



Heroes & Villains Series, No. 34: Ahab, I Kings 16-22

Mike Halpin ~ August 11, 2019

Intro & Review: Rob Bell's 2012 book, Love Wins

Josh Harris, 2019 defection from Christian faith

What leads any of us away from God and truth?

Heroes	Abel	Abraham	Moses	Solomon
	??	2,000BC	1446	970
				875BC

Villains	Cain	Sodom	Pharaoh	Jeroboam	Ahab
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The main point: we all face the temptation to sell out on God, to substitute something or someone lesser for God or God's will. But substitutions where God and his will are concerned are always a fool's trade.

Text: 1Kings 16:29-34

Pew Bible # 298

I. A Light Thing—

1 Kings 16:31"... as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam ..."

God's indictment of Ahab's faithlessness starts w/ the sins of Jeroboam, the first Israelite King who established centers of idol worship in Bethel and Dan. Fifty-five years later when Ahab becomes king in Israel he starts up where Jeroboam left off. God's comment is "as if this had been a light thing".

Ahab, like every king before and after him, chose when he took the throne who his god would be. He didn't have to accept the bull idols, the fake priesthood and substitute feasts. He chose to.

- 1 Kings 20:13 & 28 "and you shall know that I am the LORD."
- 1 Kings 21:20-24, 29 Ahab repented before the LORD.
- 1Kings 21:25 "There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab..."

Ahab sold himself to do what he knew was evil. He made a conscious, unholy trade.

Am I choosing what's convenient instead of what's true; my own desires instead of God's will; what people value for what pleases God; substitutions & idols instead of the living God? _____

Do my passions, pursuits, habits and worship reflect God and his word? _____

Am I accepting what others before me have chosen because it's convenient in the moment? _____

II. Jezebel & Her gods—

1 Kings 16:31.... as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians

Vs. 32-33 Baal and Asherah

Ahab introduces the worship of the very god's their ancestors had eradicated when they conquered the Land of Promise.

1 Kings 21:26

Why would Solomon or Ahab marry foreign brides and open the door to idolatry?

They substituted faithfulness to God for the convenience of treaties w/ other nations. They sold their exclusive relationship w/ the true and living God for relationships w/ other people and their idols.

What are we tempted to substitute for faithfulness to God? _____

In what areas do we sell out God for acceptance or pleasure? _____

When do we think it convenient to substitute our will for God's? _____

III. Jericho—

1 Kings 16:34

Why do we have this notice of the re building of Jericho here?

Joshua 6:26

Under Ahab who sold himself to do evil, the people sell themselves to do evil and embrace all those beliefs, practices and forms of idolatry their ancestors under YHWH's orders had destroyed.

What sins God calls us to flee from are we entertaining? _____

What temptations to compromise do we face at school, work, home, social media? _____

Are we following Ahab in substituting/selling out for some momentary convenience or acceptance? _____

Jesus faced the same kinds of temptations we do, Luke 4:1–13 & Matthew 4:1–11

Jesus did what King David didn't, and King Solomon didn't and Jeroboam and Ahab didn't, he fully pleased the father. He was faithful in all things. And because of that he sits in heaven today, receiving the acclaim of heaven, waiting until it's time to take his bride to himself and rule over heaven and earth.

Accept no substitutes; Christ and Christ alone is worthy of our lives, our obedience, our all.