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BIB 102

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Writing 4 – 1 Kings 22:1-40

While reading 1 Kin. 22:1-40 in the Bible, it has taught me the ways and stories of which God's great work shows. In the beginning of chapter 22, the Bible explains "for three years there was no war between Aram and Israel.". Later on it was explained that in the third year the King of Judah, Jehoshaphat, visited the King of Israel and was asked to fight along with him against Ramoth Gilead. The king of Israel asked the 400 prophets if he should go to war against Ramoth Gilead and they told him to "Go". The King of Israel then asks the prophet of the Lord, Micaiah, asking him the same question knowing that he will give him the truth. The King does not like him simply because bad news is always told to him, thinking that he is lying about what god is telling him. Later on in the story The King of Israel went into disguise while the King of Judah went into battle with royal robes, pretending to be bait. The King of Aram, Ahab sent out his chariot commanders and came upon Jehoshaphat thinking he was the King of Israel, then realized it wasn't him and later on found the real King of Israel and killed him.

There are a few characters in this chapter, but the main one I see that has very good potential is Ahab. In my eyes Ahab's character is a bad person for the reason being him allowing his people to kill others. That is a sin, therefore I do not see him as a good person in this story of the Bible. I say this because in 1 Kin. 22: 31, Ahab says to his thirty-two chariot commanders, "Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel.". This textual evidence tells me that he is just not up to any good in the Bible. He is sending out his people to kill, which does not make him a good character or person. Apart from Ahab, there are Jehoshaphat and Micaiah characters that point out to me.

In the Bible Jehoshaphat is shown to be a bad character because he is going to war with others, but is seen to me to be a decent good person because he asks the prophets what God thinks of them going to war. Jehoshaphat is known to be the King of Judah which makes him in control of his people. He is known in the text to allow his men to fight against Ramoth Gilead with the King of Israel. This is because in 1 Kin. 22: 4-5, the Bible says, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."... 'First seek the counsel of the Lord.' ". This evidence from the Bible tells me that Jehoshaphat is a bad character for wanting to fight and go to war with others, but he also seeks God's words of wisdom first to see if it is the right or wrong thing to do.

Not only is Jehoshaphat proven to be a bad character, but Micaiah is known to be the opposite. Micaiah is shown to be a prophet of the Lord in the Bible which speaks the truth, but some others see him as a hater. In 1 Kin. 22: 8, the Bible says, "There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the

Lord, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad.”. This represents Micaiah’s acts of faith towards the Lord which makes him a good person. However, he is not liked by most people because of him being known as bringing bad news to the King of Israel all the time. Reading about these three main characters of 1 Kin. 22:1-40, allows me to learn many things about God's character in this story.

There are many things that can be learned about God from his character in this story. I see God acting in a way I have never seen before, allowing lies to be said which results in someone's death. This is proved to me in 1Kin. 22:23, the Bible says, “So now the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you.”. After reading this verse from the Bible I realize that God does have bad intentions for the people that sin and do bad things to his people. God not only gives lies for the prophets to speak to the King of Israel, but allows him to be killed in the battle against Ramoth Gilead. I feel as if I have learned many things from this story not only about God, but the lessons taught in this chapter of the Bible.

In conclusion, I have learned many explicit lessons from this story. I learned the lessons to always ask God or pray for guidance to allow yourself to be sure of what your next step is in situations. I can apply this story to my Christian life by accepting the fact that God has sent me to spread his word. I am purposeful for that reason being and there are going to be challenges in my life that will try to ruin that for me. I have learned that being a Christian is not an easy thing, but you have to stay true to your love and commitment for God. People

may not like me because of that but I do not live for their well being, I live for God.