

**Aim:** Choosing God**Refer:** 1 Kings 17-19; Great Controversy chapter 6

Jerome was born in Prague and also studied at the University there; later he went to Oxford University and when he returned to Prague he brought the writings of John Wycliffe. Jerome became good friends with John Huss and worked with him at the Bethlehem chapel.

The war within the church had continued; now three Popes vied for the top spot and the Emperor called a council - demanding the popes come as well as John Huss. Jerome promised Huss that if he ran into trouble, he would come to help. Before travelling, John secured the promise of safe passage; but soon after his arrival he was thrown in jail. The three Popes were removed, one thrown in the same jail, and a new Pope chosen.

When Jerome heard of John's arrested he set out to help, but soon realised he could do nothing and had needlessly put himself in danger. He was arrested on the way home and also thrown in jail.

Many pleaded for the release of Huss, especially since the Pope had been found guilty of all that Huss had accused him and more. Instead John endured a series of trials, before being condemned to burn to death. As they took his clothes from him, he reminded them of how Jesus was mocked; as they placed a paper crown with pictures of demons on his head, He blessed Jesus who had worn a crown of thorns. He finally died singing to Jesus.

The council decided they must make Jerome confess his sins and so he was chained in a dungeon cell and fed nothing but bread and water for a year so that he nearly died. When he was finally brought before the council he was so weak that he agreed to obey them and to say they were correct in condemning Huss and Wycliffe.

But back in his dungeon cell, he remember Jesus who had suffered and died for him, he realised the council would not stop until he had also rejected Christ. When he next stood in front of the council he took back his former agreement and claimed the right of a dying man to speak his defence. He prayed for God to speak through him and that is what happened; many of those listening were greatly affected by what he said. Jerome also died, singing to Jesus.

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- In our lesson last week, how did Elijah feel the day after the showdown on Mt Carmel, when God had sent fire, then Elijah had prayed for rain while King Ahab had eaten and then Elijah had ran ahead of Ahab's chariot to lead him home?
  - What did he do when Jezebel threatened to kill him? (1 Kings 19:3-4)
  - How do you think Jerome felt after being chained in a dungeon and fed nothing but bread and water for a year?
  - What did he do when he was threatened by the council? (He agreed to their demands at first)

Sometimes when people are sick or tired they do and say things they wouldn't normally do or say. The physical health of our body affects our mental health, including things like sickness, exhaustion, not enough sleep, eating the wrong foods or not eating enough of the right foods... So:

- If your friend says or does something that upsets you, something which they wouldn't normally do - don't say something back that you will regret later, give them a break – they might be sick or over tired and will feel differently later.
- Remember that if you are not well or have had a late night it will affect how you feel; be careful about saying or doing things or making decisions that you might regret later.
- Remember to look after your body during stressful times.

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Turn in your Bibles to 1 Kings 20 the Bible has some other stories about Ahab that you might not have heard before.

Ben-Hadad is the King of Aram and he brings his very large army to attack the city of Samaria where King Ahab lives.

**Read verse 5-6 to see what he demanded.**

**Read verse 13** – Through his prophet, God told Ahab what to do and Ben-Hadad fled and his army was defeated.  
**Read verse 22, 23, 28**

This time when the army was defeated, Ben-Hadad hid and sent a messenger to Ahab begging for mercy. Ahab let him go free but God sent a message to Ahab telling him he had done wrong. Although he returned home victorious, Ahab was angry.

Another incident is recorded in **1 Kings 21:1-7**

Jezebel wrote letters to the town where Naboth lived, arranging for him to be accused of cursing God and the king and then they stoned him to death.

**Read verse 17-19**

**Read 1 Kings 22:1-3** - Ahab called his prophets who told him the battle would be a success but Jehoshaphat wanted to ask a prophet of the Lord.

What did Ahab think of the prophet Micaiah? **Verse 8**

What did Micaiah say? **Verse 19-23**

The two kings decided to go ahead with the attack, but during the battle a stray arrow hit Ahab and he bled to death. Verse 38 tells us they washed his chariot out in a pool in Samaria and the dogs licked the blood just as Elijah had prophesied.

After Ahab died his son Ahaziah became the next king and he worshipped idols like his parents. Two years later he was badly injured when he fell from the upper room in the palace so he sent messengers to the temple of Baal-Zebub, one of the Philistine gods.

### **Read what happened in 2 Kings 1:5-8**

The King then sent 50 soldiers to arrest Elijah but what happened? **Read verse 10**

So the king sent another 50 and the same thing happened. So the king sent another 50 – but this captain was wise and he fell on his knees before Elijah and begged for life and the lives of his men to be spared; so Elijah went with the captain and delivered his message directly to the King. Ahaziah had no son so that was the end of Ahab's family.

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Today's lesson seems to be filled with a lot of dying – so that's what we are going to talk a bit more about.

First let's take brief look at some of the lies that Satan has spread, especially the ones that are still common today.

- Reincarnation – The idea that when you die you will be re-born again as another person or even as an animal or insect. Some people believe that good people will be reborn as something better and bad people as something worse, like an insect. Reincarnation might seem like a good idea because it makes people try to be good but it will not work.

**Read Romans 3:23-24** – The life that you live doesn't get you to heaven – it's Jesus sacrifice that does.

- The belief that once you're dead that it – there's nothing more; this lie can lead to a sense of hopelessness and also the feeling that what you do doesn't matter so you might as well do what you want to do and don't worry if you hurt other people...

### **Read Revelation 22:12**

- The belief that you go straight to heaven or that you become an angel – this is possibly the most common belief today. Back in the time of Huss and Jerome the church was teaching that when you died you waited in limbo until your family paid enough money to get you into heaven – we will learn more about that in the next couple of weeks.

How do you think you would feel if you were in heaven watching that bad stuff happening on earth? Would heaven be a happy place? (I think it would be more like torture)

Another problem with these beliefs is that since people believe those who have died are alive somewhere they will be open to being contacted by them by spirits. **Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12**

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Satan doesn't care what you believe as long as you believe a lie. So do you know what the Bible says about death?

Pick from the follow verses anything you are not sure about:

- Ecclesiastes 9:5 – the dead know nothing
- John 11:11-14 – death is like sleep to Jesus
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 – the dead will rise at the second coming
- Matthew 24:27, 30 – the second coming will be like lightening
- Revelation 20:9, 10 and Malachi 4:1 – the final destruction of Satan and his followers.