

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to 1 Kings 22

This evening, we conclude our study through 1 Kings

And as I mentioned this past Sunday – next week, we begin our study through the book of Job.

So in our study tonight –

Our text takes us to the end of the life of King Ahab – the most wicked king that the Northern Kingdom had.

And in his life, we have an example of someone who refused to acknowledge the Lord despite the Lord continuing to reach out to him and giving him victories over the enemy and extending grace to him.

Let's pray...

**[1Ki 22:1-53 NKJV] 1 Now three years passed without war between Syria and Israel. 2 Then it came to pass, in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went down to [visit] the king of Israel. 3 And the king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth in Gilead [is] ours, but we hesitate to take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?" 4 So he said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go**

with me to fight at Ramoth Gilead?" Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, **"I [am] as you [are], my people as your people, my horses as your horses."**

A little background on what us going on here –

Back in chapter 20 – the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was at war with Syria.

The Lord, through the prophet Elijah, had brought a period of drought to Israel because they had turned to the worship of Baal.

King Ben Hadad of Syria saw that the nation had been weakened by what was going on – and he decided to bring his troops against Israel –

But as we saw in chapter 20 – God gave Ahab multiple victories over the Syrians.

Again, God wanted to demonstrate to Ahab that He was the one true God – and God did this over and over again.

However, King Ahab instead of doing what was right in the sight of the Lord – he allows Ben Hadad to live, not only does he allow him to live – he makes a treaty with him. He even calls him his brother.

And we saw judgment being pronounced on King Ahab because of his disobedience.

Here in ch 22 – time has passed – three years.

There is no longer war with Syria – but Ben Hadad has not given the cities back to Israel.

Jehoshaphat comes by – and Ahab tells him – join me in making war with Syria to get our city back.

Now, Jehoshaphat is considered a good king – why would Jehoshaphat make an alliance with the wicked Ahab?

He had to – because 2 Chron 18:1 tells us that the alliance was through marriage – His son marries the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel – he becomes a wicked king of Judah.

So we have another example of the dangers of being unequally yoked.

**5 Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the LORD today."**

So even though it seems like a good idea to form an alliance with Israel and go to war with Syria – Jehoshaphat wants to make sure that it is God's will.

**"Please inquire for the word of the LORD today."**

Now – remember that Ahab – doesn't want anything to do with the LORD.

He wants to go to war because it benefits him.

**6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?" So they said, "Go up, for the Lord will deliver [it] into the hand of the**

king." 7 And Jehoshaphat said, "[Is there] not still a prophet of the **LORD** here, that we may inquire of Him?" 8 So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "[There is] still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the **LORD**; **but I hate him**, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

In the English text – whenever you have **LORD** – this tells us that the underlying Hebrew word is God's name.

Yahweh

Jehoshaphat wants to know what Yahweh thinks of this war.

Ahan turns around and tells Jehoshaphat – my 400 guys tell me that the **Lord** said it is cool – we will win.

– notice, not all capitals – this is the word Adonay – which could refer to any other gods.

And so Jehoshaphat responds with – wait a minute, there is something wrong here.

Something doesn't seem right.

Even though it looks like the right thing to do – something is off.

There is some spiritual discernment going on here with Jehoshaphat

And as believers, we have the Holy Spirit residing in us – who gives us spiritual discernment when something is not from the Lord.

He gives us the discernment to be able to tell the difference between right and wrong.

Our eyes deceive us sometimes – we may have a false sense of security about certain things – but He is able and eager to help us discern from good and bad.

From right and wrong.

From truth and lies.

Jehoshaphat knows that these 400 guys are going to tell Ahab what he wants to hear –

They are loyal to Ahab

Jehoshaphat wants to know if there is not one prophet in the land who is loyal to Yahweh???

There is..... – (pronounced mîkāyhû Me-calle-hu) Micaiah – how do we know that he is loyal to the LORD – because Ahab hates him.

And he hated him because he spoke the truth.

Same thing with Elijah

Multiple times – we see Ahab refer to Elijah as his enemy – why?

Because He spoke the truth.

**9 Then the king of Israel called an officer and said, "Bring Micaiah the son of Imlah quickly!" 10 The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, having put on [their] robes, sat each on his throne, at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. 11 Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he said, "Thus says the LORD: 'With these you shall gore the Syrians until they are destroyed.' " 12 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for the LORD will deliver [it] into the king's hand."**

So – I want you to notice.

