

**MICAHIAH WARNS AHAB (I Kings 22)**

**Parts:** Narrator,  
King of Israel (Ahab),  
Jehoshaphat (King of Judah),  
Prophet Micaiah,  
Prophet Zedekiah,  
other prophets,  
Officer of the King of Israel,  
King of Syria, Syrian captains

**Narrator:**

Now three years passed without war between Syria and Israel. Then it came to pass, in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went down to visit the king of Israel.

**King of Israel** (to his servants):

"Do you know that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, but we hesitate to take it out of the hand of the king of Syria? *(to Jehoshaphat)* Will you go with me to fight at Ramoth Gilead?"

**Jehoshaphat:**

"Please inquire for the word of Yehowah today."

**Narrator:**

Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and spoke to them.

**King of Israel:**

"Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to fight, or shall I refrain?"

**Prophets:**

"Go up, for Yehowah will deliver it into the hand of the king."

**Jehoshaphat:**

"Is there not still a prophet of Yehowah here, that we may inquire of Him?"

**King of Israel:**

"There is still one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of Yehowah; but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."

**Jehoshaphat:**

"Let not the king say such things!"

**King of Israel (to an officer):**

"Bring Micaiah the son of Imlah quickly!"

**Officer (goes off to get Micaiah)****Narrator:**

[Meanwhile] the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, having put on their robes, sat each on his throne, at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made horns of iron for himself; and he spoke.

**Zedekiah:**

"Thus says Yehowah: `With these you shall gore the Syrians until they are destroyed'"

**Prophets:**

"Go up to Ramoth Gilead and prosper, for Yehowah will deliver it into the king's hand."

**Officer (has found Micaiah and is bringing him to the Gate of Samaria):**

"Now listen, the words of the prophets with one accord encourage the king. Please, let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak encouragement."

**Micaiah:**

"As Yehowah lives, whatever Yehowah says to me, that I will speak."

**Officer and Micaiah (come before kings)**

**King of Israel:**

"Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall we refrain?"

**Micaiah** (without feeling, perhaps a bit sarcastically):

"Go and prosper, for Yehowah will deliver it into the hand of the king!"

**King of Israel:**

"How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of Yehowah?"

**Micaiah** (going into a trance):

"I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And Yehowah said, 'These have no master. Let each return to his house in peace.'"

**King of Israel** (aside to Jehoshaphat):

"Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?"

**Micaiah:**

"Therefore hear the word of Yehowah: I saw Yehowah sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. And Yehowah said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. Then a spirit came forward and stood before Yehowah, and said, 'I will persuade him.' Yehowah said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' and He said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' "Now therefore, look! Yehowah has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and Yehowah has declared disaster against you."

**Zedekiah** (goes up and strikes Micaiah on the cheek):

"Which way did the spirit from Yehowah go from me to speak to you?"

**Micaiah:**

"Indeed, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!"

**King of Israel** (to his officer):

"Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son; and say, 'Thus says the king: "Put this fellow in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I come in peace." ' "

**Micaiah:**

"If you ever return in peace, Yehowah has not spoken by me. Take heed all you people!"

**Narrator:**

So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

**King of Israel** (to Jehoshaphat):

"I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes."

**Narrator:**

So the King of Israel disguised himself and went into battle. *(Pause)* Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariot.

**King of Syria:**

"Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel."

**Captains** (seeing Jehoshaphat):

"Surely it is the king of Israel!" *(go after him)*

**Jehoshaphat** (cries out and runs away in his chariot):

**Narrator:**

And it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him. *(Pause)* Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor.

**King of Israel** (to the driver of his chariot):

"Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded."

**Narrator:**

The battle increased that day and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot. Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army.

**Shout:**

"Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!"

**Narrator:**

So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the Lord which He had spoken. Now the rest of the acts of Ahab and all that he did, the ivory house which he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Ahab rested with his fathers. Then Ahaziah his son reigned in his place.

(The End)