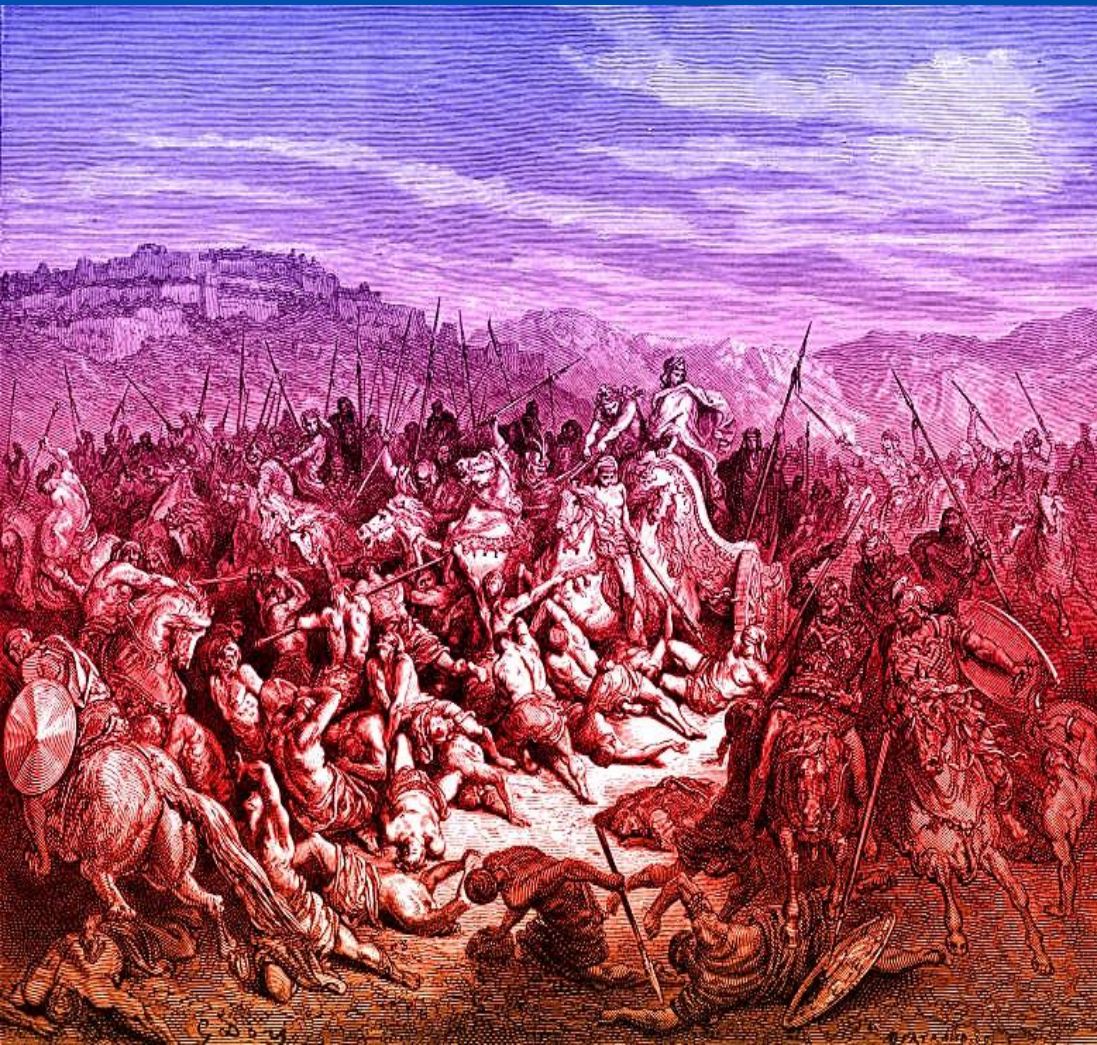


SYRIANS ATTACK ISRAEL... TWICE



- Ben-Hadad wanted to humiliate Israel
- King ***Achav*** immediately agreed to Ben-Hadad's demands
- After accepting, Ben-Hadad upped his demands and ***Achav*** refused
- Israel's 7000 man army defeated the huge Syrian army
- God's intervention was so that Achav "***will know that I am Yehoveh***"

