

MODAY

The king's messenger who found Micaiah urges him to agree with the other 400 prophets. Escorted before the king and asked whether Ahab should fight Assyria or not, Micaiah did what the messenger had said, parroting the other prophets. But something in the way he did so indicated to Ahab that he was not speaking honestly.

READ: I Kings 22:13-16

Another really interesting section: Ahab recognizes that Micaiah is speaking "tongue in cheek" and criticizes him for doing it. Tell me the truth, he says. Whether you can hear it or not, that's the cry of the lost. "Tell me the truth!" What a rare and wondrous privilege is ours to be truth tellers! When the pressure is on, when it's 400 to 1, when it's a king who stands before you, tell the truth. It is the truth which sets men free.

TUESDAY

The prophet Micaiah predicts a great slaughter and the death of King Ahab. The king complains that the prophet never has anything positive to contribute but the prophet continues with a vision from before the throne of God, where the lies and deceit of the false prophets around Ahab are exposed.

READ: I Kings 22:17-23

I'm not certain exactly what this "lying spirit" is, but it's plain to see that God gave these 400 false prophets over to believe this lie (and others) because they had already rejected the truth. Does that not describe our world today in an almost scary way? It's so much the same! People will believe just about anything as long as it's not the truth of God's Word. As believers, we must remain fixed on the truth. We are truth-tellers! Let us not hem and haw around, talking obscurely about our faith, apologizing at the same time, and making it all seem to be a very personally way of perceiving something mysterious. Let us speak up and proclaim truth! No lying spirits allowed! Truth. It's all about truth.

WEDNESDAY

Zedekiah, one of the 400 false prophets, slaps Micaiah for his comments about their lying, and sarcastically suggests that Elijah now has that lying spirit. Ahab orders Micaiah to be sent to prison until the battle is won and Ahab returns. Micaiah replies that if Ahab ever returns safely, only then it will Micaiah is the false prophet.

READ: I Kings 22:24-28

"Mark my words," the prophet told Ahab and others standing there. That's a way of saying, "Pay attention to what I have just said because what I just said is, in fact, going to happen." Micaiah could only speak with that sort of authority because he knew that his message was from the Lord. When the Bible tells us that all power is given unto us, it's the same sort of thing. All power (or authority) is ours as we speak God's truth to others. Like Micaiah, we proclaim truth with authority because we know it's from God. Mark my words, when we proclaim God's truth, we speak with power from Above.

THURSDAY

The two kings plan their battle against the Assyrian army (the army of Aram, some Bibles

say) Ahab decides to wear a disguise, but Jehoshaphat wears his royal robes. The king of Assyria had told his troops to forget the common soldiers until, first, they killed King Ahab. In his disguise, they don't recognize him, but then a random arrow hits and wounds King Ahab.

READ: I Kings 22:29-34

A random shot, the NIV text tells us in verse 34. Do you know what a random shot is? It's a shot that God sights up and then guides to the target of His own choosing. Remember that next time you have the opportunity to make a random comment about your great salvation. No telling what heart that random comment may hit!

FRIDAY

Propped up in his chariot, King Ahab died from his wound that same evening. His body was taken back to Samaria. Servants washed the chariot of the blood of the dead king and as it ran out onto the ground, the dogs licked it up. His son Ahaziah became king of Israel in his place.

READ: I Kings 22:35-40

Re-read 1 Kings 21:19 and be amazed. A prediction that seemed unthinkable at the time comes true - right down to dogs! No wonder you and I are called upon to have confidence in the promises and prophesies of the Bible which are ahead for us. Every promise in the book is true - every word God has given to you, a poet has said. We do well to remind ourselves of them, and keep them before us always, and to be standing on the promises of God!

SATURDAY

We read a brief summary of the twenty-five-year reign of King Jehoshaphat down in Judah, the southern kingdom. With two notable exceptions, we are told that he did right in the eyes of the Lord.

READ: I Kings 22:41-44

He did what was right in God's eyes, the text says, and did not stray from that path. Think back to thru the book of 1 Kings and recall how common a story it was that a king would stray. He'd get off the path. At times, he'd lose his way completely. But King Jehoshaphat kept going. And going. And going. As I write these words now, I am thinking of the many believers I have met in my lifetime who share his story. They kept going. They continued to walk in God's way, and they persevered till the very end. When I pray, I always pray along those lines - that God would allow me to join the Jehoshaphat Club, and be one who stays the course without straying. Membership slots are still available, and I invite you to join, too. We need more Jehoshaphats!