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King Ahab and Aram (1 Kings 20)

- Unexpected happenings!
 - No Elijah but several unnamed prophets
 - Yahweh gives victory to Ahab over Aram
 - Unusual ending (another prophet-killing lion!)

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Context: "Holy War"

- Warfare directed and prosecuted by Yahweh through His people Israel
 - the execution of God's just judgment on His unrepentant, idolatrous enemies
 - *herem* – absolutely and irrevocably devoted to Yahweh for destruction ("under the ban")

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Principles:

1. The necessity of obeying God's word in every circumstance
 - beware of rationalizing disobedience out of human reasoning or preference
 - obedience to His word is always for our good

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Principles:

2. The exaltation of His name alone is God's chief purpose
 - God acts to vindicate His name as the only and true God...
 - so that we might know Him as Yahweh, the One who acts in grace and judgment

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Principles:

3. The vindication of God's name must include His just judgment
- Yahweh, the divine warrior, saves His people through the judgment of His enemies
 - Israel's covenant disobedience also demands divine judgment – *an irreconcilable tension?*

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Principles:

- Christ, the Divine-Warrior
 - by His death and resurrection Jesus triumphs over God's enemies in justice
 - in Christ enemies die under God's judgment and are raised to newness of life

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⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, ...¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (Colossians 2:9-15)

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