

## 2 Chronicles 18:1-34 **Jehoshaphat & Ahab – Battle at Ramoth Gilead – Ahab Died**

### Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab (1 Kings 22:1-28)

1 Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and by marriage he allied himself with Ahab.

2 After some years he went down to visit Ahab in Samaria; and Ahab killed sheep and oxen in abundance for him and the people who were with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramoth Gilead.

3 So Ahab king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat king of Judah, "Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?"

And he answered him, "I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war."

4 Also Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire for the word of Yahweh (the Lord) today."

5 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?"

So they said, "Go up, for Elohiym (God) will deliver it into the king's hand."

6 But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not still a prophet of Yahweh (the Lord) here, that we may inquire of Him?"

7 So the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man by whom we may inquire of Yahweh (the Lord); but I hate him, because he never prophesies good concerning me, but always evil. He is Micaiah the son of Imla."

And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say such things!"

8 Then the king of Israel called one of his officers and said, "Bring Micaiah the son of Imla quickly!"

9 The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah, clothed in their robes, sat each on his throne; and they sat at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

10 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.'"

11 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."

12 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. Therefore please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."

13 And Micaiah said, "As Yahweh (the Lord) lives, whatever Elohay (my God) says, that I will speak."

14 Then he came to the king; and the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?"

And he said, "Go and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand!"

15 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 Yahweh (the Lord)?"

16 Then he 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.'"

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

18 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 on His right hand and His left.

19 And Yahweh (the Lord) said, 'Who will persuade Ahab king of Israel to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.

20 Then a spirit came forward and stood before Yahweh (the Lord), and said, 'I will persuade him.' Yahweh (the Lord) said to him, 'In what way?'

21 So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And Yahweh (the Lord) said, 'You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so.'

22 Therefore look! Yahweh (the Lord) has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these prophets of yours, and Yahweh (the Lord) has declared disaster against you."

23 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from Yahweh (the Lord) go from me to speak to you?"

24 And Micaiah said, "Indeed you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!"

25 Then the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son;

26 and say, 'Thus says the king: "Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I return in peace.'"

27 But Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, Yahweh (the Lord) has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!"

### Ahab Dies in Battle (1 Kings 22:29-40)

28 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

29 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 they went into battle.

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 Yahweh (the Lord) helped him, and Elohiym (God) diverted them from him.

32 For so it was, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

33 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."

<sup>34</sup> The battle increased that day, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Syrians until evening; and about the time of sunset he died.  
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Facts Revealed:

### Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab (1 Kings 22:1-28)

- ✧ Ahab did more evil to provoke Yahweh to wrath than any king of Israel before him. Ahab married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians and added worship of Baal to the sins of Jeroboam who caused Israel to sin. [1 Kings 16:29-33, 21:25]
- ✧ Jehoshaphat was a godly king of Judah serving Yahweh as did his fathers Asa and David. [2 Chronicles 17:1-19, 2 Kings 22:41-44]
- ✧ Jehoshaphat allied himself with Ahab king of Israel by marriage. [2 Chronicles 18:1]
- ✧ Jehoshaphat ignored the difference between a godly government and an ungodly nation considering both Israel and Judah to be the same people as the Children of Israel and was thus enticed to go to battle with Ahab against Ramoth Gilead. [2 Chronicles 18:2-3]
- ✧ That liberal stance became a problem for Jehoshaphat but still he wanted a word from Yahweh before going to war. [2 Chronicles 18:4, 1 Kings 22:1-5]
- ✧ Ahab called his 400 prophets of Baal who advised him to go to war saying Elohiym will deliver it into your hand. [2 Chronicles 18:5]
- ✧ Jehoshaphat still sought a word from Yahweh so Ahab grudgingly sent for Micaiah whom he hated because he had never spoken good about Ahab. [2 Chronicles 18:6-8]
- ✧ The messenger who brought Micaiah instructed him to agree with the prophets of Baal, so when asked, he sarcastically said go and prosper. [2 Chronicles 18:9-14]
- ✧ Ahab responded by commanding Micaiah to tell the truth when speaking in the name of Yahweh. [2 Chronicles 18:15]
- ✧ 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.'" [2 Chronicles 18:16]
- ✧ Ahab turned to Jehoshaphat and said, "Did I not tell you he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" [2 Chronicles 18:17]
- ✧ Micaiah then responded sharing the vision Yahweh had shown him,  
"I saw Yahweh (the Lord) sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left.  
And Yahweh (the Lord) said, 'Who will persuade Ahab king of Israel to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner.  
Then a spirit came forward and stood before Yahweh (the Lord), and said, 'I will persuade him.' 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 Yahweh (the Lord) said, 'You shall persuade him and also prevail; go out and do so.' [2 Chronicles 18:18-21]
- ✧ Conclusion; there are lying spirits in heavenly places, and Yahweh uses them to entice men on the earth according to His will and has declared disaster against Ahab. Satan is used for the same purpose to test men on the earth. [2 Chronicles 18:22]
- ✧ In human arrogance, Zedekiah son of Chenaanah mocked Micaiah and struck him on the cheek. [2 Chronicles 18:23]
- ✧ Micaiah said, "You will see when you go into an inner chamber to hide!" [2 Chronicles 18:24]

- ✧ This prediction indicated that the war would not turn out favorable for Ahab and Israel with him.
- ✧ Ahab commanded that Micaiah be imprisoned and have bread and water of affliction until he returns in peace trusting the prophets of Baal. [2 Chronicles 18:25-26]
- ✧ Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, Yahweh (the Lord) has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!" [2 Chronicles 18:27]
- ✧ Micaiah spoke with confidence and warned both Ahab and the people.

#### Ahab Dies in Battle (1 Kings 22:29-40)

- ✧ Ahab king of Israel and Jehoshaphat went to Ramoth Gilead and Ahab disguised himself indicating He was afraid of the message from Micaiah and sought to evade its consequence regarding himself. [2 Chronicles 18:28-29]
- ✧ The Syrians were commanded to fight with no-one but the king of Israel, the only one wearing royal garments was Jehoshaphat king of Judah so the Syrians went after him until he cried out to Yahweh, and Yahweh caused them to turn back. [2 Chronicles 18:30-32]
- ✧ A man drew his bow and shot at random, his arrow struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. [2 Chronicles 18:33]
- ✧ Yahweh can not be deceived and guided the arrow to Ahab its proper destination.
- ✧ Ahab withdrew from the battle and propped himself up in his chariot facing the battle from a distance until he died at sunset. [2 Chronicles 18:33-34]
- ✧ The purpose of Yahweh was fulfilled and Micaiah's message confirmed.