

1 Kings Chapter 22 Verses 13-28; Bible Study

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. **14** And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak. **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. **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?"

Zedekiah makes horns of iron and prophesies: with these shall the king push the Syrians until they are devoured.

Jehoshaphat has sense enough to realize that these are not prophets of God, and asks Ahab: is there not a prophet of God of whom we may inquire? Ahab acknowledges that there is one, but Ahab hates him for telling him the truth and always prophesying against Ahab.

They send for Micaiah, the prophet of the Lord. The one who goes to get him tells him what is going on and tells him to prophesy the same as the false prophets. Micaiah replies that he can only tell what the word of the Lord saith to him.

When Micaiah comes before the kings he prophesies exactly as the false prophets, but he does it with such sarcasm that both kings know that he is not telling them the truth. King Ahab scolds him to tell him the truth.

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. **18** And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?"

Micaiah now tells these kings: *"I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master:"* which would be a prophecy of Ahab's death. He also tells them to all go to their homes and not pursue this war against Syria.

Here we have a picture of those who hear the truth and receive it not, for their eyes are blinded, and they have ears that hear not, for their hearts are hardened against the word of God's truth, as we see in *Joh 12:38-43*; **38** "That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? **39** Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, **40** He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. **41** These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. **42** ¶ Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: **43** For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."

At this point Jehoshaphat should have withdrawn from this covenant with Ahab and went home. However, God is still providentially using Jehoshaphat to get Ahab in the right place to bring about his death.

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. **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. **21** And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. **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. **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."

Micaiah continues and tells of the vision in which God revealed this unto him. Micaiah tells that the host of heaven were gathered to God on his right and left hands, and God asks who will go and persuade Ahab to go to Ramothgilead so he will be killed? Several spoke of what they could do but their ideas were not received. Then a spirit came before God, and tells God he will put a lying spirit in the mouths of the false prophets, and God tells him to go and do so. God also tells the spirit that it will be successful. Micaiah tells the kings: God hath put the

lying spirit, in the mouths of these false prophets, and that God has spoken evil concerning king Ahab, as I told you to start with.

At this point, having heard what God has said through the prophet Micaiah, and that it was God's purpose to slay Ahab: Jehoshaphat should have told Ahab: you are on your own. Why? Because God has said for everyone to go home and not go to war.

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? 25 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself."

Zedekiah, the false prophet that made the horns of iron, smites Micaiah on the cheek and asks: which way went the Spirit of the Lord from me to speak to thee? Notice that in verse 21 the spirit is not capitalized, which indicates it was not a Spirit of God. However, it is capitalized in verse 24, which would indicate a true Spirit of God. This brings to remembrance that Satan, his angels, and all his evil spirits, recognize that there truly is a God in heaven, however, they refuse to bow to him in humble submission to his rule over them. This is what separates the saved from the unsaved.

Micaiah tells Chenaanah, you will understand when you hide yourself from death. There is a study reference here to **1Ki 20:30 "But the rest fled to Aphek, into the city; and there a wall fell upon twenty and seven thousand of the men that were left. And Benhadad fled, and came into the city, into an inner chamber."** There seems to be no connection between these two incidents, except to show that Zedekiah would hide himself as Benhadad did when he lost his battle. Many commentators believe that Zedekiah went to battle with Ahab, to encourage him with his horns of iron, and when Ahab was wounded with a wound to death, Zedekiah went and hid himself as Benhadad did earlier. Why would Zedekiah hide himself? Because he would have been exposed to be a false prophet, and he hides to avoid being put to death, because in that time false prophets were slain.

We see a picture here that they treated Micaiah as they did Christ in **Mt 26:67 "Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, 68 Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?"** Which certifies that Micaiah was truly a prophet of God and foretells of some of the things they will do to Jesus before they crucify him.

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; 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. 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."

King Ahab has Micaiah put in prison and orders him to be fed the bread and water of affliction until he returns in peace, which will not happen. Micaiah tells king Ahab: **"If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me."** Micaiah also tells Israel, this ignorant king is not listening to God, but you should hearken to the voice of God.

Again, we see that idolators have hardened hearts, eyes that see not, and ears that hear not. Both Israel and Judah are sold out to idolatry, with only the priesthood and some of Judah remaining faithful to God.