

# Ramoth Gilead

1 Kings 22:1-29

1They continued three years without war between Syria and Israel. 2It happened in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. 3The king of Israel said to his servants, "You know that Ramoth Gilead is ours, and we are still, and don't take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?" 4He said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to battle to Ramoth Gilead?"

Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." 5Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Please inquire first for the word of Yahweh."

6Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go against Ramoth Gilead to battle, or shall I forbear?"

They said, "Go up; for the Lord will deliver it into the hand of the king."

7But Jehoshaphat said, "Isn't there here a prophet of Yahweh, that we may inquire of him?"

8The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of Yahweh, Micaiah the son of Imlah; but I hate him; for he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."

Jehoshaphat said, "Don't let the king say so."

9Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, "Quickly get Micaiah the son of Imlah."

10Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting each on his throne, arrayed in their robes, in an open place at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets were prophesying before them. 11Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron, and said, "Thus says Yahweh, 'With these you shall push the Syrians, until they are consumed.'" 12All the prophets prophesied so, saying, "Go up to Ramoth Gilead, and prosper; for Yahweh will deliver it into the hand of the king."

13The messenger who went to call Micaiah spoke to him, saying, "See now, the prophets declare good to the king with one mouth. Please let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak good."

14Micaiah said, "As Yahweh lives, what Yahweh says to me, that I will speak."

15When he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth Gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?"

He answered him, "Go up and prosper; and Yahweh will deliver it into the hand of the king." 16The king said to him, "How many times do I have to adjure you that you speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of Yahweh?"

17He said, &ldquo;I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. Yahweh said, &lsquo;These have no master. Let them each return to his house in peace.&rsquo;&rdquo;

18The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, &ldquo;Didn&rsquo;t I tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?&rdquo;

19Micaiah said, &ldquo;Therefore hear the word of Yahweh. I saw Yahweh sitting on his throne, and all the army of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. 20Yahweh said, &lsquo;Who shall entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth Gilead?&rsquo; One said one thing; and another said another. 21A spirit came out and stood before Yahweh, and said, &lsquo;I will entice him.&rsquo; 22Yahweh said to him, &lsquo;How?&rsquo; He said, &lsquo;I will go out and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.&rsquo; He said, &lsquo;You will entice him, and will also prevail. Go out and do so.&rsquo; 23Now therefore, behold, Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; and Yahweh has spoken evil concerning you.&rdquo;

24Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah came near, and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, &ldquo;Which way did the Spirit of Yahweh go from me to speak to you?&rdquo;

25Micaiah said, &ldquo;Behold, you will see on that day, when you go into an inner room to hide yourself.&rdquo;

26The king of Israel said, &ldquo;Take Micaiah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king&rsquo;s son. 27Say, &lsquo;Thus says the king, &ldquo;Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.&rdquo;&rsquo;&rdquo;

28Micaiah said, &ldquo;If you return at all in peace, Yahweh has not spoken by me.&rdquo; He said, &ldquo;Listen, all you people!&rdquo;

29So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead.

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