

The Kings of Judah
Jehoshaphat: Meets With Ahab & Micaiah
2 Chronicles 18
Lesson VI

Written: June 15, 1986

REVIEW.

Today we bring to a conclusion these lessons, and so a brief review is in order.

1. INTRODUCTORY LESSONS.

1. 2 Timothy 3:16. All Scripture is profitable. It is time we took this Scripture seriously.
2. Romans 15:4 All written for our learning. There are some things we cannot learn apart from the Old Testament.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2 Timothy 3:16

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:4

2. WE HAVE CONSIDERED.

1. SAUL 1 Chronicles 10:13-14. What a sad end. We believe Saul was a saved man (some question that). At the end of his life, the Lord slew him! A carnal man.

And the king answered them roughly; and king Rehoboam forsook the counsel of the old men, And answered them after the advice of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add thereto: my father chastised you with whips, but I *will chastise you* with scorpions.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

2. DAVID Acts 13:22. He was not a perfect man, but his heart was right in the sight of God. He served his generation by the will of God. And mark the end of his days. When old and preparing for death, he worked with all his might to prepare for the building of the Temple. He was a spiritual man as he neared the end of his life.

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

Acts 13:22

3. SOLOMON 1 Kings 11:4 cf Ecclesiastes 2:17. When he was old, his wives turned away his heart! He started so well, but ended life a very carnal man. "Keep me true Lord Jesus." Make me a John the Baptist, a burning and shining light.

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of David his father.
1 Kings 11:4

4. REHOBOAM 2 Chronicles\ 12:14. He likely knew the Lord. But at the end of his days, he did evil because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord. Learn, Christianity is heart business. Another carnal man.

And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.
2 Chronicles\ 12:14

5. ABIJAH 1 Kings 15:3 His heart was not perfect, i.e. mature. He was more carnal than spiritual.

And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father.
1 Kings 15:3

6. ASA 2 Chronicles 16:12. He was a spiritual man for 39 years. Yet failed at the end of his life. Lesson. Philippians 3:3 we are to have no confidence in the flesh regardless of our age. Spiritual diseases show up in our feet. The feet take you where you go. In his sickness he sought the witch doctor. He sought for human help rather than Divine help.

And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease *was* exceeding *great*: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.
2 Chronicles 16:12

7 JEHOSHAPHAT 2 CHRONICLES 17:1-19.

Verse 1 And Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead, and strengthened himself against Israel.

Verse 2 And he placed forces in all the fenced cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim, which Asa his father had taken. **Verse 3** And the LORD was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto Baalim; **Verse 4** But sought to the Lord God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel. **Verse 5** Therefore the LORD stablished the kingdom in his hand; and all Judah brought to Jehoshaphat presents; and he had riches and honour in abundance.

Verse 6 And his heart was lifted up in the ways of the LORD: moreover he took away the high places and groves out of Judah. **Verse 7** Also in the third year of his reign he sent to his princes, even to Benhail, and to Obadiah, and to Zechariah, and to Nethaneel, and to Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. **Verse 8** And with them he sent Levites, even Shemaiah, and Nethaniah, and Zebadiah, and Asahel, and Shemiramoth, and Jehonathan, and Adonijah, and Tobijah, and Tobadonijah, Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, priests.

Verse 9 And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the LORD with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people. **Verse 10** And the fear of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. **Verse 11** Also some of the Philistines brought Jehoshaphat presents, and tribute silver; and the Arabians brought him flocks, seven thousand and seven hundred rams, and seven thousand and seven hundred he goats. **Verse 12** And Jehoshaphat waxed great exceedingly; and he built in Judah castles, and cities of store. **Verse 13** And he had much business in the cities of Judah: and the men of war, mighty men of valour, were in Jerusalem. **Verse 14** And these are the numbers of them according to the house of their fathers: Of Judah, the captains of thousands; Adnah the chief, and with him mighty men of valour three hundred thousand. **Verse 15** And next to him was Jehohanan the captain, and with him two hundred and fourscore thousand. **Verse 16** And next him was Amasiah the son of Zichri, who willingly offered himself unto the LORD; and with him two hundred thousand mighty men of valour. **Verse 17** And of Benjamin; Eliada a mighty man of valour, and with him armed men with bow and shield two hundred thousand. **Verse 18** And next him was Jehozabad, and with him an hundred and fourscore thousand ready prepared for the war. **Verse 19** These waited on the king, beside those whom the king put in the fenced cities throughout all Judah.

