, but is defeated by Ahab, king of Israel, and his army. Ben-Hadad interceded with Ahab and was allowed to remain on his throne.

20.12-21: Ben-Hadad's servants advised him to resume the war, but the prophet of Israel told Ahab that God would give them victory. After several fierce battles between the two armies, Israel eventually won.

20.22-30: God's prophet again prophesied that Syria would attack Israel, but Israel would win again. However, Ahab chose to reconcile with Ben-Hadad and sign a treaty for which God rebuked Ahab's actions and instructed Elisha to anoint Hazael as king of Syria, which would be the punishment for Israel.

20.31-43: Hazael becomes the new king of Syria and continues to invade Israel's territory until Elisha prophesied his end. In one battle, King Jehoram of Israel was mortally wounded, but his younger brother Jehoshaphat became the new King of Israel.

This chapter shows the war between Israel and Syria and how God intervened in it. God gave victory to Israel, but Ahab chose reconciliation, much to God's displeasure. The anointing of Elisha, God's prophet, also became a punishment for God's distrust of the kings of Israel. This chapter reaffirms God's sovereignty and his control over human history.

First Kings 20 recounts the war between King Ahab of Israel and Ben-Hadad king of Syria and the prophet's prophecy of God's victory to Ahab. In this chapter, God assures Ahab of victory through the prophet and fulfills this prophecy that the Israelite army is victorious in the war. Here are the main ideas of this chapter and what you can learn from reading it:

Central:

The central idea of this chapter is to describe the war between King Ahab of Israel and Ben-Hadad King of Syria, emphasizing the prophecy of God's victory proclaimed to Ahab through the prophets and the fulfillment of this prophecy.

After reading it, you will get:

**God's Promise and Victory:** In this chapter, God proclaimed a prophecy of victory to Ahab through the prophet, ensuring that the Israelite army would be victorious in the war. This reminds us that God's promises are credible and that He will fulfill His promises of victory when He promises us victory.

**The Role of the Prophet:** The prophet in this chapter plays a very important role in communicating God's will and promises to Ahab. Prophets are God's spokesmen, and their Word is God's Word and should be valued and obeyed.

**Faith and obedience:** After learning of God's prophecy of victory, Ahab prepared for war as instructed by the prophet and won the victory with God's help. This tells us that faith and obedience are the keys to God's blessing and help.

**God's Sovereignty:** This chapter shows God's sovereignty and authority over all things and giving victory to Israel's armies in war. This reminds us to trust that God is all-powerful and that we can trust in God's help no matter what difficulties and challenges we face.

Overall, 1 Kings 20 shows the war between King Ahab of Israel and Ben-Hadad King of Syria and the prophecy of God's victory to Ahab through the prophets. This chapter reminds us that God's promises are credible, that the role of a prophet is very important, that faith and obedience are the keys to God's blessings, and that God is all-powerful and in control. We should believe in God's promises, submit to His will, rely firmly on God's help in faith, and acknowledge God as our Lord and Sovereign.