

The Kings of Israel

Ahab – 1 Kings 16:19 – 22:40



Sermon Discussion Guide

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STUDY NOTES

But Omri did evil (1 Kings 16:25). Omri was a decisive, able leader who built Israel back up into a strong nation. He desired to unite the nation and began to use pagan religion, particularly that of calf worship, to do so.

Then the fire of the Lord (1 Kings 18:36 – 38). God flashed fire from heaven for Elijah. He will also help us accomplish what he commands us to do. The proof may not be as dramatic in our lives as in Elijah's, but God will make resources available to us in creative ways to accomplish his purposes. He will give us the wisdom to raise a family, the courage to take a stand for truth, or the means to provide help for someone in need. Like Elijah, we can have faith that whatever God commands us to do, He will provide what we need to carry it through.

OPEN IT

Jim Jones attracted a large following to his Peoples Temple through sermons on tolerance, social responsibility, and community. As the church grew, however, the sermons on equality and tolerance were belied by his own increasing demands for personal loyalty and obedience. The extent of his authority meant that his eventual breakdown transformed a personal tragedy into one of the largest mass deaths in American history.

(<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/ionesto-wn-bio-jones/>)

1. Most of us are old enough to recall the horrific loss of lives in Guyana when Jones “encouraged” (forced at gunpoint) his followers to drink cyanide-laced grape punch.
 - How did Jones develop such a large following?
 - What was Jones’ ultimate goal?
2. Share about a time in your life when you were influenced by someone who was focused on their own agenda. Or, when a family member was influenced by someone.
 - What were the things that influenced you?
 - How did this impact your life?
 - What changes did you make when you realized that you were being influenced by someone/something you did not want to follow?

EXPLORE IT

3. Ahab was influenced by his father, his wife Jezebel and by the prophet Elijah.

Read 1 Kings 16:25-26.

- How did Omri influence Ahab?
- How much influence did your father have in your life?

STUDY NOTES

My enemy! (I Kings 21:20).

Ahab still refused to admit his sin against God. Instead he accused Elijah of being his enemy. When we are blinded by envy and hatred, we find it almost impossible to see our own sin.

Read I Kings 21:25.

- How did Jezebel influence Ahab?
- How does or did your spouse influence you?

Read I Kings 18: 36-39.

- How should Ahab have been influenced by Elijah?
- Should we be influenced by Pastors, church leaders and church family?

4. Ahab was influenced by God.

Read I Kings 21: 20-22 and 27-29.

- What was God's proclamation to Ahab?
- How did Ahab respond?
- How do we respond to God when He is directing us away from influencers?

APPLY IT

5. Matt wrapped up his message about Ahab with three final thoughts:
A) Warnings from Israel's history -or "get out the Prozac".

Read I Corinthians 10:1-12

- How does this passage "serve" us today?
- What message in this passage "speaks" the loudest to you?

B) How long will you waver?

Read Joshua 24:15

- What was Joshua's clear statement to the Israelites?

C) Who do you choose to serve?

Read James 1:6

- How does this scripture influence your daily walk?

6. Matt, then summed up this message with a final statement of: Examine the evidence; the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

- Explain why keeping this evidence at the forefront of our minds is so important in our daily life.