

Calvin Wilson

Professor David Emanuel

BIB102 Old Testament Literature

3/5/2023

Assignment 4

In order to understand 1 Kings 22:1-40, one must first have prior knowledge of the two kings of these kingdoms. After the rule of Solomon, Israel was divided into two kingdoms: a Northern and a Southern kingdom. Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of the Southern kingdom of Judah. He ruled for twenty-five years and walked upright before the Lord just as his ancestors did. Ahab was the seventh king and ruled over Israel's Northern kingdom for twenty-two years. He was also the husband of Jezebel, a Phoenician princess who worshipped Baal, the pagan god of fertility. At the beginning of the chapter, we see that the war between Syria and Israel has ceased and there have been three long years of peace. Jehoshaphat goes to Israel to meet with Ahab, he is later told by Ahab that the Levitical city of Ramoth in Gilead belongs to them, but he hesitates to take it away from Syria. He then asks Jehoshaphat for help, and Jehoshaphat reminds Ahab that although they may be separate kingdoms they are still one people. Although Jehoshaphat agrees he also proposes that they seek God concerning the matter. After that, the two gather together prophets so that they can hear from God, however, Jehoshaphat is not convinced, he wanted to hear a prophet of Yahweh so he asks Ahab is there not still a prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of Him? Ahab suggests a prophet named Micaiah, but he also tells Jehoshaphat that he hates Micah because he does not prophesy good concerning him but evil. Ahab and Jehoshaphat listen to the words of the false prophets and then Micaiah prophesies and gives a true word from the Lord. Micaiah tells Ahab that he would perish in battle and reveals the inspiration behind the other prophets' prophecies. Just as Micaiah had said Ahab died in the battle against the Syrians while Jehoshaphat survived. Jehoshaphat was a good king who knew trusted God and knew that the word of God will come to pass. Ahab on the other hand had hatred towards Micaiah, this hatred was an extension of the way he felt towards God. Ahab's reign materially was a good one but spiritually it was chaotic. Micaiah was a true prophet of God and like Jehoshaphat, he too knew God was would come to pass, which is why he was willing to put

his life on the line. This story teaches us quite a bit but the three most important lessons we can take away from this is that we must consult God in every decision we make, secondly, we must use discernment we seeking advice from people, lastly the word of God is true and will come to pass.