

## Ahab and Jehoshaphat Battle Aram

### 1 Kings 22

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
Ahab's Third Campaign against Aram	22	1-4	Ahab seeks an alliance with Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, against Aram to take back Ramoth-gilead
		5-13	Jehoshaphat asks Ahab to inquire of the Lord first; Micaiah is hated by Ahab; Micaiah called to prophesy; Zedekiah falsely prophesies victory
Micaiah Predicts Defeat		13-14	Micaiah asked to be a "Yes Man" like all the other prophets; he refuses
		15-18	Micaiah speaks but Ahab asks for the truth; Micah tells of Israel's destruction
		19-23	Micaiah tells of the spiritual battle concerning Ahab
		24-28	Zedekiah strikes Micaiah and is told of his soon demise; Ahab imprisons Micaiah until his return; Micaiah, "If you return safely the Lord has not spoken by me."
Defeat and Death of Ahab		29-33	Ahab disguises himself while Jehoshaphat wears his royal armor; Arameans told to fight against Ahab only
		34-36	Ahab is randomly shot by an archer; propped up in his chariot to continue the battle; Israel's army abandons the fight
		37-40	Ahab dies and the prophecy is fulfilled
The New Rulers		41-44	Jehoshaphat in Judah - was good like Asa but allowed some idolatry
		45-46	Jehoshaphat dies
		47-50	Jehoshaphat's control over Edom; his trading ships destroyed by Ahaziah of Israel; Ahaziah wanted to fight with him but he refused; His son Jehoram becomes king in Judah
	51-53	Ahaziah, Ahab's son, rules in Israel - evil like his parents worshiping Baal	

### Reflections

Ahab's rebellion against God is going to come to a conclusion in this chapter. Ahab asks Jehoshaphat of Judah to ally with him to go up against the Arameans to take Ramoth-gilead, which was originally one of the Levitical cities and a city of refuge on the east side of the Jordan river ([Deu 4:43](#); [Jos 20:8](#); [21:38](#)). It's interesting that Ahab, a worshipper of Baal, would want to recapture a city that was set aside for the Levites. It is obvious that this wasn't about restoring something that was God's but a desire for more for himself.

Jehoshaphat though was still worshiping God and asked that a prophet of the Lord be consulted to ascertain God's will in the matter. Ahab doesn't want to have anything to do with it because the only prophet around is Micaiah who always prophesies against Ahab. Jehoshaphat convinces Ahab to summon the prophet anyway.

The people sent to get Micaiah try to convince to speak in line with all the other prophets, who have

<sup>1</sup> (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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declared victory for Ahab and Jehoshaphat. Micaiah's response is one that any person of faith should pay close attention to.

**1 Kings 22:14 NASB** But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I shall speak."

Initially, Micaiah gives a positive pronouncement but Ahab can see that he is being sarcastic and asks for the truth. To which Micaiah declares Israel's destruction. Ahab then reminds Jehoshaphat that is what he said Micaiah would do. Micaiah then reveals the spiritual battle that is taking place with regard to Ahab's rebellious attitude toward God and the false prophets before him. Micaiah is imprisoned by Ahab until he returns from the battle, to which Micaiah declares that Ahab would die in the battle.

Ahab and Jehoshaphat make their battle plans: Jehoshaphat would wear his royal armor and Ahab would disguise himself. The Arameans are told to seek out Ahab and fight only against him but soon find that only Jehoshaphat is in his royal armor. Shortly after this is discovered, Ahab is struck by an arrow and is taken out of the fight but propped up in his chariot and died at the end of the day. When it is discovered that Ahab is dead, the army scatters and the prophecies concerning Ahab's death are fulfilled.

The rest of the chapter is a summary of Jehoshaphat's reign and of Ahaziah replacing his father Ahab on the throne of Israel. Ahaziah followed in the steps of his parents and worshipped the Baals and the Lord's anger was against his, just like his father before him.

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**Key Words:** Old Testament, History, 1 Kings, Ahab, Jehoshaphat, Zedekiah, Micaiah, Ahaziah

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## ***Bibliography***

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*(NASB) New American Standard Bible*. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.