

God's Word in a Prophet's Mouth

1 Kings 22

INTRODUCTION

- A. God's Word is powerful.
 - 1. "The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).
 - 2. "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible" (Heb. 11:3).
 - 3. I'm not so sure we're not talking about the same word of God.
 - a. The written Word will create lives the way God wants.
 - b. The spoken Word will create worlds the way God wants.
- B. Ahab wanted to take Ramoth Gilead out of the hands of the king of Syria.
 - 1. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, had come down to visit Ahab.
 - 2. Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to go to war with him.
 - 3. Jehoshaphat agreed to go to war with Ahab.
- C. We can learn much about God's Word from this episode.

GOD'S WORD IS DIFFICULT TO HEAR, vv. 5-12

- A. Before he went into battle, Jehoshaphat wanted to be certain God was on his side, v. 5.
- B. Ahab gathered 400 prophets together, v. 6.
 - 1. All these prophets told Ahab to go into battle.
 - 2. These were probably 400 prophets of Asherah, a Canaanite goddess.
 - 3. These weren't prophets of Yahweh.
- C. Jehoshaphat wasn't convinced, he wanted to know if there was another prophet, v. 7.
- D. Ahab says there is another prophets, Micaiah. But notice what Ahab says, v. 8:
 - 1. "I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."
 - 2. In other words, Ahab didn't like Micaiah, because Micaiah never told him what he wanted to hear.
- E. But, Ahab told an officer to get Micaiah, v. 9.
- F. While the kings waited to Micaiah, they listened to the other prophets, vv. 10-12.
 - 1. Zedekiah made horns of iron and told the kings with such horns they would destroy the Syrians.
 - 2. All the other prophets said the same thing, telling Ahab and Jehoshaphat to go to Ramoth-Gilead.
- G. Sometimes, hearing God's word isn't pleasant; it's difficult.
 - 1. Ahab didn't want to hear what Micaiah had to say.
 - 2. Hearing God's word is difficult, because it often tells us we're not what we ought to be.
 - 3. Hearing God's word is difficult, because it often tells us we need to change.

GOD'S WORD REQUIRES FAITHFUL PROCLAMATION, vv. 13-28

- A. The officer who went to get Micaiah wanted to smooth everything over; he told Micaiah, "Just go tell the king what everyone else is saying," v. 13.
- B. Micaiah replied, "As the Lord lives, whatever the Lord says to me, that I will speak," v. 14.
 - 1. We need this kind of teaching in the church.
 - 2. We need this kind of teaching in the home.

- C. Ahab calls Micaiah in and wants to know what God has said, vv. 15-18.
 - 1. Micaiah says, "Go up, the Lord will give the land into your hand."
 - 2. Ahab could see right through that, and he wanted to know the truth.
 - 3. Micaiah said, "I saw Israel as sheep without a shepherd."
 - 4. Ahab told Jehoshaphat, "See, I told you Micaiah didn't like me."
- D. Micaiah says, "OK, Ahab, here's what God has to say," vv. 18-23.
 - 1. The lord wanted to get rid of Ahab, he did more evil than any other king before him (1 Ki. 16:30).
 - 2. Micaiah sees a vision where different spirits come before the Lord and tell how they would entice Ahab to go to Ramoth-Gilead to die.
 - 3. Finally, a deceitful spirit steps forth and says, "I'll put a false word in the mouths of his prophets."
 - 4. Micaiah finishes by saying, "the LORD has decreed disaster for you."
- E. Ahab put Micaiah in prison until he would come back in peace; Micaiah told Ahab, "If you return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me," vv. 26-28.
- F. We need people who will say, "This is what God says."

GOD'S WORD COMES TRUE, vv. 29-40

- A. Ahab told Jehoshaphat to wear his royal garments, but he was going to disguise himself vv. 29-30.
- B. The king of Syria wanted Ahab, vv. 31-33.
 - 1. The Syrian king had commanded his army to fight with no one except Ahab.
 - 2. When the army saw Jehoshaphat they thought he was Ahab.
 - a. The army turned to fight against him.
 - b. Yet, when Jehoshaphat cried out they stopped fighting against him.
- C. However, a soldier unknowingly struck Ahab, vv. 34-38.
 - 1. Ahab had the driver of his chariot remove him from the battle.
 - 2. The king died that evening just like Micaiah said that he would.
 - 3. The dogs licked his blood just like Elijah had said—21:19.
- D. When God says something, it will come true. God means what he says.