**8 – Insistence of Jehoshaphat**

*1 Kings 22:5-7; Isaiah 8:20*

**Divided Kingdom**

* North – Israel (Ahab)
  + Evil (**1 Kings 16:29-33);** Influence of wife contributed **(21:25).**
    - Elijah’s victory at mount Carmel over the prophets of Baal whom Ahab served – **18:20-40**)
    - Jezebel sought to kill Elijah – **19:1-3**
* South – Judah (Jehoshaphat)
  + Good (**1 Kings 22:41-43a**)
* Israel and Judah were at opposition ever since the split until this point.
  + **1 Kings 22:44** – Jehoshaphat made peace with Israel. 🡪
    - There was a common threat to both nations from the growing power of Syria. Thus they came together in alliance against Syria.

**Ramoth in Gilead**

* Ahab had a covenant with Ben-hadad (king of Syria) to acquire this land. It was rightfully theirs (**cf. 22:3; 20:34)**.
* Although it belonged to Israel, the Syrians still held on to it. So upon Jehoshaphat’s visit Ahab sought his help. 🡪
* Jehoshaphat agreed to help, but wanted to inquire for the word of the Lord to see what His instruction would be, whether to go fight (**cf. 22:5**).
* The “prophets” Ahab brought together were evidently false prophets (**cf. 22:6**).
  + This is apparent because of Jehoshaphat’s reaction (**22:7** – their answer did not satisfy him).
    - Likely because of what was known about Ahab and prophets of God in the past (Elijah, etc.)
    - Ahab used men who were not God’s spokesmen to tell him what he wanted to hear.
    - Ahab knew of one who was an actual prophet of Jehovah God – Micaiah (**22:8**).
      * His hate for him reflects Ahab’s evil character. He did not desire truth.
      * Although what Micaiah prophesied Ahab knew to be from God he would rather hear something false because of God’s message.
      * Micaiah as a prophet could only speak what God would have him to speak (**22:14).**
        + **This is the nature of prophecy and the meaning of inspiration (cf. Jeremiah 1:4-9, 17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – God breathed, i.e. from the mouth of God; 2 Peter 1:19-21).**
* **It is admirable that Jehoshaphat insisted that he hear what God had to say rather than some false prophet. We should have the same mindset.**
  + Only the truth can set us free (**cf. John 8:31-32; 14:6**).
  + The truth consists of all that Christ teaches directly and via the HS (cf**. 2 John 9** – This is a necessity in its entirety. If we don’t abide we don’t have God.)
  + We should set our heart’s desire on truth in general so that when it is revealed we will be inclined to follow it – **Psalm 63:1-8** (this should be our attitude for every facet of God’s word)
    - Even though it may be difficult to hear – **Luke 14:25-27**
  + Ignorance is not bliss because God will judge – **Acts 17:30-31**
  + **Only God can guide us to victory – Psalm 119:105; Jeremiah 10:23**
    - **Compare with Israel at Jericho and AI – Joshua 6:1-2; 7:2-3; 8:1**
* **Although Jehoshaphat insisted an inquiry of the Lord his decision after hearing the word of the Lord was not admirable.**
  + **1 Kings 22:14-23 – Micaiah first mocked the prophets Ahab had originally called, but then spoke the true prophecy given by God.**
    - **Going into battle at Ramoth in Gilead would mean destruction of Ahab.**
    - **Ahab did not like this (v. 18).**
    - **Ahab wanted to hear a lie from false prophets, so God allowed it, though did not force him to do so. – (v. 19-23).**
  + Although Jehoshaphat wanted to hear the Lord, evidently he didn’t want to obey – **1 Kings 22:29**
    - This led to Ahab’s death – (**v. 27-40**)
    - He may have been further persuaded by what Ahab might think of him if he went back on his promise. (Concerned with man’s praise rather than God’s)
    - He may have been too worried about the threat of Syria to his own people instead of trusting in God.
  + The cares and desires of this world are ultimately what causes people to disobey God even though they know the truth 🡪
    - **Romans 1:18-25, 31** (they do this even though they know it is wrong and is punishable. Because they love the passing pleasures of sin more than the truth.)
    - **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12** – The choice continues to be up to the person and not God – but God will let us choose good or bad. However, not without consequences.)

***We must insist on hearing the truth of God’s word as did Jehoshaphat, but when we hear it we must have the heart to obey it.***