This prophet (Zedekiah) – along with the 400 prophets that are loyal to Ahab

As they are waiting for Micaiah to be brought before them – (because remember, Micaiah's loyalty is to Yahweh)

They repeat their prophesy – to go forward and attack Syria – that God is giving them victory.

but this time they use the name Yahweh – they want to make it appear as though they are speaking on behalf of the LORD.

**13 Then the messenger who had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Please, let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement." 14 And**

**Micaiah said, "[As] the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak."**

The messenger's message to Micaiah – as they bring him before the king – "Don't rock the boat Micaiah – tell the king what he wants to hear"

"Just play along"

And we see Micaiah's response.

I am not going to compromise.

I am going to be faithful to God's word.

My loyalty is to the LORD.

Church – this should be our heart's desire.

Whatever the LORD says – I am going to speak that

I don't care how difficult it is

I don't care if it upsets somebody

My obligation is not to men – my obligation and loyalty is to the LORD

And unfortunately, we live in a generation of men pleasers.

Even from the pulpit -

And Paul warned us about this –

**[2Ti 4:3-4 NKJV] 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, [because] they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn [their] ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.**

Those are men pleasers

Those who tell you what you want to hear and not what you need to hear.

What God wants for you and me is to be God pleasers and not men pleasers

That we will stand up and say, "[As] the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak." "

**15 Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall we refrain?" And he answered him, "Go and prosper, for the LORD will deliver [it] into the hand of the king!"**

At first when we read these two verses – it seems like Micaiah is doing the opposite of what he said he was going to do –

He is telling Ahab exactly what he wants to hear.

But really what he is doing is – he is being sarcastic

And we know he is being sarcastic because of what Ahab is going to do next



It is kind of like he is saying “If this is what you want to hear Ahab – go ahead – you got it covered chief.”

And this is how we know that he is being sarcastic.

**16 So the king said to him, “How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?”**

So – looking at King Ahab’s response – we can assume that Micaiah has done this before.

Maybe it was the tone of voice that Micaiah used

Maybe Ahab knows that Micaiah has never agreed with his prophets

Ahab wants the truth – but what he is really saying is – “let the truth be what I want to hear.”

Someone comes up to me after church- “I am involved with this – is this a sin or what does God’s word have to say?”

“It’s a sin”

No, but you don’t understand my circumstances

It’s still a sin

Did they want the truth or did they want the truth to be what they wanted to hear?

And this is what Micaiah is doing – he is mocking the king in doing this.

He is making the statement – “You don’t want the truth – you want me to tell you this”

**17 Then he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace.' "**

Ok Ahab – you want the truth –

You go out to battle – which is what you have decided that you are going to do already- guess what Ahab - you are not going to make it.

Israel will lose its king

**18 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"**

I told you so -

**19 Then [Micaiah] said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. 20 "And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. 21 "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' 22 "The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I**

**will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade [him], and also prevail. Go out and do so.' 23**

**"Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you."**

Micaiah begins to share a vision that God apparently showed him of what was happening in the spirit realm in regard to this specific situation.

In the vision – God is sitting on His throne in heaven and you have angelic beings in front of Him – some on the right – some on the left.

Good angels and bad angels –

BTW – we are going to see this next week when we start Job.

Satan – remember is the accuser of the brethren.

God wanted to bring judgment against Ahab, so He asked this group of the host of heaven for a volunteer to lead Ahab into battle.

Remember – Ahab wanted to be deceived –

He wanted Micaiah to tell him what he wanted to hear –

So God gave him what he wanted – using a willful fallen angel and the willful prophets to help bring judgment upon Ahab.

Let's pause here -

One of the things we have to be careful here is to fully understand that - the difference between God using evil to accomplish His purposes, and attributing evil directly to God.

**[Jas 1:13 NKJV] 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**

Did God tell the angel to lie? No

He allowed the angel to lie in this moment to achieve His purpose.

Why does God allow evil to exist in the first place?

God allows evil for man to have a choice.

Without evil, there is no possibility of loving from a free will choice.

Without a choice, how can that be love?

He has created us with free will so that we could choose to love Him or not to love Him.

And to be able to make a choice, there has to be something to choose from. And so

God allows Satan to continue to offer a choice.

