

Noah Brill

Professor David Emanuel

BIB102: Old Testament Literature

March 8, 2023

#### Written Assignment 4

1 Kings 22:1-40 is an account of a battle in which King Ahab of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah joined forces to fight against the King of Aram. Ahab, who was known for his idolatry and wickedness, sought the advice of his false prophets who all promised victory in the battle, while Jehoshaphat, who was known for his righteousness, requested that a prophet of the Lord be consulted. The prophet Micaiah was brought before the kings and, unlike the false prophets, he warned of defeat and death for Ahab. Ahab, however, disregarded the warning and went ahead with the battle, ultimately dying as Micaiah had foretold.

In terms of character, Ahab is portrayed as a wicked king who is heavily influenced by his idolatrous wife Jezebel and is more concerned with his own desires than with following God. He is a king who is more interested in pleasing his wife than listening to the prophets of God. His actions are clearly seen when he asks his false prophets for advice and even went ahead to seek the advice of a prophet of the Lord who he knew would give him the advice he wanted to hear. He is also seen as a king who is not willing to listen to the counsel of others, as he disregards Micaiah's warning of defeat and death and chooses to believe the false prophets instead. Jehoshaphat, on the other hand, is depicted as a righteous king who is willing to seek the Lord's guidance and is cautious in his actions. He is seen as a king who is interested in the will of God and is willing to seek it out. He is also seen as a king who is willing to stand up for what is right, as he asked Ahab to seek the advice of a prophet of the Lord. Micaiah is portrayed as a true

prophet of the Lord, who is willing to speak the truth, even if it is not what the kings want to hear. He is also seen as a prophet who is willing to speak out against the false prophets and their lies.

From this text, we can learn about God's character in that He is a God who desires righteousness and obedience from His people. He is also a God who is able to reveal the truth to His prophets, who will speak it, even in the face of opposition and persecution. This text also shows God's sovereignty over all events, as He allows Ahab to make his own choices, but ultimately brings about the consequences of those choices. It also teaches us that God is a God who is willing to speak to His people and reveal His will to them, as seen in the way he revealed his will to Micaiah and how Micaiah was willing to speak out against the false prophets.

In terms of explicit lessons that can be applied to a Christian life, this story teaches the importance of seeking God's guidance and being willing to listen to His prophets. It also highlights the danger of following false prophets and the importance of being obedient to God and His commandments. Additionally, the story serves as a warning against putting our trust in our own abilities and plans rather than in the Lord. It also teaches about the consequences of disobedience and the importance of repentance. Another explicit lessons that we can learn from this story is to seek the Lord's guidance before making decisions, listen to the Word of God, speak the truth, and stay away from evil influences. We should always seek God's guidance before making important decisions in our lives, listen to His Word, and obey it. We should be willing to speak the truth, even if it goes against the popular opinion or our own desires. Lastly, we should be careful about the people we associate with and the influences in our lives, making sure that they align with God's Word.

In conclusion, this passage teaches us the importance of seeking God's guidance in all areas of our lives, being obedient to God and His commandments, and the dangers of following false prophets and putting our trust in our own abilities and plans rather than in the Lord. Additionally, it serves as a warning of the consequences of disobedience and the importance of repentance.