

The God of Everywhere

1 Kings 20:1-30

I. **THE BULLY**—Ben-Hadad, King of Syria

A. **The Numbers** (Ps 20:7 & 68:17)—the odds were *not* in Israel's favor.

1. **Size**—Israel's army was completely outnumbered. (17.5 to 1)
2. **Resources**—The Arameans had superior military equipment

B. **The Attitude** (Jer 9:23-24; Is 40:15, 22)—completely arrogant and intimidating

1. **Looking for Trouble** (vs. 5-7)—wants a fight
2. **Making Threats** (v. 10)—verbal, psychological intimidation
3. **Overconfident** (v. 12, 16)—trusting in his superior army, considers himself invincible

II. **THE VICTIM**—Ahab, King of Israel

A. **Immediately Seeks to Appease** (v. 4)—acquiesces to the demands until they get too ridiculous

B. **Secondarily Seeks Counsel** (v. 7-8)

1. **Summons the Elders**—to gain moral support for his cause.
2. **Does Not Seek the LORD**—He is a practical atheist.

C. **Finally Willing to Fight** (v. 9-11)

III. **THE RESCUE**

A. **The LORD Sends A Prophet.** (v. 13)

1. **The LORD initiates.** He intervenes for His own reasons.
2. **The prophet is not named.** (v. 13, 22, 35)
 - a. **Elijah is not the only prophet of the LORD.**
 - b. **God's authority is important, not the messenger's prowess.**
 - We must listen to the LORD regardless of the messenger.
 - Sometimes the LORD's work calls for an anonymous servant.

- B. The LORD Empowers Israel's Army.** (vs. 19-21, 29; Josh 10:8-10)
—uses their effort
- 1. God often uses what we already have.**
 - 2. God uses the weak to showcase His strength.** (1 Cor 1:27-29)
- C. The LORD Fights Independently for Israel.** (v. 30; Josh 6:20 & 10:11)—*independent of their efforts*

IV. THE POINT: A FAULTY WORLDVIEW CHALLENGED (vs. 23-25, 28)

A. To Remind His People Who He Is (vs. 13, 28)

- 1. God's people should not function like practical atheists.**
 - a. When we are intimidated and afraid, we tend to compromise in ways that are not healthy or wise.** (v. 4)
 - b. The battle is not determined by our strength or resources but by the presence of God.** (1 Sam 17:45-47; Zec 4:6)
- 2. We are supposed to call upon our God when we are in trouble.** (Ps 18:3-6, 17; 55:16-18 & 90:15)
 - a. Our response to crises reveals what we believe about God.**
 - b. God expects and invites us to cry out to Him for help.**

B. To Show His Glory to the Nations (v. 28; Ps 96:3-5)

- 1. Heathen nations had geographically limited deities.** (v. 23)
- 2. The LORD is Almighty *everywhere*.**
 - a. There is nowhere that He does not own everything.** (Ps 139:7-10; Is 66:1-2; Jer 23:23-24)
 - b. There is nothing that is too difficult for Him.** (Jer 32:17; Rom 8:38-39)

LISTEN TO: "Nothing Is Beyond You"
(written by Rich Mullins/Vocals Amy Grant—based on Psalm 139:7-12)

<https://youtu.be/v7uuZ7n9iTk>