2 Chronicles 17:1-19

1. 2 Chronicles 17:1-5 The beginning of his REIGN, all is good and well.
- 1a. 2 Chronicles 17:6-19 The great REVIVAL led by the King

2 CHRONICLES 18.

Verse 1 Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity with Ahab. **Verse 2** And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead. **Verse 3** And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, Wilt thou go with me to Ramothgilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war. **Verse 4** And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day. **Verse 5** Therefore the king of Israel gathered together of prophets four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for God will deliver it into the king's hand. **Verse 6** But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him? **Verse 7** And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he never prophesied good unto me, but always evil: the same is Micaiah the son of Imla. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so. **Verse 8** And the king of Israel called for one of his officers, and said, Fetch quickly Micaiah the son of Imla. **Verse 9** And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah sat either of them on his throne, clothed in their robes, and they sat in a void place at the entering in of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them. **Verse 10** And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah had made him horns of iron, and said, Thus saith the LORD, With these thou shalt push Syria until they be consumed. **Verse 11** And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

Verse 12 And the messenger that went to call Micaiah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of their's, and speak thou good. **Verse 13** And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak. **Verse 14** And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go to Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand. **Verse 15** And the king said to him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD? **Verse 16** Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace. **Verse 17** And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil? **Verse 18** Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left. **Verse 19** And the LORD said, Who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after that manner. **Verse 20** Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? **Verse 21** And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the Lord said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so. **Verse 22** Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee. **Verse 23** Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and smote Micaiah upon the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? **Verse 24** And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. **Verse 25** Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; **Verse 26** And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I return in peace. **Verse 27** And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people. **Verse 28** So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramothgilead. **Verse 29** And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and I will go to the battle; but put thou on thy robes. So the king of Israel disguised himself; and they went to the battle. **Verse 30** Now the king of Syria had commanded the captains of the chariots that were with him, saying, Fight ye not with small or great, save only with the king of Israel. **Verse 31** And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, It is the king of Israel. Therefore they compassed about him to fight: but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the LORD helped him; and God moved them to depart from him. **Verse 32** For it came to pass, that, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, they turned back again from pursuing him. **Verse 33** And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. **Verse 34** And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died.

2 Chronicles 18:1-34

2a. CHAPTER 18: JEHOSEPHAT'S NEAR RUIN.

1. 2 Chronicles 18:1 He makes affinity with Ahab. The man of God making a league with the man who hates God.
2. 2 Chronicles 18:2,3, He, as a result, is led into a conflict .
3. 2 Chronicles 18:4 Enquire of the Lord says Jehoshaphat.
4. 2 Chronicles 18:5 Ahab calls for his prophets.
5. 2 Chronicles 18:6 Jehoshaphat says, is there not a prophet of the Lord besides all these ? The prophets of Baal said "go fight." To Jehoshaphat there was a hollow sound. He missed the ring of truth. Consider here, what is built into a man, the ability to discern the false. There is a great cry today for unity. How often have you heard it "that they all may be one." Said Malcom Muggeridge; his Church agreed on almost everything because they believed almost nothing."

Parker says:

"The voice of the People is not always the voice of God.. Men love to be flattered and encouraged even at the expense of everything holy and true. Ahab was satisfied as long as the prophets ran along the current of his own will. When men agree with us we think they are inspired. When they sanction our plans we look upon them as messengers from Heaven. Men actually tell lies to themselves".

6. 2 Chronicles 18:7-8 The true prophet, Ahab hates. But "fetch him", says Ahab. As we read the story we will find that this was not the first acquaintance the King had with this prophet. He knew him. And what a contrast!

Ahab is rich. Micaiah is poor. Ahab is the King, Micaiah the subject. Ahab had his wealth only in money. Micaiah, in incorruptible love for the truth of God. This is riches you cannot value with gold and silver, a true love for the Scriptures.

In class one day a student named David, asked for some of my background. In reply, I could only say, "when I was still young, God put a love in my heart for the Bible." That is something one cannot buy. An unsatisfied desire for the truth of God's Word. Praise God for students who have such a desire.

Micaiah did not compromise. Micaiah made no concessions with Ahab. There was no finding of a common denominator, for a common ground of meeting. Ahab knew the kind of a prophet this man was. Micaiah rubbed salt into Ahab's wounds. Micaiah would not accept Ahab's idols. Micaiah would not accept Ahab's religion. There was not silly talk about unity between Micaiah and Ahab. As far as this prophet was concerned, Ahab had to repent or there was no ground for meeting. But the man who takes his stand will always have enemies.

Carroll states: "It is better to be divided because of truth than to be united because of error."

