**Ahab’s Final Folly!**

**I Kings 22:1-53 (Lesson #19)**

***“1 ¶ For three years Syria and Israel continued without war. 2 But in the third year Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. 3 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?" 4 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." 5 And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD."***

As we come to chapter 22, we find that Jehoshaphat is the king over Judah and Ahab is the king over Israel. So, although it took weeks, we are finally getting back to Jehoshaphat. We last mentioned him when his father Asa died (good king) and that was in I Kings 15:24. So we have been with Ahab for a long time.

Vs **1 -** So the peace deal brokered by Ahab with Ben-hadad has held for three years.

Which was contrary to the will of God by the way, but it has held!

To be honest, I am a little surprised.

**Vs 2 -** First, it should be no surprise that Ben-hadad, having made a quick deal in the back of Ahab’s chariot, once he made it home reneged on the deal. **As we observed at the time when you make a deal with the devil you are the junior partner and it is no surprise that the devil does not keep his word!**

It’s been three years, but Ramoth-gilead remains under the control of Ben-hadad.

**Jehoshaphat,** the king of Judah **“came down”** to the king of Israel. Jerusalem, the capital of Judah is built on Mt Moriah and the King comes down from Jerusalem to meet with the King of Israel (Ahab).

**Why he came down, we do not know.** We can imagine he was invited, but the text does not tell us.

**Vs 3 –** So clearly the king is **complaining to his inner circle** and **appealing to their patriotism** with the statement, we are keeping quiet and not going and taking it.

Ramoth-gilead was on the outer edge of the inheritance of Gad. It had been previously taken in battle by Syria.

The king of Israel is reflecting on the fact that Syrian (Aram) has it, they should not, and up to this point Israel has kept quiet.

**Ahab declares… We should go and “take it out of the hand of the king of Syria…**

**Vs 4 -** Then Ahab says to Jehoshaphat, will you go with me to battle against Ramoth-gilead? Jehoshaphat seems to **quickly agree** that **he will go**.

In fact, what he says is much stronger than that: ***"I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."***

I don’t know if he is trying to build a federation between the two nations, but the northern empire for the larger part are following false gods. Not all of course, and God has made that clear to us throughout these final chapters of I Kings. **Ahab himself is drunk with following false gods!**

**Vs 5 –** Then Jehoshaphat says: ***"Inquire first for the word of the LORD."*** He should have led with this, but he gets to it ultimately, and the King of Judah, asks the King of Israel to “first” inquire of the Lord.

**Here is the key point, before launching into this venture, Jehoshaphat seeks God’s council.**

**APPLICATION:** The principle way we understand God’s will and desire for our lives is not by seeking a prophet, but rather seeking God’s direction in His word, about being unequally yoked, about making deals and keeping one’s word.

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***6 Then the king of Israel 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." 7 But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not here another prophet of the LORD of whom we may inquire?" 8 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." 9 Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micaiah the son of Imlah." 10 Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets were prophesying before them. 11 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron and said, "Thus says the LORD, ‘With these you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.’" 12 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."***

**Vs 6 -** So the king of Israel gathers **“the prophets”** together. Now let’s be honest, this guy has been resisting Yahweh since we were introduced to him. **It is unlikely he has gathered four hundred prophets of Yahweh.**

So what type of false prophets are these. We are not told, maybe they are like **“rent-a-prophets”,** religious yes men, who Ahab can go to in a time of need. **I would suggest they are at a minimum pluralist in their worship and likely fall in line with whatever God or false god they need to.**

**Vs 6b –** He gathers these “prophets” and poses the question to the group: ***"Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?"***

**Vs 6c –** This group of prophets (with one voice, it seems) answers: ***"Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king."***

So this group of 400 prophets, **we are not sure about who they really serve**, with one voice says yes… GO!

Notice the word Lord, this is not the traditional L-O-R-D, that we are accustomed to seeing when Yahweh’s name is in use.

