

Naïma Saint-Fleurant

117727

Professor Dr. David Emmanuel

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The Chosen People

Everyone, since they began to read the Bible, they have met many characters, good or bad, evil or angel. The first character we have met in the Bible is God, the heavenly father who created the earth and every being in it. We read about his first human beings, Adam and Eve, and how he let them be above all other creatures in the garden, and then we realized how they were created in his image. Then the cycle continues until the modern world, but before we arrive there, we should know that God almost gives up on us because we are full of sins and cannot change our hardened hearts. Throughout our readings, we met characters who were important because God chose them to accomplish his mission or promises to Abraham. Some were kings, prophets, priests, Levites, and regular people who decided to do what was right in the name of the Lord. We will take a look at 1 Kings 22: 1-40 and explain the differences between the characters God had chosen to lead Israel to victories.

In 1 Kings 22:1-40, we see an accord being made between the king of Israel Ahab, and the king of Judah, Jehoshaphat, against the king of Syria. They gained Ramoth in Gilead back but did not dare to reclaim it, so when the two kings made peace, Ahab saw it as an opportunity to retake what was his. However, they were still reluctant to go into battle against Syria, so they

questioned the Kingdom's prophets and knew what God said in this decision-making. Each prophet said the same thing to please the king, but one of the prophets did not preach what a king wanted to hear. He was named Micaiah, and he only preached what God said. Ahab was distrustful of everything that left Micaiah's mouth, for he believed the prophet only prophesied evil about him. When the king asked the prophet if he could lead his people in war or let it be, Micaiah told him that he would die if he went, but Ahab did not listen and went to the war; he died in disguise by a random shot of a bow.

Ahab had as his wife a Phoenician named Jezebel; she was a believer of the Phoenician god and "imported hundreds of prophets of Baal into Israel" (Varughese, Branson and Edlin 185), which caused the Israelites to worship Baal. Someone came into the kingdom and disturbed the peace that the people of Israel had established with God. Ahab could have stopped it because he had an accord with the father of heaven and chose to worship another god. He broke the first commandment which is to serve only the Lord our God. We should have immediately stated that he is not a good character, but everyone should have a second chance. As a model for the Israelites, he should not have let someone interfere in his relationship with God, which made him a bad example of kingship. Another thing that made him lose his privileges to heaven was when he did not listen to the prophet who warned him about the battle against Syria. Micaiah is a positive example among the prophets who have worked with the heavenly father before him. He did not try to please kings and make them feel better about their decisions but prophesied the truth. If the king had listened to him every time he said something, Ahab would have been among the positive example of kingship in Israel. Jehoshaphat is a loyal king to his Heavenly King and King Ahab. He was ready to fight beside the Israelites, although he knew the outcomes of what would happen.

What I can learn from those characters is that being sensible about the truth because it did not meet our expectations will lead us to our graves. God gives wisdom to people for a reason; we should not take the wise's words for granted. Although Jehoshaphat was a good king by following God's law, he should have stopped Ahab from going into Battle because the true prophet told them to let God work on it. Micaiah is one of the perfect prophets who taught not to let people divert us from God's words. He let us know that the Lord "is not on the side of politicians and leaders who seek Him only when they need religious legitimacy and sanction to their schemes" (Varughese, Branson and Edlin 187). As soon as Ahab did not find the prophet's words pleasant to him, he threw him in prison.

This story encourages me to select carefully whom I want around me. Everyone should always seek the truth, whether they like it or not. Honesty leads to trust; if God is not honest with us, we will not have trusted him with our lives. He does not stop us from choosing what we want, but when we turn our back on him, we are aware of the consequences of such an act. He told us since the beginning to be good, to love others, and worship only him; if we do not follow those rules, we will feel his wrath.

Work Cited

Varughese, Alex, et al. *Discovering the Old Testament: Story and Faith*. Ed. Alex Varughese. Kansas: Beacon Hill Press, 2003.