**24 Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go from me to speak to you?" 25 And Micaiah said, "Indeed, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!" 26 So the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and**

return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son; 27 "and say, 'Thus says the king: "Put this [fellow] in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I come in peace." ' " 28 But Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!"

There was only one way to know if Micaiah or Zedekiah was giving a genuine prophecy – the outcome of the battle.

So, Micaiah was thrown into prison until the end of the campaign.

If Ahab returned victorious, Micaiah would be executed as a false prophet.

Ahab is going to be defeated & Micaiah will be vindicated.

Zedekiah will be chased into an inner room & executed, probably by Ahab's son.

**29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead. 30 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. 31 Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel."**

A few weeks ago when we looked at Ch 20 –

When God gave Israel two victories over the Syrians –

The Syrians came to the conclusion that the reason Israel won was because of their leadership.

So the King of Syria tells his best guys – focus only on the king

We kill the king – battle is over.

It seems like Ahab knows of their plans and therefore he disguises himself not to look like the king – let them go after Jehoshaphat instead

And actually – that is what happened at least for a while –

But it was God's grace and mercy that kept Jehoshaphat

**32 So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it [is] the king of Israel!" Therefore they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out. 33 And it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it [was] not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.**

Turn with me to 2 Chron 18

Because I want us to fully understand what is meant by Jehoshaphat cried out.

**[2Ch 18:30-31 NKJV] 30 Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots who [were] with him, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but**

**only with the king of Israel." 31 So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "It [is] the king of Israel!" Therefore they surrounded him to attack; but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him, and God diverted them from him.**

Back to 1 Kings 22

**34 Now a [certain] man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor.**

A soldier from Syria – he didn't identify Ahab – he simply shot an arrow and it hit Ahab.

It was at random to that soldier – but it was not at random to the Lord

The Lord had appointed that moment, the place and time to bring judgment on Ahab

**So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." 35 The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot. 36 Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!"**

These are the exact words that Macaiah said would be spoken

The Word of the Lord is being fulfilled.

**37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. 38 Then [someone] washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken.**

In 1 Kings 21:19 it was foretold that dogs would lick up Ahab's blood in the same way they'd licked up Naboth's innocent blood, whom Jezebel & Ahab conspired to kill so they could steal his vineyard.

When God said the dogs would lick up Ahab's blood in the same manner as Naboth's it didn't mean the exact location – it meant in the same place; outside the city walls, in a place of indistinction & dishonor.

Remember, Naboth was taken outside the city walls to be stoned.

That's why the author says it was where the prostitutes bathed.

These women were so shunned they had to find a pool outside the city walls to take a bath.

That's where Ahab's royal blood was washed out – and dogs came to lick it up.

The height of shame & dishonor



**39 Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, the ivory house which he built and all the cities that he built, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 40 So Ahab rested with his fathers. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place. 41 Jehoshaphat the son of Asa had become king over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. 42 Jehoshaphat [was] thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name [was] Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. 43 And he walked in all the ways of his father Asa. He did not turn aside from them, doing [what was] right in the eyes of the LORD. Nevertheless the high places were not taken away, [for] the people offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places. 44 Also Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel. 45 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, the might that he showed, and how he made war, [are] they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 46 And the rest of the perverted persons, who remained in the days of his father Asa, he banished from the land.**

So we have a recap of Jehoshaphat's reign – which was mostly good –

He did make treaties with the king of Israel as I mentioned before and he didn't finish the job.

So even though he was a good king – he still fell short.

He still had nevertheless in his life – in the same way that we have episodes of nevertheless in our lives

Yet Jesus comes and He gives us such hope – in the midst of the neverthelesses

He looks at the heart

And He shows us grace.

**47 [There was] then no king in Edom, only a deputy of the king. 48 Jehoshaphat made merchant ships to go to Ophir for gold; but they never sailed, for the ships were wrecked at Ezion Geber. 49 Then Ahaziah the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships." But Jehoshaphat would not. 50 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place. 51 Ahaziah the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. 52 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; 53 for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done.**

Like father – like son

Ahaziah followed in the footsteps of his dad

Righteousness begets righteousness and unrighteousness begets unrighteousness

The things that we do impact others.

So the question tonight is – how do we choose to walk in the Lord

Because how we choose to walk will have an impact with our children and those that we love.

Even how we choose to walk as a church – will impact the community around us.

So let's choose to walk in the ways of the Lord

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.



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Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

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