The Hebrew word here is: **אדני** (Adonay)

I find it interesting that they do not say Yahweh. But instead the Hebrew name Adonay.**The false prophets declaration: Adonay, will give Ramoth-gilead into the hand of the king of Israel!**

**Vs 7 -**  **But Jehoshaphat recognizes, we are not sure how, but he recognizes that these are not prophets of Yahweh.**

Surely if these were 400 prophets of Yahweh all agreeing on the next step, no king of Judah would argue. But he recognizes these are… **different.**

**Jehoshaphat’s request, Is there a prophet of Yahweh?**

**APPLICATION:** Paul warned Timothy in II Tim 3:1-5: *“****1*** *¶ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.* ***2*** *For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,* ***3*** *heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,* ***4*** *treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,* ***5*** *having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.” (2Ti 3:1-5 ESV)*

These are something similar, they are false prophets parading as true prophets who are actually enemies of Yahweh!

Keep in mind what Paul said about Satan and his activity: *“****14*** *And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.* ***15*** *So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” (2Co 11:14-15 ESV)*

**Now, let me say one more thing. This should have been enough for Jehoshaphat to recognize that he was linking up with the wrong king!**

**APPLICATION:** Isn’t your heart yearning for a better king!

**Vs 8 -** Now we know, there are more than one, and we know that Ahab knows there are more. He knows of Elijah, he knows of Elisha, he knows multiple unnamed prophets that he has interacted with.

**So, likely he means one that he consults with, one that he at least on occasion, has sought council from.** There is one man, that we may enquire of Yahweh. His name is Micaiah, the son of Imlah. **BUT: I hate him and then the reason, he never prophecies good of me or for me, in fact only evil.**

Then Jehosophat says, OHHH Ahab do not talk that way. Do not be down in the mouth about God’s prophet.

**POINT of CONFUSION:** Ahab seemed to think that the prophet in some way, controlled God with his prophecy. He seemed to think the prophecy was born in the human heart and subsequently moved the divine hand. **That is not at all how prophecy works!**

**APPLICATION: The Bible including all the prophecies contained within are not the invention of man, in response to man. They are the mind and thoughts of God conveyed to man:**

*“****20*** *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.* ***21*** *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2Pe 1:20-21 ESV)*

**Vs 9 -** Ahab, likely a little frustrated, calls an officer and directs him to: **quickly bring Micaiah.**

Now, we suspect Ahab does not want Micaiah, who will prophecy in the name of Yahweh, because **we suspect**, that **Ahab does not want** Yahweh’s opinion.

The truth is, the one thing he should want is direction from the true and living God. BUT….

**APPLICATION:** **But the natural man…** *The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*

**Vs 10** - We can picture the pomp and grandeur as the king of Judah and the King of Israel sit on **portable thrones**, they are both arrayed in their **royal robes**, and all of this is happening at **the entrance to the gate of Samaria**, a city built on a hill, that is actually also the **capital of the northern empire**.

The 400 rent-a-prophets, the 400 yes-men who serve Ahab are continuing in what must look like a **prophet free-for-all,** prophesying of the coming destruction of Ben-hadad and the fall of Ramoth-gilead to Ahab and the armies of the northern empire.

**Vs 11-12 -** Here, we are introduced by name to one of the false prophets. His name is Zedekiah, the son of Chenaanah. **His name means Yahweh is righteous**. At least his mom and dad named him well.

First, we see that we he received the **invite to the prophecy conference**, he **brought with him at least one prop**. He brought **horns that were made of iron.**

In my mind, I envision a large set of iron bull horns… He took up his **iron horns** and begins a prophecy about Ramoth-gilead. **With these** (iron horns) **you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.**

So clearly, he is telling Ahab, whatever god he is receiving his information from says, **you will push back and DESTROY the Syrians.**

**There is some irony here,** Yahweh had previously delivered these Syrians (TWICE) into the hand of Ahab who failed to destroy them, but instead set them free!

