

Mark Nwokoro
Dr. David Emanuel
Bib 102
March 6th, 2023

THE RISE AND FALL OF KING AHAB, 1 King 22:1-40.

INTRODUCTION

This story centered on reclaiming the “ Ramoth Gilead,” from the Arameans.

After the war that took place between Syria and Israel three years ago. King Jehoshaphat visited king Ahab at Ahab's invitation. Ahab told Jehoshaphat that he had decided to get back the land that was taken during their last battle three years ago, and he asked Jehoshaphat to join forces with him to fight the battle. Jehoshaphat agreed but asked him to seek God's face first before he will give him final approval. It was on record that, for a few years, there has been peace in the whole land and that peace was jeopardized by greed for power, and wealth. In his quest for all these, Ahab, the King manipulated Jehoshaphat into agreeing with him to go to war for the “Ramoth Gilead” which was in Aramean. Knowing fulling well that Arameans were so powerful, Ahab needed to know what comes out of the war, so he summons all his false prophets who prophesized false victory on his side. Not yet convinced about the success of this war, Jehoshaphat insisted that Micaiah, a true prophet of God prophesize for them. Unfortunately, Micaiah's prophecy was opposite to what the other false prophets prophesized. In Micaiah's prophesy, he claimed that “I saw all the Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the Lord said, ‘The people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.’”(1 King 22: 17) After being slapped by another false prophet, ‘Zedekiah,’ Micaiah was further punished by King Ahab, he(king) instructed them to put him in prison until he comes back from war. Before Micaiah was taken away, he declared, “if you ever return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me.”(1 King 22:28) As they prepare for the war, Ahab thought, disguising himself will give himself as an ordinary soldier will give him the edge over the Arameans, but unfortunately, he was mortally wounded by an unaimed arrow. His blood ran onto the floor of the chariot, and as was long ago prophesized by Elijah, the dogs licked his blood. They were defeated in the war, and Jehoshaphat and other men flew for their lives. Ahab died in the war as proclaimed by Micaiah. Ahab's corpse was brought back to Samaria where he was buried.

In my opinion, Ahab's character was bad. He was told to consult the lord instead he gathered false prophets who know only played their game based on what they stood to gain, and would I say, who are playing eye service to the king. As a selfish king, he ignores Micaiah's prophecy because of hatred toward Micaiah because Micaiah will always tell him the only truth that has never been in his favor. Pride and stubbornness made him not accept the real prophetic message given to him. And the lord says, "my son, do not despise the lord's discipline or be weary of his reproof for the Lord reproves him

whom he loves as a father, the son in whom the delight."(prov 3:11-12) Another issue with king Ahab I noticed from this passage is, he was the kind of person who likes to hear only the good side of life. He hates those who tell him the truth, and he made friends with only those who stand by his side even when he was doing the wrong thing. Unfortunately, that contributed to his death.

King Jehoshaphat is a king who fears the lord and is a good counselor. He is also a good in-law and the closest friend to king Ahab. He advised Ahab to seek the face of God through his prophets. He noticed that the prophets gathered around king Ahab were all false prophets, making him insist on getting a true prophet of God, Micaiah. As a good friend to Ahab, he did not want to jeopardize his friendship with Ahab, which could be the reason he(Jehoshaphat) agreed to join him in the war against the Arameans. Ahab, being manipulative and corny, initiated the idea of disguising himself so that Jehoshaphat will be killed in his place, but God being who He is, turn around the plan, and Jehoshaphat was saved.

Prophet Micaiah is a true prophet of God and says only what God wants him to say. He notices in Ahab, is one who doubts prophecy and true prophecy irritates him. He foresees false in the prophecies of all the whole 400 prophets. Prophet Micaiah was well known as a true prophet of God. He was not afraid to say the truth; upon the majority that was well proven but misleading, and he still stand out of the crowd to give the message and make a difference. I see prophet Micaiah, a straightforward, God-fearing, and man who fears the wrath of God. He knows that King Ahab can only destroy the flesh which he was not afraid of, but fears the Lord who destroys the flesh and the soul. As his prophecy comes to pass, it concluded what was written by Elijah, that the dogs will lick his blood(king Ahab).

What can you learn about God's character from this text?

This text reminded me of God's faithfulness to His people. God sees the heart, and for this reason, He knows what our desires are at all times, and He decides what is good for us. God loves humble hearts and despises the proud. God sees unfaithfulness in Ahab as one who often doubts His words through His prophets and God decided to punish him for his unfaithfulness and pride. If King Ahab had listened to the voice of God, there won't have been any war, and no one would have been injured or killed. It is very important for us to go to God first in whatever we are doing. The voice of God is life.

I have seen that unfaithfulness to God's words leads to destiny risk. Is unfair for me to continue to reject the word of God. Is better for me to repent from my evil ways and have a change of heart.

We should follow leaders who direct us toward achieving desired objectives. God-fearing leaders are expected to use their gifts to direct followers to a desirable objective. When leaders are obedient to the word of God and embrace God, they will be blessed. We must appreciate the contributions that reached our goals. This text has taught me a great lesson, that we are just a pencil in the hands of our creator and for this reason, whatever I am today, all my achievements, all come from God. Sometimes, I make some funny statements, "my efforts and hard work." I was able to achieve this. If God is not on our side, I do not think we can make it to the top. I am making a turnaround from my former ways of thinking embracing God and asking for permission before taking any action concerning what I wish to achieve.

Another important thing I learned here is to appreciate those who stand by us, we should value them, support them, and not only seek their advice but learn from them because no knowledge is a waste.

Conclusion

King Ahab is ungodly and stubborn which made him not to be submissive to God's voice. He does not worship or even acknowledge the superiority of forces behind his success. The only way we Christians can be in a good relationship with God is by obeying him, keeping The Commandments, loving, and respecting our fellow men, and surrendering all we have to God. God is the architect of everything we own today, and if it pleases him at any time, He may ask

for all we own or have. When God sees our humbleness through the genuine life we live, he will bless us much more than we bargained for. He did it for Abraham when he wanted to sacrifice Isaac, his only child to God, but God seeing his humbleness and total obedience made him (Abraham) the father of all. I urge all Christians to listen to God, seek God's word, and let His word change our decisions and our ways. Finally, disaster and doom come to those who ignore God's word.

Work Cited

World Bible School Inc,P.O.Box 2169 Cedar Park ,Tx 78630,www.worldbibleschool.net.
www.bible -history .com