BEN-HADAD IS DEFEATED AND CAPTURED



- Syrian army returns with 100,000 soldier
- The Lord intervenes and defeats Aram
- 1st Kings 20:28
- The Lord does this to display His glory, AND, to show *Achav* that Yehoveh is Israel's ONLY God

BLINDED BY EVIL

- Alfred Edersheim: “ *It could scarcely have been due to weakness....*”
- C. F. Keil: “ *....it was not an act of true clemency....*”
- Ben-Hadad’s release was because *Achav* was sold out to evil
- What seems like light, is darkness
- What seems like wisdom, is folly



KING ACHAV IS LIKE KING SAUL



- 1st Sam.15
- King Saul did what YHWH said to a degree, but then did what was right in his own eyes
- He let Agag king of Amalek live
- 1Kings 20:42 “....*you will pay with your life...*”
- King Achav let Ben Hadad live

SPOILS OF WAR: THE LAWS OF *HEREM*



- The situation with both King *Achav* and King *Sha'ul* concerned Holy War
- Holy War operates under the Torah Laws of *Herem*
- Since God is the victor in a Holy War, to Him goes the spoils of war
- A spiritual God in Heaven receives physical spoils of war as He does a sacrificial offering....by destroying it with fire
- To NOT give God His spoils is to misappropriate His holy property

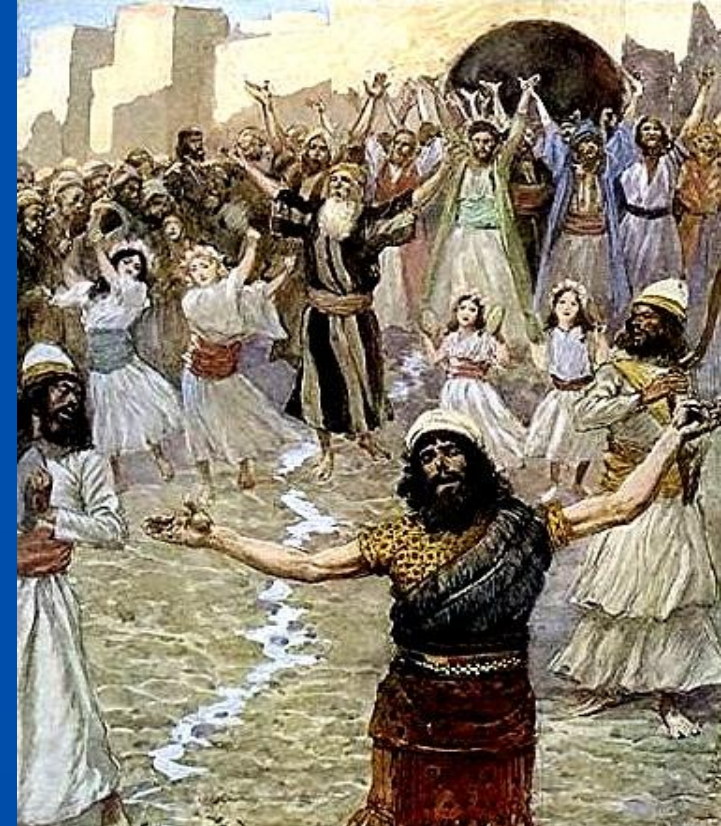
ACHAV CHOSE MERCY GOD DEMANDED DESTRUCTION

- When God leads a Holy War and turns over the enemy, the purpose is not for kindness but for justice
- We often rely on our own personal sense of fairness and preference and then assign godliness to it !
- God says murderers are to be executed, not jailed
- God says Israel is to destroy aggressive enemies who invade, not house them or release them



