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Old Testament Literature

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Written Assignment Four

1 Kings 22 begins by making note that for the past three years, there was no war between Aram and Israel. Then in the third year, Jehoshaphat King of Judah went down to see the King of Israel and he highlighted this point. The King of Israel said to officials, that Ramoth Gilead belongs to Israel, and we are doing nothing to take it back from the King of Aram. Then Jehoshaphat told him to first seek the counsel of the Lord. The king of Israel brought together the prophets about 400 men and ask them shall I go against Ramoth Gilead or should I refrain. The response to the Lord will give it into the King's hand. Jehoshaphat asked Ahab if besides that is there not a prophet of the Lord he could speak counsel.

Ahab was not in favor of doing this, he said the prophet always prophesies bad things for him. This prophet was Micaiah. The messenger who went to call Micaiah told him to prophesy the same as the other prophets. Micaiah said I can only tell him what the Lord tells me. Micaiah ultimately told the King of Israel he sees him scattered on the hills like a sheep without a shepherd and the people say the people have no master. Micaiah told the King of the deceiving spirits that are within the other prophets. The King of Israel told them to put Micaiah in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until he returns safely. The King of Israel disgusted

himself and went into battle but told Jehoshaphat to wear his royal robe. Someone took their bow and hit the King between his royal armor. That even the King died. They washed the blood from his chariot at a pool in Samaria and the dog licked up his blood as the word of the Lord had declared.

I think Ahab's overall character was a bad character. The very first mention of Ahab as King stated that He did evil. 1 Kings 16:30 KJV says, And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. This was the open statement for Ahab as king and it straight away pointed out his character as evil. The scriptures went on to say in 1 Kings 16:33 KJV. He however at end of 1 Kings 21 humbled himself before the Lord. After this instance, he however did not stick to the things of God. In 1 Kings 22 we see that Ahab was not interested in the Lord's words. He went against the way and instructions of the Lord and did his own thing or what was told to him by the false prophets.

I think Micaiah has a remarkable character. He has proven to be set apart and different from all the other prophets who were advising Ahab along with him. There were 400 hundred other prophets whose advice to King Ahab was to go up and fight because he would be victorious. Micaiah still went ahead and prophecies even though his word from God was the opposite of what the 400 prophesied. Micaiah spoke as the Lord led regardless of what the outcome may be. He did not look at the fact that he might not be liked by the people because his prophecy is never good in the ear of the King, nor did he worry about what the penalty might have been. Micaiah was confident in his prophecies because he knew they were from God and would surely come to pass.

From this text, we can learn that God's character is that of mercy and justice. God extended His mercies to His people regardless of their disobedience. He could have allowed

Ahab to make his decisions without knowing the outcome of his choices, but God did not do that. God allowed His servant Micaiah to Ahab if He go into battle the result would not be good. Ahab now had the chance of deciding if he would still proceed to fight or not.

What can be explicitly learned from this story is that it is important to follow the instructions of the Lord. We see in this story that the 400 prophets had a collective response, in comparison to that of Micaiah. During our lives, we will find in instances that you get an overwhelming amount of advice from different persons and sources and many appear to be creditable, but it is always important to first seek the counsel of the Lord and also follow the Lord's directives. Our influence and decisions should be a result of what the Lord says and not the majority. When we act on our own impulses or other counsel and ignore the word or directions of the Lord, we never get the best results. This being said it leads me to highlight the importance of having a relationship with God, daily praying, and reading His word, because it is from this that we will develop hearing His voice and understand when and how He is directing us.