

I Kings Lesson 22

I Kings Chapter 22

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Memory verses for this week: **Mar 4:22** *For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.*

Introduction:

In last week's lesson, we studied about Ahab's covetousness and obsession with Naboth's vineyard. When Naboth refused to sell or trade it, Jezebel came up with an elaborate scheme that caused Naboth and his heirs to be murdered so Ahab could have the desired vineyard. But God saw all this evil, and sent Elijah down to confront Ahab. The Lord pronounced judgement on the house of Ahab.

I. The Unholy Alliance Between Jehoshaphat and Ahab

1Ki 22:1 *And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.*
1Ki 22:2 *And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.*

Three years have passed since God first announced the impending death of Ahab. We know in the close of last week's lesson, that Ahab showed signs of humility and God delayed the judgment. God is very long suffering, but he deals righteously with all men in the end. Even before the death of Naboth, Ahab had failed to kill the king of Syria and God had said he would die for the deed.

1Ki 20:42 *And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people.*

Jehoshaphat, the king of the southern kingdom of Judah, had made peace with Ahab. How did he do this?

2 Chronicles 18:1 *Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab.*

“Affinity” means “to give a daughter away in marriage; hence to contract affinity by marriage.” (from Strong’s Concordance)

Ahab’s daughter, Athaliah, was married to Jehoshaphat’s son, Jehoram.

2 Chronicles 21:5-6 *Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to*

reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD.

These rich people made up their own rules and intermarried as they desired. The alliance and marriage with the ungodly is strictly forbidden for the children of God.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

Deuteronomy 7:3-4 Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

There is a great contrast between Jehoshaphat and Ahab. While Ahab was a notorious man of evil, Jehoshaphat walked in the ways of David.

2 Chronicles 17:3-4 And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; But sought to the LORD God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.

Ahab was know for being evil.

1Ki 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

1Ki 22:3 And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?

1Ki 22:4 And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

Ahab takes full advantage of the alliance. He proposes a military campaign against the king of Syria. God had promised success over Israel's enemies to King David and his seed in I Chronicles Ch. 17.

1Ch 17:10 And since the time that I commanded judges to be over my people Israel. Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. Furthermore I tell thee that the LORD will build thee an house.

1Ch 17:11 And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom.

1Ch 17:12 He shall build me an house, and I will stablish his throne for ever.

1Ch 17:13 I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee:

1Ch 17:14 But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore.

1Ch 17:15 According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.

1Ch 17:16 And David the king came and sat before the LORD, and said, Who am I, O LORD God, and what is mine house, that thou hast brought me hitherto?

1Ch 17:17 And yet this was a small thing in thine eyes, O God; for thou hast also spoken of thy servant's house for a great while to come, and hast regarded me according to the estate of a man of high degree, O LORD God.

1Ch 17:18 What can David speak more to thee for the honour of thy servant? for thou knowest thy servant.

Notice Jehoshaphat's foolish reply there in verse 4. He places himself and his people at the disposal of the wicked king. He is rebuked of God for this.

2 Chronicles 19:1-2 And Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned to his house in peace to Jerusalem. And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the LORD? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the LORD.

It seems this alliance agreement by Jehoshaphat was the result of backsliding.

2Ch 19:3 Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

2Ch 19:4 And Jehoshaphat dwelt at Jerusalem: and he went out again through the people from Beersheba to mount Ephraim, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

II. The Prophets of Ahab

1Ki 22:5 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

1Ki 22:6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

Whatever we intend to do in a day, there is always value in seeking God's will for our lives. Jehoshaphat spoke before thinking. We don't see any of the prophets

praying to the Lord about this war. These were the prophets in Ahab's kingdom, not from Judah.

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth.

James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Whatever we plan to do, whether small or great, we should always seek the lord's will and guidance.

