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The story in 1 Kings 22 can be summed up as an account of King Ahab's stubbornness and his demise. In this story the 2 nations Israel and Syria, had been at peace and without conflict for 2 years, and in the 3rd year the king of Judah (Jehoshaphat) and the king of Israel (Ahab) met and Ahab insisted that they should seize the land of Ramoth-Gilead back from the Syrian king and Jehoshaphat insisted that they consult with the Lord first. God made it so that all of Ahab's prophets will deceive him and tell him that he will be victorious in this attack and God sent the prophet Micaiah the prophecy that they will not be successful in this attack and Ahab will die. Ahab demanded that the prophet is imprisoned, and he embarked on the journey to attack Syria as the prophet predicted, he died and Israel was left without a leader.

I think that Ahab had a bad character, he was selfish and had evil intent in his heart. I think that he was too fixated on himself and was not teachable which are bad traits to have especially as a leader. Ahab rejected God's message if it was not what he wanted to hear, he states that he hates Micaiah because he never prophesies good things to him, only bad things (NRSV, 1 Kings 22: 8). Ahab shows evil intent when they go to Syria with the king of Judah, he heard the prophecy that Micaiah said about him dying from this attack and he convinced Jehoshaphat to wear his royal garments while he will disguise himself, this could be because he knew that the king of Syria will order his troops to kill him (NRSV, 1 Kings 22: 30-31). This was Ahab's ill intent to get Jehoshaphat killed in his place, this makes him a terrible person as he thinks that he can run away from the consequences of his action and have

someone else face the music on his behalf. I think that this flaw in his character cost him his life and a peaceful and prosperous reign in Israel.

I think that Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah has reverence for the Lord and His prophecies, he is the one who suggests to Ahab that they should ask God if they should embark on this mission or not (NRSV, 1 Kings 22: 5) he also rebukes Ahab when he says that he hates the prophet of the Lord (NRSV, 1 Kings 22: 8). Overall, I think that Jehoshaphat had reverence for God and his prophets but he lacked initiative, he continued the journey with Ahab knowing what the Lord said and he also remained silent as Ahab sent for Micaiah to be imprisoned. I think that Micaiah has a good relationship with the Lord and he prophesies God's truth regardless of the consequences that he might suffer, he serves God before he serves the king. The fact that all the other prophets had prophesied lies to Ahab shows that Micaiah was not like them, he was trusted by God with the most intricate prophecies regarding his children.

What we can learn from God's character in this text is the fact that he can give us over to our evil desires if we are stubborn and disobey him, he can make us believe that he supports the terrible decisions that we want to make. This is because he sees that we do not have any desire in our hearts to pursue his will but we rather have our own desires which we want to pursue over his. What I am learning from this story that I can apply in my own Christian walk is that it is important to respect and honor what God says regardless of whether I agree with it or not, the story has taught me that our actions and disobedience can cost us our lives. More than anything, this story serves as a good reminder of God's sovereignty, he knows best and we should never get too comfortable to the point where we do things that he never ordered us to do. What the king of Israel Ahab was trying to do in this story was to force God's hand to protect him and side with his decisions which he made selfishly and in disobedience to God.

In conclusion, this story shows that God is still God and King above all and that we should not let our earthly positions cloud our judgment into thinking that we can make decisions about the things of God without his blessing. Ahab forgot that he was king over Israel but God was King and Lord above Him and the entire universe, and God is the one who chooses kings and places them in such a position to fulfill His will regarding His children. We should never undermine God's word and authority as it can cost us our lives.

Works Cited

Keener, Craig S., and John H. Walton, eds. NRSV, Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible:
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