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“Ahab the rebellious King influences Jehosaphat in an unwise decision, going against Micaiah the prophet”

God had sent a prophet to tell Ahab that he will die and dogs will lick up his blood at the pool of Jazreel. In chapters 22 God stirred the heart of Ahab to claim the cities of Ramoth Gilead after they had rebelled. This commission brought both Judah and Israel together to claim the former land. Before they go to war the practice of the Kings was to consult the prophets as to the direction they should take. So Jehosaphat asked for a prophet of the Lord even though Ahab had consulted Jezebel's prophet. The Lord in his divinity had already sent out his decree against Ahab from the spirit realm to activate his word that he had initially spoken. Micaiah the prophet of God was summoned and Ahab was not intrigued, because Micaiah spoke the word sent by the Hebrew God that he knew. However, Ahab saw the word as if it was Micaiah speaking against him and not a warning from God. Jehosaphat asked for the word and received the word, and it spoke of destruction, yet he still proceeded to go against better judgment. Jehosaphat knew that the counsel of God stood but he was influenced by Ahab and went against his better judgment. The end result, Ahab died in the battle as they were told and all Israel returned to their home without a King.

Ahab was a King with a bad character. He was constantly rebelling against God's word. He would always seek to do his own thing in spite of being told the correct way to do what he should be doing. From the story Ahab is seen with a quest to go to war, because he felt the need to reclaim what was Israel's lost property. He commissioned the King of Judah, Jehosaphat to join him in this pursuit or adventure, thus creating war for all three nations. According to the story the King had at his disposal Prophets who were seen as oracle of God, that they would consult for help and direction. Ahab had his own prophets and they told him what he wanted to hear and he accepted that and went to war and died because of his rebelliousness.

Jehosaphat was a King who was quite the opposite of Ahab. A good King in fact who made an unwise decision to join forces with Ahab. In his case, he was being foolish and not rebellious like Ahab, even though they were told the same thing. He desires to hear from God which way to proceed, yet he made the same choice as Ahab which almost cost him his life. After being warned not to go to war because of the defeat they will experience, he succumbed to bad influence rather than do what he knew was right, the fickleness of mankind.

Micaiah was a prophet who tried to fit in with the crowd but failed to do so. He was forceful with the truth and he made known what God had told him would happen, should Ahab go to war. Ahab rejected his counsel and went regardless and he placed Micaiah in chains because he gave the counsel of the Lord and not men, and this was displeasing to Ahab. Eventhough Ahab was aware of the prophecy that he would die.

As christians we are to seek counsel in our decision making process, especially when it concerns others or God's will for us. It's important that we think thoroughly about what we are doing and get in the presence of the Lord for ourselves, to know what God's will is, rather than just accepting others' opinions and proceeding . The effect of bad influence can affect anyone, as we see in the case of Jehosaphat regardless of their position, altering the direction of one's life causing untimely death and destruction. In Jehosaphat's case he was saved , I would say by grace, because he went against better judgment and fore knowledge and placed himself in arms ways.