

He Spoke The Truth

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"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; 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. And Micaiah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, all ye people," **2 Chronicles 18: 25-27.**

King Ahab was a very wicked man and one of the worst kings to rule over Israel. He liked the false prophets who were yes-men who told him what he wanted to hear. The prophets of God who spoke the truth and told the word of the Lord whether it was good or bad, Ahab hated. According to the way Ahab saw it, the problem was not with him, it was that the prophets just didn't like him. They needed to change, not him. He seemed to think that some time in prison with a diet of bread and water would cause Micaiah to change his ways.

In front of king Jehoshaphat, Ahab acted like he wanted to know the truth about what God said, but he went with the advice of the false prophets instead of what Micaiah had said. King Ahab had been told that he would go to the battle and

there he would die, but he didn't believe that it would happen. Just in case there was a chance that he could be hurt, he thought he would improve his chance of survival and prove Micaiah wrong.

Remember that God had given a test to show whether a prophet was true, or a false prophet. **Deuteronomy 18:21-22.** "And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him." This is why Micaiah said that if Ahab came back alive then he would be a false prophet.

Ahab thought that if he changed his clothes and looked like an average soldier that he would be alright. After all, the enemy would try to kill the leaders first and foremost. He even told Jehoshaphat to be sure to wear his robes to the battle. Sure enough the enemy went after Jehoshaphat thinking he was Ahab until they got close enough to see who he was. God protected Jehoshaphat just as he made sure that Ahab would fall in the battle. Ahab, or no other man, would defy God's plan and get away with it.

Although the Syrians didn't recognize Ahab and go after him specifically, he did die as God had proclaimed. A soldier

shot an arrow into the midst of the Jewish soldiers and it hit Ahab. An accident? No way, it was ordained by the hand of God. Evil Ahab had defied God for the last time. I'm sure that those who heard the words of Micaiah and Ahab took note of what each had said. They knew that the prophet had told the truth, because Ahab didn't come back in peace, but died according to the word of God.

Did Ahab have to die as he did? Yes and no. He died because he refused to listen and heed the word of God. He was stubborn and only cared about what he wanted to do. He even went along with the killing of Naboth so that he could take possession of his vineyard. This was just one of the many sins of Ahab. He refused to consider his ways and to repent.

Ahab was wicked, but there were others just as wicked as Ahab. Manasseh was one such person and in his later years he repented and changed his life. God forgave him and if Ahab would have repented and sought God and asked for mercy, surely God would likewise have blessed him. The Lord sends his word to show people what they need to do to be acceptable in his sight. Some will heed and trust in the Lord and some will refuse to listen to God's message. It is up to every person to choose the way that they will live and how they will die. Whatever we do in our life, we need to remember one thing, God's word is true.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT
TERRIFIED BY THE THOUGHT THAT ABRAM'S GOD HAS STRUCK HIM WITH A PLAGUE BECAUSE HE TOOK SARAI AWAY FROM ABRAM AND BROUGHT HER TO HIS COURT, PHARAOH HAS SENT FOR ABRAM, NOW....

WHY DIDST THOU SAY THY WIFE WAS BUT THY SISTER?

I MIGHT HAVE MADE HER MY WIFE AND BEEN DESTROYED BY YOUR GOD!

PHARAOH SPEAKS WITH GREAT BITTERNESS....

BEHOLD THY WIFE! TAKE HER AND LEAVE MY LAND!

WITH GREAT RELIEF, ABRAM AND SARAI LEAVE PHARAOH'S PALACE....

...AND STRAIGHTWAY LEAVE EGYPT! AND ALL THE PRECIOUS GIFTS THAT PHARAOH GAVE TO ABRAM GO WITH HIM - FOR THE RULER OF EGYPT REFUSES TO TAKE THEM BACK! THIS THEN IS THE FIRST SIGN TO ABRAM THAT GOD WILL PROTECT AND LOOK AFTER HIM WHERE EVER HE MAY WANDER - THAT HE WILL ALWAYS BE SAFE BECAUSE OF HIS TRUST IN THE LORD - ALL OF WHICH IS RECORDED IN GENESIS - CHAP. 12

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