

1 Kings 22—Battle of the Prophets & Ahab's Death

Ahab & the False Prophets (verses 1-12)

1. What was the family relationship between King Jehoshaphat and King Ahab? Was this alliance necessary for Jehoshaphat? See **2 Chronicles 18:1**.

2 Chronicles 18:1 *Now Jehoshaphat had great riches and honor, and he made a marriage alliance with Ahab.*

2. Ahab asks Jehoshaphat to join him in battle. What was the order of Jehoshaphat's two actions in verses 4 and 5, and what would have been a better order?
3. The 400 prophets urge Ahab to attack and foretell victory. How do you explain Jehoshaphat's question to Ahab in verse 7 and Ahab's answer in verse 8?

"[A] battle of prophets ensues between Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah, leader of the 400, and Micaiah." – ESV Study Bible

Micaiah Prophecies Against Ahab (verses 13-28)

4. Read verses 13-18. What is going on in verses 15-16 and what does this tell you about the relationship between Ahab and Micaiah?
5. What is the prophecy and its meaning?
6. Read verses 19-28. From the scene that Micaiah saw in heaven:
 - a. What was God asking for (will get to the meaning of this later)?
 - b. Who is the lying spirit and its strategy?
7. How does Ahab respond to Micaiah's vision of heaven?

8. Relate Ahab's attitude to that of Pharaoh in **Exodus 10:20**

Exodus 10:20 *But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the people of Israel go.*

Ahab Killed in Battle (verses 29-40)

9. What was Ahab trying to accomplish with this "costuming" arrangement?

10. What happened to Ahab "at random", fulfilling what the prophet had said after Ahab's peace treaty with Ben-Hadad? See **1 Kings 20: 41-42**.

11. What was the result of the battle and how does that relate to Micaiah's prophecy?

After Naboth is killed, Elijah tells Ahab (in 1 Kings 21:19) that "Thus says the Lord: "In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick your own blood"". After Ahab repents, the Lord says that the disaster will come in the days of Ahab's son. However, this prophecy is partially fulfilled as the dogs lick up the bloody water by the pool of Samaria.

Jehoshaphat Reigns in Judah (verses 41-50)

12. Read verses 41-46 as well as **2 Chronicles 17:1-9**. What are the positive and negative elements of Jehoshaphat's reign?

13. After the battle where Ahab was killed, Jehoshaphat returned safely home.

a. What did the prophet Jehu say regarding his alliance with the king of Israel. See 2 Chronicles 19: 1-3.

b. Why was this alliance a problem? See **James 4:4**.

James 4:4 *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

14. Read verses 47-50 and **2 Chronicles 20:35-37**. Jehoshaphat made an alliance with another wicked king of Israel. What were the consequences?

Ahaziah Reigns in Israel (verses 51-53)

15. What is a brief recap of Ahaziah's reign?

Resources:

- NIV and ESV Study Bibles
- LifeLight—1 and 2 Kings: Leaders Guide and Study Guide (CPH)
- 1 & 2 Kings—God's Word for Today (CPH)
- People's Bible Commentary: Kings
- Concordia Commentary on 1 Kings