

“Hated Micaiah” 1 Kings 22:1-40

I. A meeting of Kings, unity and a proposed battle –

22 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.*” 1 Kings 22:1–4 (NKJV)

1. *There was a kind of peace – 1 Kings 22:1*

2. *Ahab seems to think all he needs is Jehosaphat’s help – 1 Kings 22:2-4*

¹² Give us help from trouble, For the help of man is useless. ¹³ Through God we will do valiantly, For *it is He who shall tread down our enemies.* Psalm 108:12–13 (NKJV)

II. Jehosaphat is with Ahab, despite Ahab’s immorality, but he wants to pray, he wants to inquire of the LORD –

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.” 1 Kings 22:4–5 (NKJV)

III. Ahab is surrounded by false, lying prophets, who only prophesy prosperity, despite the King’s immorality –

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.” 1 Kings 22:6 (NKJV)

IV. Jehosaphat is not impressed or convinced by this quick, positive answer, he wants a second opinion –

⁷ And Jehoshaphat said, “*Is there* not still a prophet of the LORD here, that we may inquire of Him?” 1 Kings 22:7 (NKJV)

V. Ahab is reluctant to call Micaiah –

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!” 1 Kings 22:8–9 (NKJV)

1. *Observe the ratio of false prophets to true under an immoral rule – 400 to 1!*

2. *Note under immoral government true prophets are hated - but I hate him*

3. *Hated because they preach the truth against sin - because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.*

4. *He is pushed to consider Micaiah by the righteous King – 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!” 1 Kings 22:8 b–9 (NKJV)

VI. *The false prophets put on a show, and they all agree, their message is God will BLESS, even when we are wicked –*

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.” 1 Kings 22:10–12 (NKJV)

1. *Note the two kings dress their best, they are an audience for the false prophets - :10*
2. *Zedekiah with no true Word from God at all prophesies victory - :11*
3. *All the prophets aim to please the king, not God - :12*

VII. *Note the peer pressure from false prophets –*

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 (NKJV)

VIII. *But Micaiah is determined to prophesy what the LORD tells him –*

¹⁴ And Micaiah said, “As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak.” 1 Kings 22:14 (NKJV)

IX. *Yet, it seems he sarcastically goes along with the crowd –*

1. *The sarcastic part -*

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!” 1 Kings 22:15 (NKJV)

2. *The king’s challenge, he knows Micaiah is not really with the others -*

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 22:16 (NKJV)

3. *The beginning of truth, hinting the king (Ahab) will die -*

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.’ ” 1 Kings 22:17 (NKJV)

X. *The real truth, calamity for king Ahab & exposure of the false prophets –*

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.” 1 Kings 22:18–23 (NKJV)

1. *O what a dreadful thing when supposed prophets of God believe and preach a LIE ...*
2. *How bold Micaiah is to stand against numbers 400 to 1 –*

³¹ **What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**

Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

XI. The leader among the false prophets shows boldness himself, defending his 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 (NKJV)**

Micaiah answers Zedekiah –

²⁵ **And Micaiah said, “Indeed, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!” 1 Kings 22:25 (NKJV)**

XII. King Ahab puts Micaiah in prison for telling the truth –

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.” ’ ”**

Yet, prison (or the threat of it) does not silence Micaiah-

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 22:26–28 (NKJV)**

XIII. King Ahab’s plan to protect himself –

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. 1 Kings 22:29–33 (NKJV)**

1. *King Ahab hides from men, with his disguise ...*
2. *Jehosaphat becomes the target –*

XIV. No one can hide from God –

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. 1 Kings 22:34–40 (NKJV)**

¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Revelation 6:15–17 (NKJV)

1. *A random shot hits the mark, the danger for Ahab was not so much the enemy army but God Whom He disobeyed!*

2. *Dogs licking Ahab’s blood, Micaiah was not the only prophet who spoke against Ahab –*
²⁰ So Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?”

And he answered, “I have found *you*, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD: ²¹ ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. ²² I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked *Me* to anger, and made Israel sin.’ ²³ And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’ ²⁴ The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field.’ ²⁵ But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. ²⁶ And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all *that* the Amorites had done, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel. 1 Kings 21:20–26 (NKJV)

XV. *Application –*

1. *The majority is not always right, but God is –*

¹³ **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)**

2. *Don’t listen to ungodly, immoral prophets who speak peace and prosperity to the wicked*

–

A. *There is not peace for the wicked –*

²² **“There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.” Isaiah 48:22 (NKJV)**

²¹ **“There is no peace,” Says my God, “for the wicked.” Isaiah 57:21 (NKJV)**

B. *The “peace, peace” when there is no peace is a popular but wrong and ultimately destructive message –*

¹⁴ **They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When *there is* no peace. Jeremiah 6:14 (NKJV)**

C. *Neither Christ, not the Spirit of Truth, nor any truly godly minister preaches the “peace” “peace” message to those who continue in sin ...*

3. *We don’t read much about Micaiah in other passages of Scripture ... just the parallel passages to this. There are other Micaiahs mentioned in God’s Word – the name meant “Who is like the LORD?” Ahab did not seek God as his strength, nor did he obey his laws, and God judged him.*