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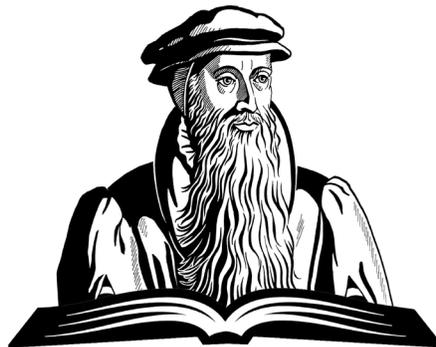
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 72:

Ahab's Reign and Death

Lecture Presenter: Mr. Daniel Van Brugge



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

77 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

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| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
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| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
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| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
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| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
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| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
- 72. Ahab's Reign and Death**
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah

Lesson 72

Ahab's Reign and Death

The First Book of the Kings, chapters 19 thru 22,
and the Second Book of Chronicles, chapters 18 thru 21

Memory Verse

“And Naboth said to Ahab, the Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.”

1 Kings 21:3

Historical Summary

King Ahab's wife Jezebel became very angry when she heard that the prophets of Baal had been slain by Elijah. In revenge, she vowed to kill Elijah. So Elijah had to flee into the wilderness. Discouraged, he sat down under a juniper tree, and even wished to die. But the Lord encouraged him, and there again the Lord came to encourage him that there were others in Israel who would not worship Baal. God promised to be with him, and to defeat his enemies. God also commanded him to anoint Elisha to be his successor.



Benhadad of Syria secured the assistance of 32 kings to help him attack Israel. He demanded that Ahab give him gold, silver, wives, children, and whatever he found in Israel that he wanted to have. Greatly discouraged, Ahab asked advice of all the elders in the land, who told him to fight against Benhadad. In God's Providence, the armies of Israel defeated Benhadad twice in very remarkable ways.

When Benhadad was defeated, he asked Ahab to let him live. Although Ahab should have destroyed this enemy of God, he disobeyed God and let him live. Because of his disobedience, a prophet came to Ahab to tell him that he would lose his own life for letting Benhadad live.

Like many leaders today, Israel's kings were wealthy and powerful. They could get whatever they wanted, often in dishonest and wicked ways. A man named Naboth had a vineyard which King Ahab wanted, but Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab. So Ahab pouted like a spoiled child, and his wife Jezebel devised a wicked plan which resulted in the death of Naboth. So the vineyard became the possession of Ahab just like he wanted. But God was very displeased and brought a curse upon Ahab and Jezebel for their wickedness.

The nation of Syria, which was north of Israel, often came up to fight against them. In one battle, Syria had conquered and taken away one of Israel's cities named Ramoth Gilead. But Jehoshaphat king of Judah and Ahab king of Israel planned together to recapture that city. King Jehoshaphat was a godly man, and he insisted that they ask God's direction concerning this war. Four hundred lying prophets in Israel all approved of the war. However, one God-fearing prophet named Micaiah said that Israel would lose the battle, and that the 400 prophets were all lying. This angered Ahab and he put Micaiah in prison and he and Jehoshaphat went to war anyway. And even though he disguised himself so he would not look like a king, Ahab was killed in battle, and Israel suffered a terrible defeat, but Jehoshaphat was saved alive. So Ahab died and the dogs licked up his blood as it was washed from his chariot. So ended the reign of this wicked king.

King Jehoshaphat's friendship with wicked King Ahab produced bitter results. Later, Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram would marry Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. That connection led to Judah falling into idolatry and terrible sin. All of Jehoram's sons were killed except one, and he himself died from an awful disease.

The Gospel in the Old Testament

Sin is a very serious matter. The Lord has made us, and "In him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). We owe our entire lives to God. When we withhold that obedience and walk in a path of sin like Israel did, God will come to punish us for that sin. But the Lord is also long-suffering. He often sent his prophets to warn the kings and the people, calling them to repent of their wicked ways and live. Sadly, Ahab and Jezebel served Baal and would not turn from their sins, and so they were finally destroyed. May the Lord give to each of us repentance for our sins, and may he cause us to run for refuge to the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. He rules in righteousness, and His kingdom shall never end.

Questions

1. Which of the following did Elisha NOT anoint when he returned from the wilderness?
 - a. Hazael to be king over Syria.
 - b. Jehu to be king over Israel.
 - c. Ahab to be king over Judah.
 - d. Elisha to be prophet in his place.
2. Which of the following is not true regarding the actions of Benhadad?
 - a. He demanded that Ahab give him whatever he wanted from Israel.
 - b. He gathered a large army to war against Israel.
 - c. He begged for his life after his army lost to Israel.
 - d. He asked for the God of Israel to have mercy upon him for his sin.

3. What did Ahab do when Naboth refused to sell his vineyard?
 - a. He cried, so Jezebel arranged for Naboth to be killed for blaspheming God.
 - b. He sent Naboth on a ship and sent him to a foreign country.
 - c. He understood and agreed that Naboth was not allowed to sell the property.
 - d. He destroyed the vineyard so Naboth could not have it either.

4. Why did Ahab tell Jehoshaphat to wear his kingly robes in battle?
 - a. So it would be more likely for Jehoshaphat to die in battle than himself.
 - b. He was proud and wanted everyone to know that Jehoshaphat was on his side.
 - c. His own kingly robes had been ruined in a previous battle.
 - d. It would make the Syrians afraid when they saw the king in the war.

Essay Questions

1. Why was Elijah so discouraged after the Lord has shown so clearly that He was God, and after God had helped him destroy the worship of Baal?

2. What was the meaning of the message that the prophet brought to Ahab after the war was over?

3. What was the punishment that was placed upon Ahab and on Jezebel for their wicked plan to have Naboth killed?

4. Why did Ahab ask counsel of the 400 prophets instead of asking Michaiah? What did he do when Michaiah told him that he would lose?

5. How did the Lord show His longsuffering and patience with a guilty king and a guilty nation?

6. What should we learn from the wicked errors of the Israelites?
