

Chickens come home to roost: In the Bible

The story of five chickens.

Chicken number: Two

Ahab and the blood: Part one: 1 Kings 16-22

This is one dandy chicken. Chickens do come home to roost, and for Ahab and his whole family that is true. This story of the kingdom of Ahab is huge. There is more going on in this story than the LA freeway. We have a little prophesy that came to the Kingdom of Baasha in 1 kings 16. This King did evil in the sight of the Lord. The Prophet said that anyone in his city after him would die and be eaten by dogs. Now to be fair this was a common saying used before. I bet it meant death to those who lost their kingdom. It's a saying but it's also prophetic truth as we shall see. Chickens love this stuff.

The point is that in the kingdom of Israel there was a lot of change. Kings reigned and kings died. So many of them did evil in the sight of the Lord. I find it interesting that Judah had the better kings. Israel eventually got crushed and Judah remained. Why is it that the country is called Israel and not Judah? I'm guessing it's because they all were Israelites. To this point in history there were still two nations Judah and Israel. In 1 kings 16, Baasha and his entire family were wiped out as the prophesy claimed. After this event, every king went from bad to worse.

It was common to crush the entire family and kingdom of the previous king. Do you really want adversaries? Ahab became king and ruled with a mighty fist. He also did a nutty thing. He married a viper named Jezebel. She was a dominant, violent, and evil woman. This queen had the ear of a slightly passive king. Although Ahab was no dummy. He did submit to the will of his wife. He also hated the Prophets because they always told him bad news. Ahab's wife

on the other hand wanted them all dead. This caused several prophets to be bold in the name of the Lord, but also to flee for safety.

During this time, we have the ministry of Elijah the prophet. He is doing miracles and telling Ahab that his doom is coming. This is a big portion of the Bible for one story. So much is going on. In the end, it is God showing how he will work out the prophesy of dogs licking blood and eating the bad rulers. This might be a saying in those days, but it was also recorded as happening.

The chickens coming home to roost part is like history repeating itself. Baasha was told his fate would end with dogs eating his family tree. That certainly happened in the chapters proceeding his death. In each case the rulers did evil in the sight of the Lord. Ahab was just another bad king. His wife was just another bad queen. Still, we see God work this mess out and a lot has to happen to pull this prophesy off. Even beyond that we have a double dose of it in the story. Well see that next week.

Ahab and the blood: Part Two

There is prophesy and there is fate. I do believe in prophesy, but we cause our own fate. Are they connected? I think so. Maybe God predicts but we fulfill. Maybe God warns us and in a way tempts us to defy Prophesy. Every time we pull through because were predictable. How hard is it for God to predict the things he knows we'll do? Now, I don't mean predestination. I call it knowing our stupid hearts. It's like this. A dog can lick himself. I suppose he has a choice not to, but in the end, they do because their dogs. We tend to sin because were sinners. That just might be fate in a nut shell.

Jehoshaphat is King of Judah. They had much better kings than Israel. A bad blood line goes along way. A bad marriage to an evil queen helps too. There are two incidents I'd like to cover. The first is this union between Ahab and Jehoshaphat. The two of them decided to work together to destroy the Armenians who help Jewish cities. Jehoshaphat asked a sensible question if Ahab had inquired of the Lord. He said yes, but he did not ask Micaiah the Prophet. Ahab said he never says anything nice to me. Jehoshaphat said bring him in anyways because I use him all the time. Ahab rolled his eyes.

Micaiah came in and indeed told Ahab rotten predictions of his death. The king then put the prophet in prison until the battle was over. Chickens are coming home to roost. Ahab went out into the battle field and decided to take matters in his own hand. This is a strange part because why did Jehoshaphat put himself in danger by switching kingly clothes? Maybe he was a better and stronger fighter and army. Anyways, Jehoshaphat drew the Armenians away from Ahab and it looked good for a bit. Then the chickens called on fate once again.

I said that God has prophesy but people are free to avoid it. I guess Ahab tried to avoid it by switching clothes. The problem is, did that change cause the prophesy to come true. As it sometimes happens the king of the Armenians noticed he was pursuing the wrong king. I think that the bad king was bad to them and they were looking to get even. A bowman accidentally shot his arrow (right). It hit the king Ahab square between the breastplate and mortally wounded him. He was pulled away from the fighting and bled to death. Ironically dogs licked his blood. It's strange that prostitutes also washed themselves in his blood. I wonder if that is a vindictive saying in those days. Massive chicken homecoming.

In 1 Kings 21 there is a story of Naboth. He unfortunately owned a vineyard right next to Ahab's estate. Ahab asked to exchange it for another piece of land elsewhere. Naboth turned him

down. Ahab went home and grumbled to his evil wife. She does not take no for an answer. Jezebel decided to create a crisis in which Naboth was accused of heresy and was subsequently stoned to death. As we find out it's God who sends the chickens home to roost. Unawares to Ahab and Jezebel the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to Ahab to prophesy that his blood would be licked up as Naboths was.

Finally we have Jezebel his wife. She had heard the prophetic claims I'm sure. It's interesting that in 2 Kings 9 that Elijah went to Jehu and told him to annihilate the house of Ahab. It's interesting that Jezebel was held up in a tower. I bet she was. The prophet told Jehu that Jezebel will be eaten by dogs. Jehu then went to exact justice on this evil queen. He brought the chickens with him. She was safe up in that tower so she thought. Jehu asked her Eunuchs to throw her down and they joyfully did. Horrifyingly, her blood splattered all over the walls. Sometime later she was gone because the dogs came and ate her. Yes, all the chickens came home to roost that day. Next week lets lick up some lessons to learn.

What we can learn from this little chicken.

This is no little chicken. If someone tells you that your choices are bad maybe you should listen. I know about doubters, but if there is smoke there is fire. I have found there is a little truth in everything. Jesus is truth. I get that. God's word has truth and I get that. The warning might be we listen so little. The real truth might be right before us. We want what we want. The truth does hurt, but it does not have to. Maybe we feel too often that people only want to restrict us. Possibly they only want us not to fall.

This portion of the Bible is a sad tale. Does Ahab have to be bad? Does his wife Jezebel? How about Elijah or Jehoshaphat? The story is that some listen and others don't. We don't have

to take all the advice were given. Mary Schmich wrote **“Be careful whose advice you buy, but be patient with those who supply it. Advice is a form of nostalgia. Dispensing it is a way of fishing the past from the disposal, wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts and recycling it for more than it's worth.”** That is true, but not looking into what others see in you is bad advice.

Ahab believed he could cheat the system. Jezebel believed she was invincible. A kingdom in those days never lasted long. Sure Ahab reigned over 20 years, but that is certainly not a life time. Enemies are gained. Adversaries are gained too. 2 Chronicles 19 gives us a little insight into Ahab and Jehoshaphat’s relationship. God was not pleased. Jehoshaphat is no angel. It says **“Jehu son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Because of this, wrath has gone out against you from the Lord.”**

We can do well like one king and think we are so smug. We can do poorly like another king and reign for over 20 years. What is evident is that we are getting away with nothing. God was working out the fate of kings behind the scenes. They never saw God talk to Jehu or Elijah. They could not predict the arrow or the dogs. Yet in a way God warned them. The lesson is never take for granted what you have been given. Why must I quote “with great power comes great responsibility.” It’s a nice cliché.

Listen to friends. Have great friends that are honest. If they are bad, then don’t hang with them. You might believe you are their light, but they may be your downfall. Wanting what others have is fine. Go get the good stuff the right way. Just don’t covet and cheat to get it. Ultimately God is in control. You can either roll with him or against him. There just might be an arrow of fate waiting for you.