7. 2 Chronicles 18:9-10 The false prophets put on their "act". And they were good actors. They had practiced their drama well. While they wait for the true prophet to arrive, the false prophets continue to prophesy before Ahab and Jehoshaphat. We know that all their speeches were intended to tickle and delight the ears of Ahab. After all, he was paying their keep. And they were not in the business of upsetting the King.

8. 2 Chronicles 18:11 restates, they all agreed, go fight the battle and come home the victor. 2 Chronicles 18:10 one prophet became very dramatic and he put on a show. He made horns of iron and illustrated how Ahab would push aside Syria. Here I think a word of caution is in order. Evangelicals are in danger of following this prophet. One of the great Evangelical voices of our day was Martin Lloyd Jones who died December 1981: Of Jones it is written: "Over and above everything, he believed in the foolishness of preaching. He believed a statement that we have in the first Epistle of Corinthians, the first chapter, "that it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." And that needed to be emphasized in our day and time."

We are living in days when there are evangelical people who seem to have forgotten that text and who seem to reject it out of hand. It is now popular to believe that it is through the foolishness of music, or singing, to save them that believe. Or it is through the foolishness of dramas, or dancing, or goodness knows what other things, to save them that believe."

But the good doctor believed and himself stood for, was that it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Those words are not mine. But I certainly feel they hold a ring of truth. When we use human methods, we will see results BUT oft times conversions without regeneration. Mere reformation without genuine salvation. We need to be careful that we are not merely conformed to the world and its ways, in these perilous times!

8 2 Chronicles 18:11-12 The Messenger of the False Prophets instructs the Man of God. "Speak good unto the King. Speak good about the King."

V McGee: "This fellow had been given the book, "how to win friends and influence people. Act like the other preachers. Behave yourself. We all want unity. Don't cause us any discord. Micaiah we have unity, keep it that way. Micaiah, we have a great thing going, don't you spoil it. Everybody here thinks alike. We want you to do likewise. The Prophets are in agreement. All speak well of the King. Join the party. If you don't go along you will spoil everything. These preachers are enjoying themselves. They are all eating well. So above all don't upset the King. Ahab is happy and we want to keep him that way. So preacher, watch what you say.

3. There was a dear sister in Regina, (Now in Heaven, Sis McCullough) who, after being away for Christmas told us this story about herself. On Christmas day, visiting the home of her son and his family, who by the way were not saved, (but they knew Grandma's stand), was poured a glass of wine. She picked it up and said: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." She said, "I spoiled the dinner." There is a time to be silent and there is a time to speak. Her act and her words would never be forgotten. She belongs in the class of this prophet.

Micaiah, had been advised not to upset Ahab. But the truth of God will ever reprove, correct or comfort everyone who hears it. I cannot explain that, but if one needs comfort, the same word, the same lesson, the same sermon, that will comfort one will upset another. For the word, converts, corrects and comforts.

Here Micaiah is not concerned about keeping the peace, but he is concerned about telling a man the truth. "Am I your enemy because I tell you the truth?"

9. 2 Chronicles 18:13. Micaiah's firm answer to the Messenger. "As the Lord liveth, even what God saith that will I speak.' Before Ahab he is not going to water-down his message. Micaiah was not impressed by Ahab's messenger. He could not intimidate him. Elijah in 1 Kings chapters 17,18 uses the words: "As the Lord God liveth before whom I stand." Micaiah uses the language of Elijah. Did they go to the same school? Did something of Elijah rub-off on Micaiah? Did the older prophet say to the younger, "we are not serving a dead God, we are serving a living God."

AS THE LORD GOD LIVETH. Therefore because he was serving a living God, he could not be tossed about by a man like Ahab. What God saith that will I speak. Like Martin Luther, he was tied to the Word of God. This prophet belongs to the company of Gabriel, Luke 1, who said to Zacharias, "I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God, but I am sent by God, not with my own words, but I am sent with a message from God, and what God said, because I have been in His Presence, that will I speak. Oh that we had more men like Gabriel! Oh that we had more men like Elijah! Oh that we had more men like Micaiah! Living in the Presence of God, always conscious of a living God, recognizing that they have been sent by God, from God, (There was a man sent from God whose name was John, John 1:6). Such men will have but one supreme desire; to speak the truth of God. To speak the word of God, and speak only the word of God.

