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1 Kings Reflection

This reading talks about events that happened to lead to the death of King Ahab of Israel. Ahab suggests to King Jehoshaphat of Judah at the beginning of the chapter that they work together to recover the Syrians' control of the city of Ramoth-Gilead. There was a suggestion that they first inquire about the Lord by Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat insisted on hearing from a prophet of the Lord while Ahab collected his prophets, who all foretold prosperity. Ahab sent for Micaiah but was not sure, he dislikes the prophet because he consistently foretells his downfall. Micaiah predicted the campaign would end in disaster so Ahab put him in prison. After this Ahab and Jehoshaphat go to the campaign but Ahab is disguised as a soldier, avoiding Micaiah's prediction. Micaiah's prediction came true when Ahab died after being hit by an arrow. Ahaziah becomes King after his father's death but is later killed by Jehu who was soon anointed as king by Elisha.

My thoughts on Ahab are that he has good and bad qualities in this reading. They described him to be evil in the sight of the Lord. He did marry Jezebel who showed him the worship of the false god Baal to Israel and he brought himself to participate in the worship. Jehoshaphat was shown as a righteous king who followed the way of the Lord. He was portrayed as a peacemaker that had alliances with other nations and kings. The only thing that was questioned was his joining Ahab in the battle against Syrians. The prophet Micaiah addresses the kings of Israel and Judah with the word of the Lord. When it is unpopular or dangerous he still speaks the truth as a

faithful servant to God. Micaiah was brave enough to go to Ahab and go against his plans even though he knew he would be imprisoned.

This passage contains many lessons regarding God's personality. God is shown to be a prophetic God who longs for his people to obey his teachings. Second, it is demonstrated that God is a just God who will hold people responsible for their deeds. Third, God is shown to be a merciful God who is ready to give people who repent a second chance. Christians can apply several lessons from this reading to their own life. One lesson is the value of attempting to follow God's directions and not being persuaded by others' incorrect teachings. Another lesson is the need to speak the truth, especially when it is unpopular or may have unfavorable repercussions. When they err or fall short of God's standards, Christians can learn the value of repentance and ask for forgiveness.