

MICAIAH: PROPHET OF THE LORD

Introduction

- 1) Some of the greatest prophets of the OT are not well known because not much is said about them and they did not have a book of prophecy preserved in the OT canon
- 2) One such prophet is **Micaiah**, who appears and then disappears abruptly from the scene
- 3) Micaiah did his work for the Lord during the time of Ahab, king of Israel, but only one incident is preserved for our learning and application – **1 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 18**

I) **Historical Setting**

- A) **Ahab**, king of Israel – evil king with an evil wife, Jezebel (1 Kgs. 16:30-33)
 - 1) Had a general bad attitude and response toward prophets who would tell him the true word of the Lord (18:10, 17-18; 21:17-20); did humble himself once (21:21-29)
- B) No war between Israel and Syria for three years (22:1)
- C) Ahab wants to regain Ramoth in Gilead from the Syrians (22:3)
- D) Asks **Jehoshaphat**, king of Judah who is visiting, for help; Jehoshaphat agrees (22:2, 4)
 - 1) Allied to one another by marriage (2 Chron. 18:1; 1 Kgs. 22:44); Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, married Ahab's daughter, Athaliah (2 Kgs. 8:18, 26; 2 Chron. 21:6)
 - 2) Jehoshaphat had a weakness in making alliances with those who were wicked (2 Chron. 19:1-3; 20:35-37)

II) **Inquiring about the Word of the Lord**

- A) Jehoshaphat asks for an inquiry for the word of the Lord (22:5)
 - 1) Instinctive reaction of a man who seeks God and His ways (2 Chron. 17:1-6)
- B) Ahab gathers about 400 prophets who give the okay to go (22:6)
 - 1) Jehoshaphat not impressed; wants a *prophet of the Lord* to inquire from (22:7)
 - 2) He could tell these were men who said what the king wanted to hear, not what was true and accurate from the Lord (cf. 2 Tim. 4:3-4)
- C) Micaiah, son of Imlah, is identified, but Ahab hated him because “he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil” (22:8; 18:17; Gal. 4:16); Ahab calls for Micaiah to be brought (22:9)

III) **Micaiah Stands Before Ahab**

- A) The false prophets continue their encouragement of the king (22:10-12; cf. Jer. 14:14)
- B) Messenger encourages Micaiah to go along with the prophecy of the moment (22:13)
 - 1) Some prophets (and preachers) interested in knowing which way the “wind is blowing”
 - 2) Micaiah refused to compromise – was dedicated to the God's word (22:14; cf. Num. 22:18)
- C) When first asked by Ahab, Micaiah feigns agreement with other prophets (22:15)
 - 1) Ahab wants Micaiah to be serious, so Micaiah prophesies of trouble ahead (22:16-17)
 - 2) Ahab complains about Micaiah's negative prophecy (22:18 “Did I not tell you...”)
- D) Micaiah reveals the lying spirit in Ahab's prophets (22:19-23)
 - 1) False messages will go forth to deceive those who do *not* love the truth (2 Thess. 2:9-12)
 - 2) Zedekiah strikes Micaiah, showing his character to be wicked and rebuke false (22:24-25)
 - 3) Zedekiah impugns Micaiah's source and character (authority? liar?)
- E) Ahab puts Micaiah in prison to be afflicted until he returns (22:26-27)
 - 1) Micaiah tells Ahab that if he returns, then he will be proved a false prophet (22:28)

Conclusion

Ahab died in battle at Ramoth Gilead, even after he tried to disguise himself (22:29-37 – we cannot fool God!). The word of the Lord had been proven true, even though His messenger, Micaiah, was shunned, hated, intimidated, and punished for faithfully speaking God's word. Let us be courageous and uncompromising to speak the truth, even when shunned and hated for doing so.