

=KINGS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 5

Ahab

AIM: to teach my pupils the tragic story of the life of Ahab and to warn them of the consequences of sin.

POINT OF CONTACT: Since the word “Ahab” means “uncle,” start off by asking the pupils to give the names of some of their uncles. Maybe they can list their favorite uncle. Discuss uncles for a while, and then remind them that the word “Ahab” means “a father’s brother” or “uncle.”

INTRODUCTION: Ahab was a king of Israel. He was the son and successor of Omri. He began to reign about 874 B.C. in the 38th year of Asa, king of Judah (I Kings 16:29). Let us notice several things about Ahab.

- I. HE MARRIED AN IDOLATROUS WIFE. Read I Kings 16:31. (Teacher, show here how many people in the Bible were led astray because of wrong marriages. Especially is this true of men who married the wrong women. It was Delilah who led Samson astray. Solomon’s wives led him astray. The wives of Phinehas and Hophni caused their deaths. It was a woman who caused David’s downfall. Now Ahab begins his reign by marrying an idolatrous woman. How careful our young people ought to be in their choosing of dates, for from our dates we choose our mates; and we are forbidden in the Bible to marry an unsaved person. This is a very important thing to note.)
- II. HIS WIFE WAS OF A MASCULINE TEMPERAMENT. In other words, she was a lady and yet she had the disposition of a man. (Teacher, dwell a while here on the importance of boys being masculine and girls being feminine. Warn the girls against picking up too many masculine habits and traits such as hair styles, dress, habits, etc. Then warn the boys against having feminine traits. The boy should walk like a man, talk like a man, sit like a man, act like a man. Warn them against the wearing of ladies’ apparel, wearing their hair like ladies, etc. In these days of a rise of homosexuality, we certainly need to teach our girls to be feminine and our boys to be masculine. Do not pass over this point lightly.)
- III. HIS WIFE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF ETHBAAL, KING OF THE ZIDONIANS. See I Kings 16:31b. (Teacher, this is another thing we ought to emphasize. Not only was she a heathen lady, not only was she masculine, but she was of a different background than Ahab. A marriage has more chances to succeed, the more similarities and likenesses the couple has. For example, a girl from China may marry a boy from America and have a happy marriage, but the odds are against it. A girl reared in England may marry a man reared in Africa, and they may live happily ever after, but the odds are against it. The more things that a couple can have in common, the better chances they have of having a happy marriage. This is a vital part of marriage. Stress it very heavily.)
- IV. AHAB WAS HENPECKED BY HIS WIFE. She ruled over him. In all of the life of Ahab, he was overshadowed by his strong-willed wife, Jezebel. (Teacher, teach here the proper order of marriage. The man is to be head of the house—not the tyrant, but the head and the leader—and the woman is to obey and follow. You may want to turn to Ephesians 5:21-25 and teach about the proper relationship between the husband and wife. We should start teaching this in the early ages of our children so it will be ingrained and inbred by the time they get old enough to marry.)
- V. JEZEBEL WAS A BAAL WORSHIPPER AND MADE AHAB A BAAL WORSHIPPER. See I Kings 16:30-33. You will recall that Jeroboam set up the two golden calves in his reign, but he still inwardly worshipped Jehovah, believing that the calves would be helps for worship. Now Ahab, under Jezebel’s influence, gives himself completely to the worship of Baal and gives up the worship of Jehovah. Don’t you see here the gradual process of going into sin and the danger of giving in a little bit? Jeroboam had no desire to leave the worship of Jehovah, but he left the “way” to worship Jehovah; and gradually Baal worship entered in. (Teacher, show how one little social drink can lead to another, and then to becoming an alcoholic. Show how one little visit to a nightclub can lead to another, and then to adultery. Show how little petting can lead on and on and on to heavy petting and then to adultery. Show how a little bit of gambling as a child—flipping for Cokes, playing marbles for “keeps,” etc.—can lead on and

on and on to heavy gambling. There are many, many sins that can be started so easily and developed before we know it, and then we find ourselves enslaved.)

- VI. FINALLY THE ENTIRE PEOPLE ADOPTED JEZEBEL'S FAITH. Notice here the influence that we have on others. Every person has his own little scope of influence and his own little world of influence. He should be very careful that he influence his little world properly. (Teacher, note here the influence of a mother upon a child, a wife upon a husband, a husband upon a wife, an older brother upon a younger brother, an older child upon a younger child, children in older grades upon children in younger grades, our influence upon neighbors, sweethearts, friends, etc. It is very important that we watch our influence.)
- VII. THEN AHAB AND JEZEBEL TURNED UPON THE PROPHETS OF GOD. The prophets of Jehovah were sought out and slain. Only a remnant escaped, being hidden in a cave by Obadiah, a backslidden Christian. It started off just using a few little helps for worship, like a couple of golden calves. It ended by slaying the true prophets of God.
- VIII. AHAB AND JEZEBEL WERE BOTH TRAGICALLY KILLED, AND THE KINGDOM WAS LED INTO SUFFERING. This is always the case with sin. "The wages of sin is death." (Teacher, use other cases to show this in the Bible. Tell the story of Samson, David, Saul, Lot and others—how they gave a little bit towards sin, and finally they were enslaved. The wages of sin is certainly death!)