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Reflection on 1 Kings 22:1-40

The conflict in 1 Kings 22:1-40 tells the story of a battle between Ahab, the king of Israel and the king of Aram. Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, joins forces with Ahab, and they consult with their prophets about the outcome of the battle. Ahab's prophets predict certain victory, but Jehoshaphat suggests hearing from a prophet of the Lord. Micaiah is brought before the kings, and he prophesies that the battle will result in defeat for Israel. Ahab ignores Micaiah's prophecy and goes to battle, where he is eventually killed.

Ahab's character is depicted as mostly negative. He is shown to be a wicked king who continuously disobeys God's commandments, and follows his human desires. He also has a tendency to listen to false prophets who tell him what he wants to hear instead of seeking God's truth. "And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them." KJV 1 Kings 22:11. Zedekiah is one of Ahab's yesmen as we can conclude from the quoted text. Ahab is a guy who likes to have many yes men around him, instead of having people around him who will genuinely help and guide him throughout life. It's always good to surround yourself with people who have different views and opinions than yourself so that you can learn from them and get a better perspective for yourself.

Jehoshaphat is shown as a noble ruler who seeks the Lord's guidance and yearns to carry out the Lord's plan. He is shown to be hesitant to engage in battle without first seeking the Lord's approval, and he is prepared to hear the prophet of the Lord, whether or not his words resonate with him. Jehoshaphat is basically just the opposite of Ahab.

Micaiah is portrayed as a faithful servant of God who is not afraid to speak the truth, even when it is unpopular. He is presented as a true prophet who accurately conveys the messages revealed to him by the Lord, despite the potential risk of punishment. This portrayal emphasizes the importance of faithfulness and obedience to God's commands, even in difficult or uncomfortable situations. Micaiah's character serves as an example of the type of person that God values and rewards. "And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak." KJV 1 Kings 22:14.

From this text, we can determine that God is a sovereign God who reveals his will through his prophets and the Bible. We know this because even though Ahab was surrounding himself with false prophets, God's will still prevailed. We also can see that God allows people to make their own choices of their own free will and suffer the consequences of their actions. Ahab's fate is a perfect example of this.

Some lessons that can be applied to our lives include seeking the Lord's guidance in all our decisions and being faithful to speak the truth even when it is unpopular or risky. We should also use Ahab as an example of what not to do. That's

why history is important after all, so we know what mistakes not to repeat. Life is a lot easier when you learn from other's mistakes as well as your own, vs just learning from your own. I am like Ahab in the way that almost all, if not all of my friends have a lot of the same political and religious views. I think I could understand more perspectives vastly more if I made some friends with different political and religious views.