

1 Kings 22:1-40 **Ahab – Micaiah – Prophecy fulfilled, Ahab died in battle**

Micaiah Warns Ahab (2 Chron 18:1-27)

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

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!"

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."

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."

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!"

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?"

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.'"

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

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."

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!"
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Ahab Died in Battle (2 Chron 18:28-34)

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."

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.

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

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.

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.

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Facts Revealed:

Micaiah Warns Ahab [1 Kings 22:1-28, 2 Chron 18:1-27]

- ✧ 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?" [1 Kings 22:1-4]
- ✧ Because Ahab had humbled himself before Yahweh, the pronouncement of judgment against him had been postponed until after his death. [1 Kings 21:20-24, 29]
- ✧ God is still looking for an occasion to end the reign of Ahab and fulfill the pronouncement against him.
- ✧ Three years passed without war between Syria and Israel before Ahab provided the occasion for his own death.
- ✧ The visit of Jehoshaphat, the righteous king of Judah, whose son Jehoram had married the daughter of Ahab [2 Chronicles 21:5-6], provided Ahab the opportunity to display his arrogance and pridefully seek war with Syria with the help of Jehoshaphat king of Judah.
- ✧ The plan was to bring Ramoth Gilead back from Syrian control to Israeli control.
- ✧ Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." 5 Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of the Lord today." [1 Kings 22:4-6]
- ✧ Ahab was king of Israel, the ten northern tribes of Israel, and Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, the two southern tribes of Israel, and Ahab's daughter was wife of the son of Jehoshaphat, therefore Jehoshaphat viewed themselves as part of the same peoples.
- ✧ Jehoshaphat agreed to go with Ahab on the condition that they inquire for the word of Yahweh before they started.
- ✧ 6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets (of Baal) 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 Adonay (the Lord) will deliver it into the hand of the king." [1 Kings 22:6]
- ✧ The prophets of Baal would not use the name of Yahweh but substituted the word Adonay which is the title of a lesser or pagan lord.
- ✧ 7 And Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of Yahweh (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 Yahweh (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!" [1 Kings 22:7-8]

- ✧ Jehoshaphat would still prefer to hear from a prophet of Yahweh the God of Israel, so he asked if there was such a man left in Israel the northern kingdom.
- ✧ Ahab acknowledged that there was such a man in his kingdom, but he did not like the things he prophesied because they were always negative concerning Ahab and his ways.
- ✧ Jehoshaphat rebuked Ahab for his attitude toward the true prophet of Yahweh.
- ✧ 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 (of Baal) prophesied before them.
- 11 Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he said, "Thus says Yahweh (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 Yahweh (the Lord) will deliver it into the king's hand." [1 Kings 22:9-12]
- ✧ Ahab grudgingly sent for Micaiah to please Jehoshaphat.
- ✧ Following the leading of Zedekiah the Israeli false prophet and realizing that Jehoshaphat desired a word from Yahweh, the prophets of Baal all spoke in the name of Yahweh to please the king.
- ✧ It is easy for false prophets to speak in the name of Yahweh to please the people and cause them to accept the lie.
- ✧ So many false prophecies begin with the words, "Thus saith The Lord" and the people believe them because they have no knowledge or discernment for the truth, if you know the truth, you can discern the lie. [Proverbs 15:21, 1 Corinthians 2:14, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12]
- ✧ 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." [1 Kings 22:13]
- ✧ Unbelievers think that the Word of God is subject to will of the one who proclaims it.
- ✧ 14 And Micaiah said, "As Yahweh (the Lord) lives, whatever Yahweh (the Lord) says to me, that I will speak." [1 Kings 22:14]
- ✧ A good declaration of a true man of God.
- ✧ 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 Yahweh (the Lord) will deliver it into the hand of the king!"
- 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?" [1 Kings 22:15-16]
- ✧ Micaiah's answer was given with intense sarcasm in keeping with the coaching of the one who called him.
- ✧ Ahab responded to the sarcasm with the words, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of Yahweh (the Lord)?"
- ✧ Apparently Micaiah had, when prompted, used similar sarcasm to Ahab in the past.
- ✧ 17 Then he (Micaiah) said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And Yahweh (the Lord) said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace.'" [1 Kings 22:17]
- ✧ The truth is briefly summarized.
- ✧ 18 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" [1 Kings 22:18]
- ✧ Ahab turned to Jehoshaphat as confirmation of his reason for his dislike of Micaiah.

