

# 1 KINGS 22: 1 – 40; GOD’S WILL BE DONE

God’s will be done, is a phrase often uttered among Christians. But I wonder, how often do we consult God’s will? We live in a culture where people do what they do. We grow up, go to school, many go to college and pursue degrees. But do we really consult God when trying to figure out what we are to do in our lives? I know I didn’t. But I also know that God reached down and grabbed me, in spite of my disregard for what He wanted me to do. In the end, things worked out for the best. He got me where He wanted me. But, if I had not gone a different direction in those early days, I would be years ahead of where I am now, regarding many aspects of my life and ministry.

Today, we will read of the final days of Ahab, King of Israel. We have been tracking him now for a few weeks. He is not a good man. Nevertheless, God has allowed him a prominent place in His plans. We have seen Ahab fail miserably. We have even seen him repent. And in response to that repentance, we have seen God give him some grace, by not allowing him to see the fall of his “house,” his dynasty.

A few weeks ago, we saw that God wanted a new king appointed over Israel. This was told to Elijah. And now, a few years later, as we read it, we will see that God will get what He wants. But that plan takes time and meanders through the lives and history of all those around Ahab.

God will move and speak through His prophets and seemingly, “random” events. But nothing is random. God is in control. Do we believe that? If so, let’s look at how Ahab’s last days play out and try not to make the same mistakes he did. Let’s look out for what God says and how He moves.

***Kings 22:1 For three years Syria and Israel continued without war. <sup>2</sup> But in the third year <sup>t</sup>Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. <sup>3</sup> And the king of Israel said to his servants, “Do you know that “Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, and we keep quiet and do not take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?” <sup>4</sup> And he said to Jehoshaphat, “Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?” And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, “I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.”***

- Three years –
- Ahab and Jehoshaphat make an alliance against Syria, to take back Ramoth-Gilead, a fortified city on a trade route that runs between the Red Sea and Damascus. (Need map)

**1Kings 22:5** And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD." <sup>6</sup> Then the king of Israel <sup>w</sup>gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king." <sup>7</sup> But <sup>x</sup>Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not here another prophet of the LORD of whom we may inquire?" <sup>8</sup> And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micaiah the son of Imlah, but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so." <sup>9</sup> Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micaiah the son of Imlah." <sup>10</sup> Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor <sup>y</sup>at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets were prophesying before them. <sup>11</sup> And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made for himself <sup>z</sup>horns of iron and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'With these <sup>a</sup>you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.'" <sup>12</sup> And all the prophets prophesied so and said, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king."

- Jehoshaphat wants to ask God if it is ok to go to war against Syria. Everything had a supernatural cause and effect in their day. Whether pagan or not, people saw God or gods as acting in the everyday, practical realm. How about us? Do we see daily events as being directed by God?
- This large number of prophets were the ones appointed by Ahab. They weren't legitimate prophets of God. They are nothing but an echo chamber.
- Notice that Ahab is not mentioned by name unless it is by God, or towards the end of the chapter after he is dead. It is as if he has already been wiped from the record.
- We see that Jehoshaphat, a good king, is not impressed by these pagan prophets and inquires if there is a "real" prophet around. There is one, but Ahab doesn't like him, because he, (Micaiah), never says anything good about him. He is summoned.
- Zedekiah's horns. Baal worship – storm god, bull's horns

**1Kings 22:13** And the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, "Behold, the words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king. Let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably." <sup>14</sup> But Micaiah said, <sup>b</sup>"As the LORD lives, <sup>c</sup>what the LORD says to me, that I will speak." <sup>15</sup> And when he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?" And he answered him, "Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king." <sup>16</sup> But the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?" <sup>17</sup> And he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, <sup>d</sup>as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These have no master; let each return to his home in peace.'" <sup>18</sup> And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, <sup>e</sup>"Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" <sup>19</sup> And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: <sup>f</sup>I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, <sup>g</sup>and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; <sup>20</sup> and the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that

*he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’ And one said one thing, and another said another. <sup>21</sup> Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, ‘I will entice him.’ <sup>22</sup> And the LORD said to him, ‘By what means?’ And he said, ‘I will go out, and will be <sup>h</sup>a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And he said, ‘You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.’ <sup>23</sup> Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you.”*

- Micaiah is told to mimic the words of the other prophets, who have told the king that all will go well. He refuses. He will only speak what God tells him.
- When he gets his audience with the king, he mocks the king by saying what the others said.
- Ahab knows this is mockery and tells him to speak the truth. He does.
- Divine council scene. The Lord has declared disaster for you.
- Why do we like it when people tell us what we want to hear and not the truth... especially when it comes to war?

*1Kings 22:24 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near <sup>i</sup>and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, “How did the Spirit of the LORD go from me to speak to you?” <sup>25</sup> And Micaiah said, “Behold, you shall see on that day when you go <sup>j</sup>into an inner chamber to hide yourself.” <sup>26</sup> And the king of Israel said, “Seize Micaiah, and take him back to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king’s son, <sup>27</sup> and say, ‘Thus says the king, <sup>k</sup>“Put this fellow in prison and feed him meager rations of bread and water, <sup>l</sup>until I come in peace.”’” <sup>28</sup> And Micaiah said, “If you return in peace, <sup>m</sup>the LORD has not spoken by me.” And he said, <sup>n</sup>“Hear, all you peoples!”*

- Chenaanah strikes Micaiah. “How did the Spirit of the LORD go from me to speak to you?” The Spirit never was with him.
- Micaiah – you will know when you are running and hiding for your life.
- Let everyone hear!

*1Kings 22:29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead. <sup>30</sup> And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, <sup>o</sup>“I will disguise myself and go into battle, but you wear your robes.” And the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. <sup>31</sup> Now the king of Syria had commanded <sup>p</sup>the thirty-two captains of his chariots, “Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, “It is surely the king of Israel.” So they turned to fight against him. And Jehoshaphat cried out. <sup>33</sup> And when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him. <sup>34</sup> But a certain man drew his bow at random<sup>1</sup> and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, “Turn around and carry me out of the battle, <sup>q</sup>for I am wounded.” <sup>35</sup> And the battle continued that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians, until at evening he died. And the blood of the wound flowed into the bottom of the chariot. <sup>36</sup> And about sunset a cry went through the army, “Every man to his city, and every man to his country!”*

- Ahab disguises himself. But why would he do that if he really believed his own prophets?
- The King of Syria, who is also not mentioned here by name, (remember that he also has to go), wants his men to only kill Ahab, in order to end the battle quickly.
- Jehoshaphat is spared.
- “A random arrow” finds a weak, unprotected spot in Ahab’s armor. He stayed on the battle field, but dies later that day.

***1Kings 22:37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. <sup>38</sup> And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood, and the prostitutes washed themselves in it, 'according to the word of the LORD that he had spoken. <sup>39</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Ahab and all that he did, and <sup>5</sup>the ivory house that he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? <sup>40</sup> So Ahab slept with his fathers, and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.***

- The prophecy was fulfilled, and Israel will get a new king, just as God willed.

#### APPLICATION:

- Time – God doesn’t get in a hurry. Ahab had repented earlier. He could have heeded the Word of God but didn’t. His pride and lust for territory got in the way.
- How God worked – through prophets and the divine council. Do we listen?
- Do we consult God as we should, even when we think we already know the answer? Do we default to the common answer of the culture – the echo chamber?
- God’s will was accomplished. He was in control then, as He is now.
- Ahab and the others were a part of a greater plan, just as we are.
- Do we seek His counsel as we go about our lives? Do we know our mission?