

**Chidinma Umeh**  
**Dr. David Emanuel**  
**BIB 102 OB**  
**03/01/2023**

### **King Ahab, the man who couldn't listen**

After many years of no war, the King of Judah decided to help Israel take back what had belonged to them from Syria. Through this story, we as readers, see how the fall of Israel's king occurs because he could not listen. This paper aims to summarize the story in 1Kings 22:1-40, discuss a few characters, and think about ways I can integrate them into my everyday life.

In the beginning of the chapter, Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, goes out of his way to visit the king of Israel. During his time there, he offers the king a helping hand to fight the King of Syria by giving them his soldiers and horses in verse 4. As the story goes on, the readers are introduced to the prophet Micaiah when the kings are looking for more prophets to get advice on their plan of attack and the Lord's will.

When Micaiah comes to the kings, he gives them a completely different answer than the 400 prophets who told them they would win the battle. In verse 17, Micaiah describes the Israeli army as "Sheep with no shepherd as their guide." He tells the kings how the Lord has told them to go home quietly. Instead of the King of Israel listening to what he has been told he scolded Micaiah and claimed that he never had anything good to say about him. Instead of listening to Micaiah, they decided to throw him in prison. Before leaving, Micaiah gives King Ahab one last message in verse 26: "If you do return safely, it will show that I have not spoken the Lord's message."

As the story continues, the readers find out that both kings decided to continue their plan of war. King Ahab chose to dress in ordinary clothing, thinking people would not recognize him. Sadly, in verse 35, readers find out the plan he had come up with did not get him too far, stating, "His blood poured out and covered the floor of the chariot. When evening came, Ahab died."

Ultimately, the Israelite soldiers began to leave the battle and return home. After Ahab had died, he was taken to Samaria to be washed but was washed in a place where the prostitutes washed themselves. There, dogs drank Ahab's blood, like it was prophesied.

After reading this story, one thing I realized was Ahab never listens and always wants things his way. Just like in Chapter 21(which I accidentally read, but I am glad I did), if he does not receive what he wants or wants to hear, he begins to whine or get angry and disregard it as a whole. Ultimately, he brought down his downfall because he couldn't take no for an answer.

One thing I learned about Jehoshaphat was that he was simply a side character. I felt he never made any decisions throughout this story and just went along with anything and everything King Ahab had decided. Even when they were out in battle, when the soldiers saw him in royal clothing, he began to run. In a way, I saw him as a bit of a coward.

The only character that stood out to me during this story was Micaiah. One thing that I realized about him is that he wasn't afraid to speak up and tell the truth. In the beginning of the story, we are told about how both kings found 400 prophets and how everyone told them to go to war. Micaiah was the only one out of those prophets, to tell the truth despite the trouble it had put him in. He did not step down because he was confident that what he was saying was from the Lord.

One thing I have learned about God's character in this text is that he will not sugarcoat anything and tell us what we want to hear. In this verse, the only reason King Ahab had called upon the prophets to help him decide what he should do was so that they could reaffirm his actions. When the Lord gave him his answer, we saw that he was being honest and warned him of his doing, and in the end, King Ahab decided to ignore it. One lesson I can take away from this story is to think and listen to the Lord before doing anything. Sometimes it can be easy to

want to take the steering wheel in our lives, but the only thing it will lead us to is destruction.

Without the Lord, our lives are meaningless.