

## Lesson 6 – 1 Kings 22

Text: 1 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 18-20

Main Characters: God, Ahab, Jehoshaphat, Michaiah

Key Passages:

- 2 Chronicles 19:2 – God rebuked Jehoshaphat for allying himself with such a wicked king.
- 2 Chronicles 20:15 – God reminded Judah not to be afraid; the battle belonged to Him.

Main Storyline:

Three years following Ahab's truce with Ben-Hadad (Syria), Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, came to visit Ahab (recall their alliance from 2 Chronicles 18:1). Ahab remarked that, though Ramoth-Gilead belonged to Israel, they had allowed Syria to hold it. He asked Jehoshaphat to help him to take the city back from Syria. Jehoshaphat asked that the Lord be consulted before they enter into battle. Ahab called about 400 prophets of Baal who agreed that Ahab should attack Ramoth-Gilead.

Despite all of this "reassurance," Jehoshaphat asked that a prophet of the Lord be consulted. Ahab lamented that there was one prophet of God still in the land, Michaiah, but that he hated him, since he always prophesies that bad things will happen to him. Jehoshaphat insisted that he be brought. The messenger who went to get Michaiah told him that all the other prophets had given encouragement to the king. He asked Michaiah to prophesy similarly. Michaiah told him that he would speak as God instructed him. When Michaiah came, at first he simply gave the same advice that the other prophets had. However, Ahab realized Michaiah was not telling the truth, and insisted that he do so. Michaiah then told everyone that Ahab would die in the battle. Ahab was enraged and threw Michaiah in prison.

Despite Michaiah's words, Ahab and Jehoshaphat went into battle against Syria. Ahab disguised himself as a common soldier, though he told Jehoshaphat to remain in his royal robes. The king of Syria had commanded his men to focus on killing the king of Israel, so they all ran towards Jehoshaphat to try to kill him, thinking he was Ahab. Jehoshaphat cried out to the Lord, and the men realized he was not Ahab and left him. Ahab was then shot randomly by an archer and eventually died. His son, Ahaziah, became king; He was just as evil as Ahab, serving Baal. Jehoshaphat was allied with Ahaziah as well.

After he returned to Judah, Jehoshaphat was confronted by the prophet, Jehu. Jehu rebuked him for helping and loving those who hate the Lord (Ahab and Israel). Because of his sin, God was angry with Jehoshaphat. However, despite this, Jehu told him that there was some good in him, because he had eliminated many idols from Judah and prepared his heart to seek God. Jehoshaphat went throughout Judah and encouraged the judges and Levites not to judge for man (unrighteously) but to judge for the Lord. He told them that God would be with them if they behaved courageously.

After this, Judah came under attack by a large group of invaders from Moab, Ammon, and others. He realized that his only hope was in the Lord, so he proclaimed a nationwide fast and prayer together. God answered the prayers of Judah through a prophet, Jahaziel, right in the middle of the assembly. He encouraged everyone, reminding them not to be afraid, for the battle belonged to the Lord. The next day, Jehoshaphat went out with his army, singing praises to God. As they were singing, God set the enemies against each other, and they destroyed themselves. Jehoshaphat was a very good king, but he had made some critical mistakes in his life. When he died, his son, Jehoram, became king.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We need to surround ourselves with people who tell us the truth, not what we want to hear.
- 2.) God condemns people who bind themselves too closely with people who do not love Him.
- 3.) God will always be there to deliver us; we must fervently seek him in prayer (Matthew 7:7-11).