

## THE LIFE OF KING AHAB 1 Kings 16 to 22

### Historical setting

In the past two weeks John and Andy gave helpful historical background to the kings of Israel. Jeroboam as we learned last Sunday was ruling over the northern kingdom, as Israel at this time is a divided Kingdom; he became a measure of how evil a king can be in Israel. From his wickedness he set the tone of evil leadership in the northern kingdom for over a hundred year until we are introduced to Ahab, which is described with the following words:

**1Kings 16: 31** And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him.

Ahab reigned after his father in Israel from 874 BC for 22 years. Constant threat from Syria caused him to make alliance with the Phoenician king Ethbaal (with Baal) who was also a priest of Astarte. The alliance resulted in the marriage of Ahab with Jezebel. Israel will never be the same again.

### Ahab's active disobedience and rejection of God

The name Jezebel became the symbol of any spirit that seduces the people of God. **Revelation 2: 20.**

She led Ahab to forsake Yahweh and caused him to build temple to Baal Samaria. She brought 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah in Israel who were eating at her table. **1 kings 18: 19** Jezebel could be considered as what we would call today the radical islamist, who takes pleasure in killing Christians.

She did not only promote Ball and Asherah worship, so was determined to suppress the worship of God by killing the prophets. She indulged in lavish life style. The Bible says that Ahab build an ivory house. **1 Kings 22:39**

### The light shines in the darkness

In **1 Kings 18 and 19** we see the confrontation between Elijah and the royal couple. The zeal of Jezebel to promote Baal put Ahab in second rang behind her. Their idolatry caused Israel 3 years of drought and famine. Through Elijah we see that God's light shining no matter how heavy the darkness is; God displayed his glory by bringing the power of darkness down.

Briefly, it seems as if Ahab pays attention to God's word and even repented but there wasn't really a change of heart. He continues to rely on the false prophets he promoted.

## Corruption of the prophets

There was a man Naboth who had a vineyard next door to the second palace; Ahab wanted to have the vineyard for a vegetable garden. By law the Israelites should not sell family inheritance, so Naboth rightly said no to Ahab. Ahab when home weeping in his bed and he would not eat. Jezebel took the thing in her hand. She went and kill Naboth so Ahab to get his vineyard. Jezebel wears the trousers, not the king. The Bible says that he sold himself to Jezebel. [1Kings 21:25](#)

He continued to disobey God even after warning from Micaiah who prophesied his death When Ahab was going to war against Syria. He relied on the lies from his false prophets and put Micaiah the true prophet in prison. But the spirit of God was not in prison.

He was killed in the battle as he tried to disguise himself like a common soldier. Jezebel lives few more years after him but was also violently killed according to the word of God, being thrown down from the windows by her servants.

## Application

From story of Ahab and Jezebel we are reminded of a couple of facts:

The spiritual warfare and persecution in Christians life

**Spiritual warfare:** first of all, as Christians we need to be in touch with our dark side continue to please. We need to beware that as fallen human we have a potential for evil; ability to hurt people if we are not surrendered to God. [Deuteronomy 9:7](#) we should always be aware of our weakness so that we are not overcome by it.

Be aware of the spiritual force at work in the spirit world. [Ephesians 2:2](#) and depend on God to resist and combat the force of evil.

**Persecution:** We should expect persecution from those who do not fear God. We should not expect non-believers to live a life or promote biblical principles. They are not under the influence of God's spirit.

Persecution is not God's absence; if we are faithful he is with us in the persecution, even to the point of death.

Fear of evil should not stop us from being and doing good.