

**Ahab: What It Takes To Be Wicked**

**Lesson 9**

*“But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.” 1 Kings 21:25*

**Ahab, Jezebel, and Baal: Wicked People Have Bad Influences (1 Kings 16:29-34)**

**Ahab’s wicked lineage (1 Kings 16:25-28)**

**Ahab’s wicked wife (1 Kings 16:31-33)**

* **Jezebel’s influence (1 Kings 21:25)**
* **Jezebel’s religion** – Jezebel worshipped the Canaanite gods of Baal and Asherah and promoted them to the official religion in Israel.

Ahab’s influences set him up for failure from the start, although he is entirely responsible for the sinful choices he made.

**Ahab and Elijah at Mt. Carmel: Wicked People Ignore God’s Working (1 Kings 18-19)**

**The face-off (1 Kings 18:17-37)**

**The victory (1 Kings 18:38-46)**

**The coward (1 Kings 19:1-3)**

Despite all God had done, Ahab didn’t have the backbone to stand up to his sinful wife and defend Elijah.

**Ahab vs. Ben-Hadad King of Syria, Round 1: Wicked People Proudly Take Credit for God’s Work (1 Kings 20)**

**God brings the victory (1 Kings 20:1-34)**

**Ahab takes the credit (1 Kings 20:35-43)**

God won the victory and gave Ahab Ben-Hadad as the enemy of his people. Rather than consulting God, Ahab used his own wisdom and let Ben-Hadad go. God is upset by this and later uses Ben-Hadad to end Ahab’s life.

**Ahab and Jezebel murder Naboth: Wicked People Selfishly Abuse Others (1 Kings 21)**

**Naboth’s refusal (21:1-4)**

**Jezebel’s scheme (21:5-16)**

**God’s rebuke (21:17-24)**

**Ahab’s repentance (21:25-29)**

It is after the murder/theft of Naboth that God finally tells this wicked king that he will end his dynasty. God takes the abuse of others very seriously.

**Ahab vs. Ben-Hadad King of Syria, Round 2: Wicked People Only Hear What They Want (1 Kings 22)**

**A bad partnership (22:1-4)**

**A mixed message (22:5-28)**

**A tragic end (22:29-40)**

Ahab and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, seek God’s counsel about whether or not to attack Syria. Rather than listening to the true prophet, they listen for the message they want and are defeated.