✧ 19 Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of Yahweh (the Lord): I saw Yahweh (the Lord) sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. 20 And Yahweh (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 Yahweh (the Lord), and said, 'I will persuade him.' 22 Yahweh (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 He (Yahweh, the Lord) said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.'

23 Therefore look! Yahweh (the Lord) has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and Yahweh (the Lord) has declared disaster against you." [1 Kings 22:19-23]

✧ Here we learn that the purpose of Yahweh was to see Ahab killed in battle at Ramoth Gilead.

✧ Yahweh sought a volunteer from among the host of heaven to persuade Ahab to act toward his own death.

✧ A spirit being of the host of heaven offered to be a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets to persuade Ahab to go to Ramoth Gilead where he would be killed in battle.

✧ Yahweh accepted the offer and sent him on his way.

✧ There are lying spirits that can and do speak through men.

✧ This is an example to demonstrate that Yahweh does use these lying spirits to accomplish His will when people are in rebellion against the truth, and God does send very strong delusion to cause them to believe the lie. [2 Thessalonians 2:11, 2:5-12]

✧ Even then the Lord sends His prophet to speak the truth for anyone who will listen.

✧ God does nothing without first revealing it through His prophets. [Amos 3:7, Genesis 18:17, Psalm 25:14]

✧ Yahweh wants us to choose between the truth and the lie.

✧ 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?" [1 Kings 22:24]

✧ As usual, the false prophet lashed out with violence against the truth.

✧ 25 And Micaiah said, "Indeed, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!" [1 Kings 22:25]

✧ The violence of the false prophet does not change the truth, but brings judgment upon himself.

✧ 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."' [1 Kings 22:26-27]

✧ Ahab made his choice, but incarcerating the prophet does not alter the truth of his message.

✧ 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!" [1 Kings 22:28]

✧ Micaiah stood by his message and warned the people regarding the folly of the venture.

Ahab Died in Battle [1 Kings 22:29-40, 2 Chronicles 18:28-34]

✧ 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. [1 Kings 22:29-30]

✧ Ahab believed the words of Micaiah enough to attempt to alter the outcome by disguising himself as though Yahweh could not see through his deception.

✧ It was obvious that mankind cannot deceive Yahweh as evidenced by the failure of the disguised wife of Jeroboam. [1 Kings 14:1-18]

- ✧ Jehoshaphat was naïve when he failed to discern the deceptive conniving of Ahab's suggestion that put Jehoshaphat in jeopardy of his life when he went into battle in his royal robes and Ahab was in disguise.
- ✧ However, God was not deceived at all, and the battle turned out exactly as He had stated.
- ☆ 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."
- 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.
- 34 Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." [1 Kings 22:31-34]
- ✧ Ahab could disguise himself so people did not recognize him, but he could not hide from God or prevent the words of Yahweh from being fulfilled.
- ✧ Yahweh guided the arrow of the enemy to accomplish His Word.
- ☆ 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!"

- 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. [1 Kings 22:35-38]
- ✧ God's Word prevailed and His prophecy was fulfilled as He had spoken.
- ☆ 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.
- ✧ Yahweh had said, ""See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house." [1 Kings 21:28-29]
- ✧ Ahab humbled himself and gained a stay of the prophecy against him for the duration of his life, but God found a way to terminate his life so He would be free to fulfill the prophecy against the house of Ahab spoken by the prophet Elijah. [1 Kings 21:17-24]