

## 1 Kings 19-20

New King James Version (NKJV)

### 1 Kings 19

#### Elijah Escapes from Jezebel

<sup>1</sup> And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup> Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." <sup>3</sup> And when he saw *that*, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs* to Judah, and left his servant there.

<sup>4</sup> But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!"

<sup>5</sup> Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel<sup>[a]</sup> touched him, and said to him, "Arise *and* eat." <sup>6</sup> Then he looked, and there by his head *was* a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup> And the angel<sup>[b]</sup> of the LORD came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise *and* eat, because the journey *is* too great for you." <sup>8</sup> So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

<sup>9</sup> And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the LORD *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>10</sup> So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

#### God's Revelation to Elijah

<sup>11</sup> Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, *but* the LORD *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the LORD *was* not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the LORD *was* not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

<sup>13</sup> So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>14</sup> And he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael *as* king over Syria. <sup>16</sup> Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi *as* king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint *as* prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup> It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and

whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. <sup>18</sup> Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

### **Elisha Follows Elijah**

<sup>19</sup> So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke *of oxen* before him, and he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. <sup>20</sup> And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah, and said, “Please let me kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow you.”

And he said to him, “Go back again, for what have I done to you?”

<sup>21</sup> So *Elisha* turned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen and slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen’s equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

## **1 Kings 20**

### **Ahab Defeats the Syrians**

<sup>1</sup> Now Ben-Hadad the king of Syria gathered all his forces together; thirty-two kings *were* with him, with horses and chariots. And he went up and besieged Samaria, and made war against it. <sup>2</sup> Then he sent messengers into the city to Ahab king of Israel, and said to him, “Thus says Ben-Hadad: <sup>3</sup> ‘Your silver and your gold *are* mine; your loveliest wives and children are mine.’”

<sup>4</sup> And the king of Israel answered and said, “My lord, O king, just as you say, I and all that I have *are* yours.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the messengers came back and said, “Thus speaks Ben-Hadad, saying, ‘Indeed I have sent to you, saying, “You shall deliver to me your silver and your gold, your wives and your children”; <sup>6</sup> but I will send my servants to you tomorrow about this time, and they shall search your house and the houses of your servants. And it shall be, *that* whatever is pleasant in your eyes, they will put *it* in their hands and take *it*.’”

<sup>7</sup> So the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, “Notice, please, and see how this *man* seeks trouble, for he sent to me for my wives, my children, my silver, and my gold; and I did not deny him.”

<sup>8</sup> And all the elders and all the people said to him, “Do not listen or consent.”

<sup>9</sup> Therefore he said to the messengers of Ben-Hadad, “Tell my lord the king, ‘All that you sent for to your servant the first time I will do, but this thing I cannot do.’”

And the messengers departed and brought back word to him.

<sup>10</sup> Then Ben-Hadad sent to him and said, “The gods do so to me, and more also, if enough dust is left of Samaria for a handful for each of the people who follow me.”

<sup>11</sup> So the king of Israel answered and said, “Tell *him*, ‘Let not the one who puts on *his armor* boast like the one who takes *it off*.’”

<sup>12</sup> And it happened when *Ben-Hadad* heard this message, as he and the kings *were* drinking at the command post, that he said to his servants, “Get ready.” And they got ready to attack the city.

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a prophet approached Ahab king of Israel, saying, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I *am* the LORD.’”

<sup>14</sup> So Ahab said, “By whom?”

And he said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘By the young leaders of the provinces.’”

Then he said, “Who will set the battle in order?”

And he answered, “You.”

<sup>15</sup> Then he mustered the young leaders of the provinces, and there were two hundred and thirty-two; and after them he mustered all the people, all the children of Israel—seven thousand.

<sup>16</sup> So they went out at noon. Meanwhile Ben-Hadad and the thirty-two kings helping him were getting drunk at the command post. <sup>17</sup> The young leaders of the provinces went out first. And Ben-Hadad sent out *a patrol*, and they told him, saying, “Men are coming out of Samaria!” <sup>18</sup> So he said, “If they have come out for peace, take them alive; and if they have come out for war, take them alive.”

<sup>19</sup> Then these young leaders of the provinces went out of the city with the army which followed them. <sup>20</sup> And each one killed his man; so the Syrians fled, and Israel pursued them; and Ben-Hadad the king of Syria escaped on a horse with the cavalry. <sup>21</sup> Then the king of Israel went out and attacked the horses and chariots, and killed the Syrians with a great slaughter.

<sup>22</sup> And the prophet came to the king of Israel and said to him, “Go, strengthen yourself; take note, and see what you should do, for in the spring of the year the king of Syria will come up against you.”