There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

John 1:6

To speak the Word with unction of the Holy Ghost that comes down from Heaven. Unction, no one can explain. Only a preacher who has stood behind the sacred desk preaching the word of God knows what it is. Praise God for that Holy Fire!. I cannot explain it! But there is something that comes down into the soul of a man, that makes a man like Elijah or Micaiah, who can stand up and say: "I've got something to say. And it is worth hearing. And the reason it is worth hearing is because its not my idea, nor my invention, but what God says." Oh, Lord give us more such men who will speak the truth of God simply and only because it is God's truth. Am I your enemy because I tell you the truth? The enemy is the one who tells you that all is well when the house is on fire!

The enemy is the one who says you are safe and secure when there is no foundation. The world needs to hear today, all is not well, all is not right. The world needs to hear; it is time to repent or perish. That's the word of the Lord for this hour.

2 Chronicles 18:4-15 Micaiah faces the King.

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McGee: " Micaiah had a sense of humor. So he joins the 400 prophets. But Ahab knew that there was mockery in his tone. Once again we can see from this story that Ahab knew Micaiah well. Ahab knew the prophets of Baal, but he knew this prophet of God better! He knew when the man of God spoke in jest and he knew when he spoke the truth!

In many ways this situation is much like that between Herod and John the Baptist. Herod knew that John was righteous. Herod knew that John spoke the truth. Just so. Ahab knew that Micaiah was not like the prophets of Baal. He also knew when Micaiah spoke the truth. I have observed that men of the world know the difference between "nominal Christians", and "genuine believers"; between "pretending Christians" and practicing Christians. I cannot keep from looking both backward and forward when studying these stories.

Herod has not faced his final judgment as yet. But both Herod and Ahab already know their doom. But on the day of Judgment, Herod will have to admit He knew that John was right, but did nothing about it. Ahab will be forced to admit; I knew Micaiah was right and I hated him because he was so true and honest.

And let me apply that. How many individuals who have broken the heart of a mother, father, friend or pastor, will one day of final judgment, be forced to admit. I knew mother was right. I knew her religion was genuine. I knew she was a "real Christian". There was no pretense there! But I did nothing about it.

God sends men and women across the pathway of each one of us, just like Micaiah. Each of us have met all kinds of phonies. We have seen so many hypocrites. We have had company with people whose religion we would not want to have BUT it is equally true, these kind of people should not deter us BECAUSE each one of us has had a few genuine souls move across our path and touch our life. And it is the life of those genuine people that will be brought before each one on the day of judgment. Then we will not talk about the pretenders. We will not complain about the hypocrites. We will not bother about the false. On that day, it will be the Micaiah's in our lives that will rise up and condemn us! Such men may not have saved the world, but they will have condemned the world!.

11 2 Chronicles 18:16-17 Micaiah speaks, Ahab responds.

In 2 Chronicles 18:16. There is no jest here. The message was clear. Most of all, it was a message of condemnation upon Ahab. Israel would suffer defeat in the battle because they did not have a true shepherd, a true leader nor a true master. And of course Ahab knew that when he spoke these words the prophet had him in mind.

So in 2 Chronicles 18:17, Ahab says to Jehoshaphat, see, is this not what I told you? This man never has anything good to say about me. And he never has anything good to say to me. He is never positive, he is always negative. He will only tell me that I'm a sinner, and I don't like that! He says I'm not a good leader, and I don't like that! Every time this preacher speaks he condemns me, and I don't like that! Every time he opens his mouth he makes me uncomfortable, and I don't like that ! Every sermon stirs up my conscience and I don't like that! All he does is reprove me. All he does is to correct me. All he does is to convict me.

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He never feeds my ego. And I only want to hear "good" things about me. Such a king and such a preacher will never find a common ground unless the king repents. And of course Ahab has no thought of his need of repentance.

12. 2 Chronicles 18:18-22 Micaiah's parable. Says McGee: "This is biting sarcasm. The Lord doesn't call board meetings for advise (Who has been His counsellor) This was Micaiah's way of calling the prophets of Baal a pack of liars. But what Micaiah says in 2 Chronicles 18:22 is true. These prophets had not told the truth because the Lord had put a lying spirit in the mouth of these 400 men. 2 Timothy 4:3,4 is fitting here. The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. Before reading on look at Titus 2:1-6 "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. Titus 2:2. aged men. Titus 2:3 aged women. Titus 2:4 young women. Titus 2: 6.. young men. You see, sound doctrine has to do with the affairs of daily living. And Paul says to Timothy, "people will not endure that.." Moving back to 2 Timothy 4:3 "After their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having (not hearing) itching ears. Then notice 2 Timothy 4:4 "and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and notice the result they shall be TURNED unto fables", that is, from truth to lies.