**Vs 12 –** Then we read: All said yes, this is the word we are receiving from the god we are calling out to. Go UP! **Here these pluralistic rent-a-prophets say YAHWEH will give Ramoth-gilead into your hand ohhhhh AHAB.**

**QUESTION:** How could men give a prophecy from god, **they did not receive?** I do not want to answer this, instead I want you to see the answer, and the will make a couple of points of application.

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***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." 14 But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak." 15 ¶ 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." 16 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?" 17 And 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 home in peace.’" 18 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" 19 And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; 20 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. 21 Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, ‘I will entice him.’ 22 And the LORD said to him, ‘By what means?’ And he said, ‘I will go out, and will be 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.’ 23 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."***

**Vs 13 -** So while the prophecy conference, horns included, is in full throw at the gate of Samaria, the messenger arrives at Micaiah’s home. He knocks on the door and invites or maybe directs Micaiah to come to the threshing floor at the entrance of Samaria.

The messenger shares with Micaiah, that there is a prophecy conference going on, and **all the prophets are of one accord**, and that accord, that singularity, that point of consensus, that point of agreement is **“favorable”** to the king.

The Hebrew word **טוב** (*tobe) –* means **good**, **pleasant**, we can assume it is good in refence to what the king desires to do.

**Vs 13b –** Let your word be like theirs, speak טוב (*tobe).* Speak **good**, give a **favorable report** to the king to do what he wants to do.

**Two quick points here:**

1. **Prophecy is not good or bad. It is true or untrue.** The outcomes might be good or bad for you personally. But you see, there is a fundamental error here with the words of Yahweh.
2. This messenger has the **same confusion** about the words of Yahweh as the king. The prophet does not turn the hand of a sovereign God. **Rather, the sovereign God conveys his mind, will, and desire to the prophet that he may speak it to men.**

APPLICATION: II Tim 3:16, Heb 4:12 - God’s word comes to us, not to fit our desires, but to tell us the mind of God!

**Vs 14 –** Ourbrother Micaiah says, simply… **That is not how it works.**

But here is what I will do. As **Yahweh lives** (and he does), what **Yahweh says to me**, that I will speak.

**APPLICATION:** I am not a prophet, or even the son of a prophet, so do not hear me say that. But I am a person who God has allowed to teach His holy inherent and inspired Word. My single goal is to share with you what I believe God is saying through the text.

**If you ever feel, I come up short, please bring up what I miss. For God speaks to each of us though His word!**

**Vs 15 -** So Micaiah comes to King Aham. The king says, **shall we go to Ramoth-gilead?** Micaiah answers**: *Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king.***

**It is unfortunate that we do not have the video or the audio, for I suspect that Micaiah’s answers is dripping, even oozing with sarcasm!**

**Vs 16 –** King Ahabrecognized the **sarcasm** that we only guess at. Equally, it seems that this may have become a common occurrence. **Micaiah is brought in to validate a false prophecy and he responds with disdain and sarcasm.**

**You see Micaiah, knows what we suspect… Ahab is not interested in the word of the Yahweh,** only his personal desires, what he wants to do, and currently his desires are being validated by those around him.

**Vs 17 -** But then the prophet of Yahweh, shares **what Yahweh has shown him**, it is a **sad**, **sobering**, and **horrifying** picture. ***I saw all Israel scattered, as sheep with no shepherd, Then Yahweh said, these have lost their master, let each return to his home in peace.***

But here is the headline that Micaiah is warning will lede in the Northern Kingdom News: **Ahab dies at battle of Ramoth-gilead and the nation of Israel fails to recapture land lost to the Syrians.**

**Vs 18 -** So Ahab looks at Jehoshaphat and says: ***"Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"***

**Now he should have kissed Micaiah**, and **praised the name of Yahweh** for letting him know what would happen, **thus providing him an opportunity to turn from his planned path of rebellion**, turn from following false “yes-men” and turn to the true and living God.

**ONCE AGAIN, God is extending grace to Ahab. I have said it before a message of judgment is a message of GRACE!** We see how hardened Ahab is, he simply cannot hear God!

