

Sebastian Pedraza

David Emanuel

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1 Kings 22:1-40: Lessons to be learned through the analysis of specific characters

The exploration of different characters from the same passage can help us to infer and establish a series of lessons that can and perhaps should be applied in our Christian journey. For this reason, based on 1 Kings 22:1-40 and the study of Ahab, Jehoshaphat, and Micaiah, more specifically on the individual characteristics of these three, those teachings applicable to the daily life of a good Christian will be established to understand and apply the precise behavior to get closer to the Lord.

This passage describes how King Ahab of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah sought to ally against the king of Aram. Ahab asked his prophets to support the plan, but Jehoshaphat asked a prophet of the Lord to give an opinion as well. In the conversation between King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat, it was said:

"And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so." (1 Kings 22:8).

Ahab called the prophet Micaiah, who initially gave the same encouragement as the other prophets, but later revealed a vision from God in which the alliance was defeated and Ahab was killed. Despite this warning, "And he said, I did see 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." (1 Kings 22:17). Nevertheless, Ahab disregarded Micaiah's prophecy and went to battle anyway, and as predicted, Ahab was killed while disguising himself in battle. The chapter concludes with the Lord's judgment on Ahab's false prophets, who were punished for his deceit.

Ahab's character is not favorable. He is presented as a king who is willing to go to war despite the warning of a prophet of the Lord and ignores the prophecy that would have saved his life. He also consulted with false prophets and sought their approval for his plans, instead of seeking the will of the Lord. Furthermore, Ahab's actions ultimately led to his death, which is presented as a punishment from the Lord. This passage paints Ahab's character as someone who is not obedient to God, and who does not seek God's will, but follows his desires. In contrast to Ahab, Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, is portrayed more positively as he is seeking the will of the Lord and is willing to consult a prophet of the Lord for guidance before going to war. He is aware of Ahab's association with false prophets and is concerned about the lack of a prophet of guidance from the Lord, however, he is a good ally, as he is willing to support Ahab in battle. He is a king obedient to the Lord, willing to listen to his prophets since he shows himself as a leader who seeks the Lord's guidance and is willing to follow it.

Micaiah is presented as a prophet of the Lord who is willing to speak the truth, no matter the consequences. He is brought before King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat to give a prophecy about his plan to go to war against Aram. He at first gives an answer that is in line with the other prophets but then reveals a vision from God that foretells his defeat and Ahab's death. On the other hand, Micaiah is also shown as a prophet who is not afraid to speak out against false prophets and false prophecies from him. He is willing to face the King and other prophets, even if it means punishment. It can be said that he is a brave and true prophet of the Lord, who is

obedient to the will of the Lord and is willing, to tell the truth, even if it is not what the King or other people want to hear. Finally, it is evident from the very beginning that God's character is one of justice and righteousness. He is a God who is aware of the actions of kings and their prophets and is willing to hold them accountable for their actions; willing to intervene in the affairs of nations, he is not influenced by the actions of false prophets and is willing to punish them for their deceit. Furthermore, God is portrayed as a God who fulfills his word, since Micaiah's prophecy was fulfilled, Ahab died in battle. This passage suggests that God is a just and upright God who is aware of humanity's actions and is willing to intervene in the affairs of nations and hold people accountable for his actions.

This analysis leads to enough teachings to be applied, starting with the importance of seeking God's will, encouraging us to seek God's guidance through prayer and reading the Bible before making important decisions in our lives. It also highlights the danger of false prophets and their false teachings. He shows that false prophets can lead people away from God's will and ultimately to his destruction. Obedience to God's word, even when it may be difficult or uncomfortable, is for our good, as well as accountability since God holds people accountable for their actions, and as believers, we will be accountable to God for our actions, and we must strive to live according to His will.

And with all this clear, the path to the Lord following his will, and understanding his abilities and his disposition helps us to always remember and keep in mind that God is always with us, in both good and bad decisions and that these have repercussions, positive or negative, depending on our decisions.

Bibliography:

"1 Kings 22:1". *The Holy Bible: King James Version*. Cambridge University Press, 1769.