

Date: 28 April 2019

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: The Prophet of Fire: A Weak Leader

Scripture text: 1 Kings 20:1-12

1. The church, nation and families need strong leaders to build them up. Strong leaders are defined by spiritual criteria given to us from the Bible. For example, the criteria for spiritual elders and leaders are stated in 1 Timothy 3:1-14 and Titus 1:6-9.

2. King Ahab was a weak leader because he did not have spiritual convictions. Samaria was about to be besieged by Benhadad, king of Syria, and Ahab sold the sovereignty and inheritance of Israel to Benhadad. It was a tragic decision because Syria was an enemy of God. Ahab was a weak leader because he did not consult God in prayer and trusted in his own wisdom. In contrast, a strong leader is discerning and has the courage to obey God's Word. Church leaders must not compromise on biblical principles.

3. Ahab was a weak leader because he showed no dependence upon God. Ahab was angry and humiliated when Benhadad demanded more tribute than what was previously agreed. In consultation with his elders and the people, he went against Benhadad's request. A weak leader is one who makes decisions based on the majority's advice. The decisions of strong leaders are solely dependent upon God's Word, not man's.

4. Ahab was a weak leader when he antagonized Benhadad with his harsh words. It was due to his prideful heart. To be a strong leader, one must know the characteristics of a weak leader and pray for God's grace to lead by example, according to His Word.