**OK, on the subject of things that you will not find in your children’s bible, things that you have likely never heard a sermon on, as well as things that may be slightly alarming but hopefully theologically informative, we come to one now.**

**Vs 19–23 -** So Micaiah, is watching and listening to Ahab complain about God speaking truth into his life. His is listening to this sinful king, refuse to hear the words of Yahweh.

**APPLICATION:** May none of us in this room ever get to this point! Absolutely refuse to hear what God says about some particular matter.

**Micaiah appears to share a peek behind the veil. It appears, Micaiah’s takes us into the very throne room of the omnipotent.**

I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, this must have been breathtaking! For a hint of what he possibly saw please read **(Rev chapter 4).** I will not chase the rabbit today. But it too was breathtaking!

**Vs 20a -** ***and the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?’***

**Vs 20b -** ***And one said one thing, and another said another.***

**Vs 21 - *Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, ‘I will entice him.’*** We imagine that this is a **fallen-spirit**, a **fallen angel.**

**Vs 22a - *And the LORD said to him, ‘By what means?’*** It appears God questions this fallen angel for additional information. **Now we should suspect that this is done for our edification, not because the God who knows all things, does not know.**

**Vs 22b -** This is interesting, **for this explains what is happening in the natural**, that is being **driven by the supernatural** (in this case fallen supernatural).

**Vs 22c - Yahweh says, you have my permission to proceed**. In fact, because Ahab’s heart is so hardened, **you will succeed**. But, go ahead and do it. Think of Peter, Satan and his mention needed permission to sift him like wheat.Think of Job, Satan was only allowed to proceed so far as God allowed and never beyond that point.

**Vs 23 -** Then Micaiah sums it all up for Ahab: Yahweh has **“put”** a lying spirit in the mouth of **“all of these false prophets.”**

Keep in mind, throughout the Holy Scriptures, God is often stated as doing, what in divine providence he allows. God did not “cause” the evil lying Spirit to enter the false prophets and thus be used to deceive Ahab, but God did allow it.

**The conclusion:** Yahweh has declared disaster for you. This is the final call, this is the last opportunity, the final road out ahead sign as AHAB races down the roadway of life. FINAL CALL.

A few points:

1. I know that God allowing a fallen angle to entice Ahab, may not sit well with you. I would only add, God through the prophet is telling Ahab about the false prophets.
2. Thus, we see once again, the grace of God. For he is telling Ahab what he is allowing that Ahab might turn and follow Yahweh.
3. This is grace, this final warning of demise is ALL GRACE! God has shown us in a very graphic and tangible way that He is not willing that any should perish… (Eze 33:11, II Pet 3:9, ITim 2:4)
4. In the event that unfolds, we get a glimpse behind the curtain and possibly better understand things that have happened. The formation of Mormons (supernatural experience) the formation of Islam (supernatural experience) are both possibly the results of the work of fallen angels.
5. God is long-suffering, we have seen that with Ahab, but there is a point in everyone’s life when that patience runs out and God allows men and women to have exactly what they want!

Phillip Ryken in his commentary astutely commented, “*Although God is not the author of deceit, he is sovereign over the false prophets as well as the true.”*

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***24 Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near and struck Micaiah on the cheek and said, "How did the Spirit of the LORD go from me to speak to you?" 25 And Micaiah said, "Behold, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide yourself." 26 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, 27 and say, ‘Thus says the king, "Put this fellow in prison and feed him meager rations of bread and water, until I come in peace."’" 28 And Micaiah said, "If you return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Hear, all you peoples!"***

**Vs 24 -** So the apparent leader of these false prophet, a man who is likely demon possessed or at least influenced by a fallen angel, Zedekiah, goes over and strikes Micaiah on the cheek. He then says to him… How did the Spirit of Yahweh, go from me to you.

His point, God cannot be speaking through you for He is speaking through me. Let’s be honest, God does not suffer from such limitations!