PROPHET ILLUSTRATES GOD'S MESSAGE TO ACHAV

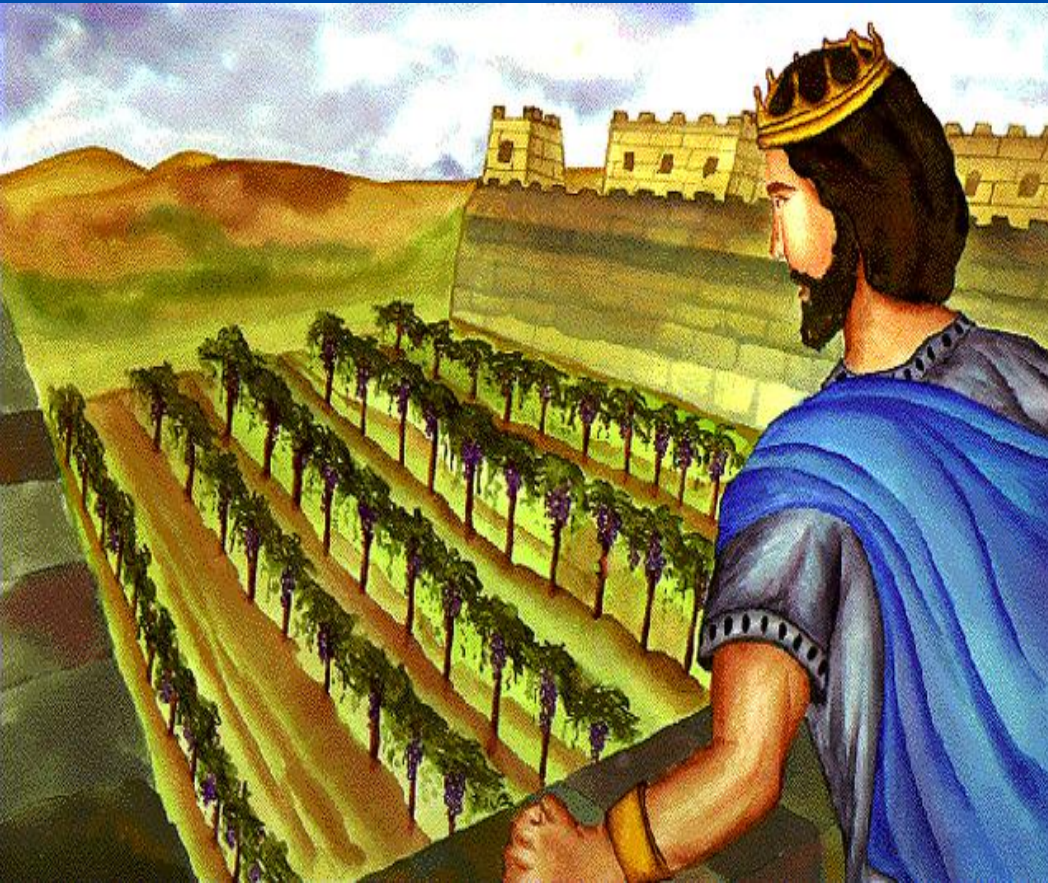
- *Bene Navim* = sons of prophets
prophet colonies
- Prophet orders a fellow prophet
to strike him
- 1st one refuses and is killed by a
lion for disobedience to God
- The other strikes him hard!
- Prophet bandages his head and
waits for *Achav* to pass by
- Tells *Achav* that because he let
go of the man he was supposed
to destroy, his own life is now
forfeit in his place



THE REASON FOR GOD'S JUDGEMENT ON ACHAV IS BECAUSE OF THE LAWS OF *HEREM*

- 1Kings 20:42 “*Because you have let escape the man I had given over to be destroyed*”
- “*....the man I had given over to herem (the ban)....*”
- God's justice never waivers
- To “love our enemies” is a command to love our *personal* enemies, NOT to love *God's* enemies
- But we should always consider God's enemies as our enemies
- Instead of repenting at this message, the King pouts

1ST KINGS 21: NAVOT'S VINEYARD



- **Achav** and Jezebel's favorite place was in Jezreel, not Samaria
- **Achav** decides he wants a garden where **Navot's** vineyard is planted
- Reminds us of David and Bathsheba
- **Achav** offers to buy the land and **Navot** strongly refuses

THE POUTING KING

- **Achav** is weak and double minded
- Jezebel is incredulous that **Achav** is behaving this way and says that she'll handle the matter
- The solution: make **Navot** and enemy of the state and execute him



NAVOT IS FALSELY ACCUSED



- 2 worthless men accuse **Navot** of blaspheming the Lord and the king
- Lev. 24:15, 16
- The Law requires 2 witnesses for a capital crime
- City officials and elders present to immediately convict
- **Navot** is stoned to death