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A Battle Prophesied to Be

With a few years of no war against Syria and Israel, the king of Judah, Jehoshaphat, came down to Israel, where he was met with a sort of request for battle by the king of Israel, Ahab. After some thought, the king of Judah thinks that God should have a say in this matter and calls for a man named Micaiah. Micaiah speaks to the king and says to go and prosper in the battle, but king Ahab believes it to be misleading for evil against him. Both kings then went into battle at Ramoth Gilead, but the king of Israel went in disguise for battle while he told the king of Judah to go in his robes. In battle, the king of Israel was struck by an arrow and the war was over once the armies heard the words in 1 Kings 22:36 NKJV “-Every man to his city, and every man to his own country” He was buried in Samaria and his son, Ahaziah took over the reigns of Israel.

Ahab’s character was clear to be bad in the face of God. His continued sin was seen and God sent judgment upon him, fulfilling the prophecy spoken by Micaiah. He prophesied that the kingdom of Israel would scatter across the mountains, as sheep with no shepherd. The king of Israel would not return to Samaria or to Israel in peace. Ahab would soon die in battle as of his judgment by a man who struck an arrow through his armor, while he was disguised from looking like a king in battle. His sins were not overlooked by God and he stated clearly how this battle would turn out.

I believe Jehoshaphat to be a great king and character. He grew his army and made it stronger by his actions in religion. Jehoshaphat led his army to victory and he led to the peace between Israel and Judah by the victory of the war. I do say he has a very certain flaw in his reign that over time was soon to be fixed but as of the importance of it, could have been very grave. As seen in the verses, Jehoshaphat was afraid and was not able to put his faith in God many times, but God tells him over and over again to depend on the strength of the Lord and not solely on his own strength.

Micaiah's character is not quite shown as much in these verses but as we see him here, he is a man of God who wants to show the people to live in God. He tells the king of Israel that he will be defeated in battle for the sins that he has done. The prophecy is that of God placing judgment on the ones who do not live in God, with God, and for God. The king Jehoshaphat had spoken with 400 other prophets for the battle but still wanted to know what Micaiah had to say because he knew that Micaiah walked with God in his life and could speak for Him. Micaiah was true with God and the people around him could see that clearly.

From these verses like 1 Kings 22:20 NKJV, “-Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?-", we see a God who could easily punish Ahab for his wrongdoings, but wants someone to show him that God has passed judgment onto him and wants to see how he responds. God also wants the kings to follow Him, regardless of prophecy, because He calls onto Jehoshaphat to go into battle but Jehoshaphat is not so sure until Micaiah clears his mind about it. An important lesson taken from these verses that one can put into their Christian life is to put strength into God and His will. Jehoshaphat is afraid and does not know if battle is the right thing to do, but God says that he will be victorious. With Jehoshaphat following God and putting His faith and strength in God, he claims the battle for Judah and God.