**APPLICATION:** The larger point. Micaiah is struck because he is following Yahweh and His word.

*“If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.” (1Pe 4:14 ESV)*

*“****2*** *looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.* ***3*** *Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” (Heb 12:2-3 ESV)*

**Vs 25 -** Yahweh’s prophet, then declares a prophecy! You shall see, what I have told you is true about the fall of Ahab, on the day, when you go into an inner chamber to hide yourself.

**Vs 26 -** So Ahab, there at the gates of Samaria, in front of Jehoshaphat King of Judah, tells Amon, the governor of the city (the mayor) to seize Micaiah and take him to Amon and his son Joash.

**Vs 27 –** Here’s is the king’s point.Lock Micaiah in prison, feed him only enough bread and water to keep him alive, and I will decide what to do with him when I come back from the beat-down I am about to administer on Ben-hadad and his armies as I retake Jaboth-gilead.

Micaiah is suffering at the hands of men because of his commitment to Yahweh!

**MESSSIAH:** Like Micaiah, Jesus was accused of being a false prophet and then falsely imprisoned. Like Micaiah, He too was slapped across the face. When Zedekiah slapped Micaiah, this was a foreshadowing of what the Messiah would suffer for God’s truth.

**Vs 28 -** The prophet of Yahweh responds. This is a final, final, final boarding call for Ahab. This is one last shot of grace across the bow of Ahab.

Then look what Micaiah does: He turns and raises his voice… Hear this all you people. This is Yahweh once again, doing what he has done over and over, with the end-goal that men and women might see that Yahweh, is the sovereign God.

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***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 wear your robes." And 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, "Fight with neither small nor great, but only with the king of Israel." 32 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. 33 And when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back from pursuing him. 34 But a certain man drew his bow at random 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, for I am wounded." 35 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. 36 And about sunset a cry went through the army, "Every man to his city, and every man to his country!"***

**Vs 29 - Here we see the second response to God’s word and that is rejection. Ahab, outright rejects the word of Yahweh as delivered by the prophet.**

The shocking part for us is, how in the world can Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, a king who is a good king, a king who follows Yahweh, not perfectly, but one who has a heart like David. How can he follow? Many scholars have pointed out that although Jehoshaphat was a good king, he was not a wise king.

**MESSIAH:** As we watch the human kings fail to do what is clear they should have done, it reminds us of how desperately we needed a king that was always obedient, a king that always did what was right. In Christ, we find that King!

But here in verse 29, we see godly Jehoshaphat, joins forces with ungodly Ahab.

**APPLICATION:** Unequally yoked (II Cor 6:14), seeking godly council (Pro 15:22), praying, etc.

**Vs 30 -** We can imagine as the King of Israel got closer and closer to Ramoth-gilead, **Micaiah’s words were wringing in his ears.**

He decides, rather than repent and turn-around and go back home. He will don a disguise, that way the enemy cannot find me. That way, he will trick God’s prophet, God’s prophecy, and ultimately God’s word.

What a clever, howbeit extremely foolish idea!

Now the king of Israel disguising himself is not extremely surprising to me, but the King of Judah, Jehoshaphat agreeing to go into battle with his kingly attire on, is a very surprising to me!

**Vs 31 -** Ben-hadad gives his command to the captains of the chariots, which we can imagine pass on to the soldiers who report up to them.

The command: **Ignore every one of the battlefield. Find and execute the King of Israel.**

**Remember what I said, when you make a deal with the devil you are the junior partner. This man failed to give back property he promised and now he is targeting the king who saved his life for execution.**

Ben-hadad has his entire army looking for one man to kill, Ahab the king of Israel. Who we might add will be difficult to find since he is disguised as a common soldier!

**Vs 32 -** So the captains, who are able to move around the battlefield quickly, see Jehosphat, in all his kingly robes, believe ***surely this is the king of Israel*** and then move to engage him.

We are not sure how many chariots move to engage the king of Judah (Jehosphahat) in his chariot, but the writer of kings tells us that: ***Jehoshaphat cried out.***

**Vs 33 -** In the midst of pursuing Jehoshaphat, because they believe he is Ahab, then they recognize it is not Ahab, and break off pursuit.