Psalm 27:11 Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

Psalm 32:8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

We find a disservice from Ahab's prophets. Without any prayer, they tell them to go up and take the battle. Most likely, these prophets were probably associated with Jeroboam's golden-calf religion.

2 Chronicles 11:15 And he ordained him priests for the high places, and for the devils, and for the calves which he had made.

They may have been serving false gods, but notice they're not afraid to prophesy in the name of the Lord. And by their words, Ahab is sent to his death.

1Ki 22:7 And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

1Ki 22:8 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

There is great value in spiritual discernment. And the only way we can have that is to know God's word and to have a strong close walk with the Lord. King Solomon had this discernment, even as a young man.

1 Kings 3:9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?

Hebrews 5:13-14 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Psalm 119:125 I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.

Proverbs 2:10-12 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee: To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things.

Jehoshaphat is not convinced by these false prophets, and asks if there is not one prophet to the Lord that they could inquire of to find the will of the Lord. Micaiah, the Prophet of God is introduced there in verse 7 and 8. Ahab hates Micaiah because he speaks the Word of God in truth. and he is always speaking evil of Ahab. And no wonder as Ahab was the most wicked of all the kings. It is only natural that the world should hate the preaching & teaching of God's Word.

Anyone who names Christ as their savior ought to have a deep appreciation for the teaching and preaching of God's Word. Jehoshaphat admonishes Ahab for his remark about Micaiah in Verse 8. It does little good to admonish the wicked for their sins. They need to hear the gospel of salvation.

1Ki 22:9 Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah.

1Ki 22:10 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

1Ki 22:11 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.

1Ki 22:12 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the king's hand.

Ahab reluctantly sends for Micaiah. While waiting, they have a performance of Ahab's prophets as they prophesied unto them. While this was not true prophecy in that day, there were men like Micaiah who spoke with authority from God. God's gift of prophecy has ceased for today.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

What that speaks of is the completed Word of God. Is perfect and we have it today. Anyone today who claims the gift of prophecy is deliberately deceiving others; deceiving themselves; or is devil possessed.

III. The Prophet of God

1Ki 22:13 And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good.

1Ki 22:14 And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.

1Ki 22:15 So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

1Ki 22:16 And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?

Ahab's messenger asks for prophesy from Micaiah, but instead of listening, tells him what to speak. That goes on a lot today. Men want to tell the preacher what to preach or want to ignore what God has clearly said in the Word of God. This man was not moved by the messenger's desire.

Micaiah chose to take his stand with God and the Word of God. We find Micaiah's reply to the servant of Ahab in verses 13-14. What the lord says is what I will speak. The world says: don't condemn; don't judge; don't expose sin; don't speak the Words of God. Every preacher, teacher, parent, every child of God, whether young or old, ought to live by Micaiah's rule. The world doesn't need a milksop gospel.

In verses 15 and 16, we find Micaiah's reply to King Ahab. It wasn't sweet words of bliss that he wanted. Rather, he spoke sarcastically and mocked Ahab and his prophets. This is not the first time Ahab is frustrated by Micaiah.

1Ki 22:17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.

1Ki 22:18 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?

1Ki 22:19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

After mocking Ahab and telling him to go, he now reveals God's message for Ahab. Ahab's certain doom is announced yet again. Micaiah reveals his vision of the lying spirit in verses 19-23. This is God's message for Ahab. Note how Ahab condemns the message and the messenger when he says "Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?"

1Ki 22:20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

1Ki 22:21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.

1Ki 22:22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

1Ki 22:23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

1Ki 22:24 But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?

1Ki 22:25 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

Michaiah explains the purpose of the lying spirit there in the start of verse 20. Who would persuade Ahab to go up and fall?

Micaiah's summary of God's message for Ahab was that a lying spirit would guide him to go up. These false prophets did not like what they heard, and they respond to the message of God. The false prophet Zedekiah is offended.

