**DOWNFALL! Bible Study XII, Remarkable Repentance**

**Review:**

1. How did God finally appear to Elijah on Mt. Horeb (Sinai)?
2. How did Elisha react to being asked to follow Elijah?

**1 Kings 21:1-15**

Note: **21:1** Excavations at Tel **Jezreel** have unearthed a fortified acropolis from the ninth century b.c. The construction at the site is large and elaborate, with the dressed masonry typical of royal palaces of that era. The archaeologist at this site concluded that it was built by either Omri or Ahab, and that it was the auxiliary residence for the king of Israel. (from the ESV Study Bible)

Note: **21:3** **the inheritance of my fathers**. The land of Israel belonged not to the families who technically “owned” it but to God, who had brought the Israelites into the land in fulfillment of the Abrahamic promise and had, through Joshua, allocated its various parts to the tribes as their inheritance (e.g., Gen. 17:8; Lev. 25:23; Josh. 13:1–7). Individual Israelites could not sell land in perpetuity, and a complex set of laws kept land in the family and prevented its accumulation in the hands of a few (e.g., Deut. 25:5–10). Ahab’s offer is therefore evidence of his disregard for Israelite law.

1. How much of the responsibility for this event falls on Ahab, and how much on Jezebel?
2. Note that cursing God or the king were crimes punishable by stoning (Exodus 22:28 and Leviticus 24:14-16).
3. For what reasons is Jezebel’s crime particularly heinous?

**1 Kings 21:16-29**

1. What punishment does Elijah pronounce on Ahab?
2. What is the purpose of the aside in vv. 25-26?
3. Do we describe Ahab’s actions and the Lord’s response as repentance and forgiveness, or something else?

**1 Kings 22:1-9**

1. We now encounter Jehoshaphat for the first time. What kind of relationship does he seem to have with Ahab?
2. What do Jehoshaphat’s comments about a prophet of the Lord suggest about his acceptance of Ahab’s apostasy from the true faith?
3. Why do they hesitate, but ultimately agree to send for Micaiah?

**1 Kings 22:10-18**

1. What is our natural supposition about the origin of the false prophesies?
2. How are we to understand Micaiah’s initial response in v. 15?
3. Why does Ahab look so foolish in his response to Micaiah?

**1 Kings 22:19-28**

1. This is one of the more remarkable scenes in the Old Testament, similar to the opening scenes of Job. What are we to make of it?

**1 Kings 22:41-53.**

1. Ahab disguised himself in this battle to make sure he wasn’t killed according to the prophesy. But what happened (v. 34)?
2. What kind of a king was Jehoshaphat?
3. What extra information about Jehoshaphat do we find in 2 Chronicles 20:35-37?
   1. Note: This alliance is important, because during the next generation the house of David and the house of Omri will be dangerously intertwined.
4. Ahaziah reigned two years in Israel. What was his reign like?
   1. Note: Jehoshaphat’s grandson is named Ahaziah. This is just one example of the royal families intermixing.