**In the fog of war, with Ahab disguised, the Syrians are simply unable to locate Ahab. What a clever plan he had… WINK, WINK!**

**Vs 34 -** But a certain **unnamed**, **unknown**, and likely **insignificant soldier**, pulls back his bow. He is probably thinking I will just lob an arrow into the general vicinity of the armies of Israel.

**Aiming at know one**, he pulls the bow string back and lets an arrow fly, **randomly** through the air, and the arrow hits someone…**But not just an anyone, instead a someone, the disguised king of Israel.**

**APPLICATION:** *“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.” (Pr 16:33 ESV).*

The random arrow, flying through the air at no one in particular, strikes surprisingly enough the greatest someone on the field, the king of Israel (Ahab).

Not only does this random arrow, shot at no one, happen to hit the greatest someone on the field, it hits him between the scale armor and the breastplate.

**Not a kill shot, but a shot that will produce lots of blood loss and if not addressed will lead to death….**

**APPLICATION:** It has been said you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. There is a follow-on statement to that, **you cannot fool God any of the time.** When you try, He will prove you to be the fool!

**Ahab immediately calls for his driver to carry him out of the battle because he is wounded.**

**APPLICATION:** Regardless of our disguises or our masks, we can be sure our sins will find us out **(Num 32:23).** This is a great reminder to live transparently before out Father!

**Vs 35 -** The battle rages on that day, the king who is suffering greatly and loosing blood is propped up in his chariot, facing the battle, and possibly even continuing to provide orders to the armies of Israel. Ultimately, he dies, probably not because the wound itself was fatal, but because the blood loss was.

As he stood, propered in his chariot, one cannot help but wonder if he remembered Micaiah’s words : ***"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 home in peace.’"***

**Or maybe: Verse 23b: *“the LORD has declared disaster for you."***

**Vs 36 -** One of the soldiers or more than likely one of the field generals, seeing that King Ahab is dead gives a cry that is passed throughout the armies of Israel: ***"Every man to his city, and every man to his country!"***

Might I remind you this is exactly what Micaiah had said would happen.

**In six plus chapters about Ahab, we are reminded of the incredible folly of rejecting God’s word and the certainty of God’s judgment.**

**APPLICATION:** **God’s word** is **absolutely reliable** and **judgment day** is **absolutely sure**!

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***37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. 38 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. 39 Now the rest of the acts of Ahab and all that he did, and 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? 40 So Ahab slept with his fathers, and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.***

**Vs 37 -** As they left the battlefield in defeat, Ahab’s servant likely drove his chariot containing his llifelss body back to Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom where he was buried.

This troubler of Israel, died in battle, through the shot of a random arrow. The king, this wicked king died and was buried in Samaria.

**Vs 38 -** As they washed out the chariot, by the pool of Samaria, the dogs were there drinking up Ahab’s blood, and the whores were washing themselves in the same runoff.

This all happened… According to the word of Yahweh!

How fitting that the blood of the most unfaithful king to ever reign, is mingled with water and becomes the bathwater for harlots.

**Be reminded of what Micaiah prophesized:**

*1Ki 22:17 And 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 home in peace.’"*

*1Ki 22:20 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.*

*1Ki 22:28 And Micaiah said, "If you return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Hear, all you peoples!"*

*“And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD, "Have you killed and also taken possession?"’ And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood."’"” (1Ki 21:19 ESV)*

**God has and will always fulfill his word!**

**Vs 39-40 -** So quiet possibly the most wicked king who ever lived, a man who (it appears) never truly got on track with Yahweh, a man who resisted God’s grace over and over again dies. Keep in mind, the nation of Israel suffered under this king’s foolish reign for 22 long and desperate years.

Here he dies, and in closing, as we close out the book of I Kings we learn that his son will step into this place. A man named Ahaziah. Unfortunately like all who have gone before him, he too is an evil king and will continue to lead Israel away from Yahweh.