Verse 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; **Verse 4** And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Timothy 4:3,4

Verse 1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: **Verse 2** That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. **Verse 3** The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; **Verse 4** That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, **Verse 5** To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. **Verse 6** Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

Titus 2:1-6

Proverbs 28:9 "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination." These prophets of Baal had turned their backs on God and God had turned His back on them. The result? They could only speak lies to Ahab.

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

Proverbs 28:9

13. 2 Chronicles 18:23-27 Ahab's treatment of Micaiah Here we come to some of the first consequences of Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab.

2 Chronicles 18:23 says C.H.M.

"He sat by and saw the Lord's servant struck on the mouth. He said nothing as Micaiah is put in prison because he would not tell a lie to please the prophets. Jehoshaphat first joined affinity. Then accepted Ahab's hospitality. Then was pressured by Ahab and next we shall see him taking Ahab's place in the battle.

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Looking over 2 Chronicles 18:23-27 Parker writes:

"The interview ended disastrously for Micaiah as far as worldly circumstances were concerned. But as he turned away, who was the true King on this occasion? Is Kingliness a question of pomp or character? Men saw the crown on Ahab's head. But Angels saw the crown on the head of Micaiah. They who reign with Christ reign forever.

Micaiah represents for us the truth speaker of every age. Were there a Micaiah in every pulpit, no wicked man would be quite easy in the sanctuary. He would feel the prophets eye upon him! The truth speaker will always create great opposition, but he is the safety of society. What a hard life he lives! He is always misunderstood. Others are promoted. He is regarded as rough rude and vulgar."

I would add: Thus it was with all the Prophets. Thus it was with the Son of God. And so it will be for all true men of God. God let Ahab go on his own wicked way. God even allowed him to put the true man of God in prison. God allowed that faithful prophet to live on bread and water. It was allowed to reveal the wickedness of Ahab. Ahab said: "keep him in prison 'till I return from the battle." Micaiah had the final word. And he cautioned all the people. Harken to this: "If Ahab returns you'll know I'm not a man of God. You'll know I didn't speak the truth BUT if Ahab does not return, REMEMBER that will prove to you I speak the truth. We know what happened!

14. 2 Chronicles 18:8-29 Ahab's craftiness. The wickedness of Ahab continues to unfold and the blindness of Jehoshaphat seems also to have increased. Cunning Ahab said "Jehoshaphat you go in my robs as the king. I will disguise myself so the enemy won't recognize me. For Ahab knew the enemy would be out to kill him first. And so this friend of Jehoshaphat is prepared to sacrifice the life of Jehoshaphat to save his own.

Remember, the enemies of the Lord are also the enemies of the Lord's people. As Ahab had treated Micaiah while Jehoshaphat stood by and did nothing, so now Ahab treats Jehoshaphat in much the same manner. Christians don't expect the world to love you or treat you well. They will use you while they can and dispense with you for their own gain. Because of affinity with the world; because of alliance with the world, many Christians have lost their testimony to the world. They become as helpless as Jehoshaphat.

15. 2 Chronicles 18:30-34 The conclusion of chapter 18. In 2 Chronicles 18:30, As Ahab knew, the King of Syria had one thing in mind, kill the King of Israel. Don't worry about the other king.

2 Chronicles 18: 31 Dressed in Ahab's robs and standing out like a sore thumb, they were set to slay Jehoshaphat. But the Lord helped him, for suddenly Jehoshaphat saw the fix he was in and cried unto the Lord. How gracious of the Lord to spare him. The Lord was not yet through with Jehoshaphat.

2 Chronicles 18:32. It was the Lord who made the Syrians withdraw when they realized they were after the wrong man.

2 Chronicles 18:33. What verse! The King of Syria had planned to kill Ahab, but had failed. Now a Syrian, "draws a bow at a venture." He wasn't aiming at anything. But his arrow was marked. If ever the Lord was in anything he was in that! "The Lord helped Jehoshaphat but the Lord slew Ahab." Ahab died when the sun was going down. Like Judas, he went out and it was night.

C.H.M. "Ahab died as he had lived, doing evil, in the sight of the Lord."

Parker: "Oh that man were wise. Better to have temporary poverty and final wealth, than to have temporary wealth and everlasting poverty."

We can live two ways: 1. Seizing all chances, accepting all flatteries, mounting up with pride. OR 2. Prize understanding above rubies. Truth above precious stones. Searching holiness as the great prize of Heaven. The whole story illustrates, two ways of living and two ways of dying. Living to please men or living to please the Lord. Dying with the sun going down upon us, or dying with the Sun of Righteousness arising to receive us.