

DEFEAT THROUGH DRUNKENNESS —TEMPERANCE LESSON

September 19, 1915

1 Kings 20 : 10-21. Study 1 Kings 20 : 1-21—Memory Verses, 11, 12.

Golden Text—Wine and new wine take away the understanding.—Hosea 4:11 (Rev.Ver.).

10 And Ben-ha'dad sent unto him, and said, The gods do so unto me, and more also, if the dust of Samar'ia shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me.

11 And the king of Is'rael answered and said, Tell him, Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.

12 And it came to pass, when Ben-ha'dad heard this message, as he was drinking, he and the kings in the pavilions, that he said unto his servants, Set yourselves in array. And they set themselves in array against the city.

13 And, behold, there came a prophet unto A'haz king of Is'rael, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.

14 And A'haz said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou.

15 Then he numbered the young men of the princes of the provinces, and they were two hundred and thirty two: and after them he numbered all the people, even all the children of Is'rael, being seven thousand.

16 And they went out at noon. But Ben-ha'dad was drinking himself drunk in the pavilions, he and the kings, the thirty and two kings that helped him.

17 And the young men of the princes of the provinces went out first; and Ben-ha'dad sent out, and they told him, saying, There are men come out of Samar'ia.

18 And he said, Whether they be come out for peace, take them alive; or whether they be come out for war, take them alive.

19 So these young men of the princes of the provinces came out of the city, and the army which followed them.

20 And they slew every one his man: and the Syr'ians fled; and Is'rael pursued them: and Ben-ha'dad the king of Syr'ia escaped on an horse with the horsemen.

21 And the king of Is'rael went out, and smote the horses and chariots, and slew the Syr'ians with a great slaughter.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Benhadad was king of Syria. He had come with a huge army to fight against King Ahab and his people. "Give me thy gold and thy silver. It is mine." Benhadad had sent that message to King Ahab.

King Ahab looked at the great host of soldiers outside the walls of his city of Samaria. He knew that he had very few men to fight that great army, so he sent back word that he would do as Benhadad wished.

Presently the messengers came again. "To-morrow my men shall search thy house and the houses of thy people," said Benhadad. "Everything they find that is beautiful or

costly they will take away from thee."

Ahab had been willing to give his own possessions, but when Benhadad said that he would take what belonged to the people, Ahab said, "Tell your lord the king that I will not let him do this thing."

Benhadad replied that he would fight Israel until there was nothing left of the city of Samaria but a heap of dust.

Once more Ahab answered, "Let not Benhadad be sure he has won, until after the battle."

When Benhadad heard this last message he shouted to his soldiers, "Make ready to fight!"