***41 ¶ Jehoshaphat the son of Asa began to reign over Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of Israel. 42 Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Azubah the daughter of Shilhi. 43 He walked in all the way of Asa his father. He did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the LORD. Yet the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and made offerings on the high places. 44 Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.***

**Vs 41-42 -** We now come to the official introduction of Jehoshaphat. Ok, so Jehoshaphat comes into power in the forth year of Ahab, he was 35 when he ascended the throne and would reign for 25 years.

Ahab reigned for 22 years, so that means that their reigns overlapped for 18 years. They knew each other and clearly had a good relationship and, we saw Jehoshaphat, went out and assisted Ahab in battle. Although we would be remiss to not add “foolishly and unwisely” assisted the king of Israel in battle.

**Vs 43** - So, maybe not the wisest king, but he followed in the footsteps of the good and godly king Asa (his Father). He did not turn-aside, he did what was right in the sight of Yahweh.

YET, he did not destroy all the high places, and people (of Judah) who had the temple continued to make sacrifices to Yahweh and offerings to Yahweh from these high places. So they served the right God, but not always in the right way. Not in the way Yahweh had told them they were to worship him!

**Vs 44 - *Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.*** We kinda figured that out already… **But it reminds us although he was a follower of Yahweh, he did not always show wisdom.**

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***45 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, and his might that he showed, and how he warred, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 46 And from the land he exterminated the remnant of the male cult prostitutes who remained in the days of his father Asa. 47 There was no king in Edom; a deputy was king. 48 Jehoshaphat made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they did not go, for the ships were wrecked at Ezion-geber. 49 Then Ahaziah the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships," but Jehoshaphat was not willing. 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 place. 51 Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel. 52 He did what was 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. 53 He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger in every way that his father had done.”***

**Vs 45 -** Now what is interesting is that we waited all this time to hear about Asa’s son, another good king, Jehoshaphat, and this is all the detail of the 25 years of his rule that the writer of Kings provides us. Good, but breathtaking, apparently not. Remarkable, not at least as far as the writer of I Kings is concerned.

**Vs 46 -** If you remember it was Asa who started driving the male cult prostitutes from the land. Here we are told that he finished the job that his father started.

**Vs 47 *- There was no king in Edom; a deputy was king.*** At this point Jehoshaphat controlled Edom. We will see Edom rebel against Israel in II Kings 8:20-22.

**Vs 48-49 -** It appears the Jehoshaphat revitalized the ships that Solomon had used that went to Ophir to mine gold. But the endeavor never got off the ground, the ships we are told were wrecked in Ezion-geber.

Then we are told that Ahab’s son, Ahaziah’s offered to send his servants (his sailors) to work with Jehoshaphat’s servants (or sailors) and they would come in league together and reenter the gold business using ships to go to Ophir.

But Jehoshaphat, likely thinking of how sideways things went with Ahab, “was not willing” to do that. Maybe he had some biblical sense after all!

**Vs 50 -** Thus with very little information here, Jehoshaphat passed on, he is buried with the ancestors in the Jerusalem (city of David) and his son Jehoram, his son ascends the throne in his place. There are additional details about Jehoshaphat in II Kings (likely a flashback) and II Chronicles.

**Vs 51-53 -** The writer of Kings flips the channel changer and shifts back to the northern empire and begins to talk about Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, who ascended the throne at the death of his dad. Ahaziah ascends the throne to reign of Israel in the 17th year of Jehoshaphat. He reigned only two years.

**Vs 52 –** We are told, and we have likely already guessed that he did that which was evil in the sight of Yahweh. Sadly he walked in the way of this father Ahab (the rust standard) and his mother Jezebel (the leader of Baal worship). In case we did not get it, he also walked in the steps of Jeroboam.

**Vs 53 –** Further, he served Baal, and worshipped Ball, which provoked the Lord to anger, in EVER WAY that his dad did. He was a chip off the old block, which means he was a very wicked king!

**Here I Kings ends…**

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