Zedekiah is claiming to have prophesied under the power of the Spirit of the Lord. Zedekiah's angry remark means something like, "Okay, if you know so much more than me, which way went the Spirit of the Lord from me to speak unto thee." Micaiah's reply is subtle. Why would Zedekiah hide? With the death of Ahab, these false prophets might have to face the wrath of the widowed Jezebel, or Ahaziah, the heir apparent. Perhaps Zedekiah would recall that God's Word demanded death for false prophets.

Deuteronomy 18:20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.

1Ki 22:26 And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

1Ki 22:27 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.

1Ki 22:28 And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.

Ahab's response was not surprising. He is offended and persecutes the prophet of God. When a man stands up for God and the truth, many of the world are offended. And true to the prophecy, Ahab doesn't believe Micaiah's message, but trusts his own 400 false prophets. Micaiah challenges everyone to consider the final results.

IV. The Battle and Death of Ahab

1Ki 22:29 So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead.

1Ki 22:30 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised

himself, and went into the battle.

1Ki 22:31 But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel.

1Ki 22:32 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out.

1Ki 22:33 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

Ahab comes up with a scheme of self-preservation. He says he will disguise himself so that they will not recognize him as a king. But Benhadad has a scheme of his own. He tells the 32 captains to fight with none but the king of Israel. Jehoshaphat is protected from harm.

2Ch 18:31 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him.

2Ch 18:32 For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him.

God watches over and protects his own even when they're unaware of any danger. It is foolhardy to ignore the plain warnings of God's Word. Jehoshaphat is spared in spite of his foolishness, but King Ahab dies because of his.

1Ki 22:34 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

1Ki 22:35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.

1Ki 22:36 And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.

1Ki 22:37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.

1Ki 22:38 And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake.

1Ki 22:39 Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he made, and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

1Ki 22:40 So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead.

In verses 34 - 37, we have the record of how Ahab dies according to the Word of God. Elijah's prophecy of Ahab's death is fulfilled. Judgment was not immediate on Ahab, but it came just as God had told him.

1Ki 22:41 And Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel.

1Ki 22:42 Jehoshaphat was thirty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi.

1Ki 22:43 And he walked in all the ways of Asa his father; he turned not aside from it, doing that which was right in the eyes of the LORD: nevertheless the high places were not taken away; for the people offered and burnt incense yet in the high places.

1Ki 22:44 And Jehoshaphat made peace with the king of Israel.

Jehoshaphat was the son of Asa and reigned in Judah. It says in verse 43 that he walked in the ways of Asa his father and turned not aside from it, but did those things that were right in the sight of the Lord. However he did not take down the high places to his shame.

1Ki 22:45 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he shewed, and how he warred, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

1Ki 22:46 And the remnant of the sodomites, which remained in the days of his father Asa, he took out of the land.

1Ki 22:47 There was then no king in Edom: a deputy was king.

1Ki 22:48 Jehoshaphat made ships of Tharshish to go to Ophir for gold: but they went not; for the ships were broken at Eziongeber.

1Ki 22:49 Then said Ahaziah the son of Ahab unto Jehoshaphat, Let my servants go with thy servants in the ships. But Jehoshaphat would not.

After the death of Ahab, his son Ahaziah took the throne and tried to make a deal to have his servants sail in the ships to Ophir with Jehoshaphat's servants. Apparently he learned from his mistake with Ahab and refused to do so.

1Ki 22:50 And Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

1Ki 22:51 Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel.

1Ki 22:52 And 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 made Israel to sin:

1Ki 22:53 For he served Baal, and worshipped him, and provoked to anger the LORD God of Israel, according to all that his father had done.

It says Ahaziah, son of Ahab began to reign in Israel in the 17th year of Jehoshaphat's reign. After Jehoshaphat died, he was buried in the city of David, and his son Jehoram took the throne in Judah. Ahab's son followed in his father's path and served Baal which angered the Lord.

* Additional Comments added by E.L. Bynum in Feb. 2014

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lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at the email below.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.