

God of the Valley

March 20, 2005

I King 20:26-28

1. Even though Ahab was a wicked king, God has wise and holy ends in suffering wicked men to prosper:

- The prophet was sent to warn Ahab to prepare for a revenge attack by his enemy
- Ahab was told to strengthen himself
- We too should expect attacks from our spiritual enemies

2. Ben-hadad, the enemy, was also trying to prepare for the battle, but was ignorant about Israel's God:

- He was advised to change the location of the next battle
- He gave the credit to Israel's first victory to her gods – gods of the hills
- He thought he was many gods – whereas He is one GOD
- He thought GOD was Israel's god only – a local deity peculiar to that nation only – whereas He is the Creator and ruler of the universe
- He was advised to change his officers by replacing the Kings with real warriors

3. The two armies meet in the valley:

- It was obvious that Israel is outnumbered
- Israel looked like two little flocks of goats
- The Syrians filled the country sides with chariots, horses and carriages

4. Ahab is encourage by the prophet to fight in spite of how it looks:

- The wicked are reserved (saved) to the day of judgment
- Because the Syrians thought God was limited to fighting in the hills, the Lord delivered them into Israel's hands again to prove "that I am the Lord", no matter where you are.

5. No matter where we are our God is still there to deliver and help us – He is God of the valley also:

- ◆ *Psalm 139:7-12* - "Where shall I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from thou presence? If I ascend into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thou hand lead me. Even darkness can not hide me from you."
- ◆ *Psalm 34:4* - "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears"
- ◆ *Psalm 34:19* - "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all."
- ◆ He even rose from the grave and conquered death, hell and the grave – there is no place that he is not God and victorious
- ◆ *Song of Solomon 2:1-2* - "I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters."
- ◆ Therefore there is no place we can be that we too cannot be victorious.