### **The Syrians Again Defeated**

<sup>23</sup> Then the servants of the king of Syria said to him, “Their gods *are* gods of the hills. Therefore they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they.” <sup>24</sup> So do this thing: Dismiss the kings, each from his position, and put captains in their places; <sup>25</sup> and you shall muster an army like the army that you have lost, horse for horse and chariot for chariot. Then we will fight against them in the plain; surely we will be stronger than they.”

And he listened to their voice and did so.

<sup>26</sup> So it was, in the spring of the year, that Ben-Hadad mustered the Syrians and went up to Aphek to fight against Israel. <sup>27</sup> And the children of Israel were mustered and given provisions, and they went against them. Now the children of Israel encamped before them like two little flocks of goats, while the Syrians filled the countryside.

<sup>28</sup> Then a man of God came and spoke to the king of Israel, and said, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Because the Syrians have said, “The LORD *is* God of the hills, but He *is* not God of the valleys,” therefore I will deliver all this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I *am* the LORD.’” <sup>29</sup> And they encamped opposite each other for seven days. So it was that on the seventh day the battle was joined; and the children of Israel killed one hundred thousand foot soldiers *of* the Syrians in one day. <sup>30</sup> But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; then a wall fell on twenty-seven thousand of the men *who were* left.

And Ben-Hadad fled and went into the city, into an inner chamber.

### **Ahab’s Treaty with Ben-Hadad**

<sup>31</sup> Then his servants said to him, “Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel *are* merciful kings. Please, let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will spare your life.” <sup>32</sup> So they wore sackcloth

around their waists and *put* ropes around their heads, and came to the king of Israel and said, "Your servant Ben-Hadad says, 'Please let me live.'"

And he said, "*Is* he still alive? He *is* my brother."

<sup>33</sup> Now the men were watching closely to see whether *any sign of mercy would come* from him; and they quickly grasped *at this word* and said, "Your brother Ben-Hadad."

So he said, "Go, bring him." Then Ben-Hadad came out to him; and he had him come up into the chariot.

<sup>34</sup> So *Ben-Hadad* said to him, "The cities which my father took from your father I will restore; and you may set up marketplaces for yourself in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria."

Then *Ahab said*, "I will send you away with this treaty." So he made a treaty with him and sent him away.

### **Ahab Condemned**

<sup>35</sup> Now a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his neighbor by the word of the LORD, "Strike me, please." And the man refused to strike him. <sup>36</sup> Then he said to him, "Because you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, surely, as soon as you depart from me, a lion shall kill you." And as soon as he left him, a lion found him and killed him.

<sup>37</sup> And he found another man, and said, "Strike me, please." So the man struck him, inflicting a wound. <sup>38</sup> Then the prophet departed and waited for the king by the road, and disguised himself with a bandage over his eyes. <sup>39</sup> Now as the king passed by, he cried out to the king and said, "Your servant went out into the midst of the battle; and there, a man came over and brought a man to me, and said, 'Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.' <sup>40</sup> While your servant was busy here and there, he was gone."

Then the king of Israel said to him, "So *shall* your judgment *be*; you yourself have decided *it*."

<sup>41</sup> And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. <sup>42</sup> Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have let slip out of *your* hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'"

<sup>43</sup> So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and displeased, and came to Samaria.

## **Luke 23:1-25**

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### **Luke 23**

#### **Jesus Handed Over to Pontius Pilate**

<sup>1</sup> Then the whole multitude of them arose and led Him to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this *fellow* perverting the<sup>[a]</sup> nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

<sup>3</sup> Then Pilate asked Him, saying, “Are You the King of the Jews?”

He answered him and said, “*It is as you say.*”

<sup>4</sup> So Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no fault in this Man.”

<sup>5</sup> But they were the more fierce, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee to this place.”

### **Jesus Faces Herod**

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard of Galilee,<sup>[b]</sup> he asked if the Man were a Galilean. <sup>7</sup> And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long *time* to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. <sup>9</sup> Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing. <sup>10</sup> And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. <sup>11</sup> Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked *Him*, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

### **Taking the Place of Barabbas**

<sup>13</sup> Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, <sup>14</sup> said to them, “You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined *Him* in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; <sup>15</sup> no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him;<sup>[c]</sup> and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore chastise Him and release *Him*” <sup>17</sup> (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast).<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>18</sup> And they all cried out at once, saying, “Away with this *Man*, and release to us Barabbas”— <sup>19</sup> who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.

<sup>20</sup> Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. <sup>21</sup> But they shouted, saying, “Crucify *Him*, crucify Him!”

<sup>22</sup> Then he said to them the third time, “Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let *Him* go.”

<sup>23</sup> But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>24</sup> So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. <sup>25</sup> And he released to them<sup>[f]</sup> the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will.