

## Fact Sheet for “Jehoshaphat” 2 Chronicles 18:1-34

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One of my favorite stories in the Bible has been that of Micaiah the prophet (*parallel passage: 1 Kings 22:1-40*). We will be considering that story this morning.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:1.**

What??? Do you remember 1 Kings 16:30-33? And Jehoshaphat made a marriage alliance with Ahab??? Jehoshaphat was a good king who made peace with Ahab (1 Kings 22:43-44) but at what cost?

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:2 and 1 Kings 22:3.**

Ramoth-gilead was one of the chief cities of the tribe of Gad, 28 miles east of the Jordan and 15 miles south of the Sea of Galilee.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:3-4.**

Jehoshaphat meant the one true God.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:5.**

Now who would these prophets be? Remember an earlier encounter with Elijah on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:19)?

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:6 in several versions.**

Jehoshaphat knew these were not prophets of the one true God.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:7.**

Ahab here meant the Lord who Jehoshaphat worshipped.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:8.**

Whatever word from God that Micaiah would get would not come through a dream but through some other way.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:9.**

At this time in Israel important business was often conducted at the threshing floor near the city gate.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:10.**

*To push means to thrust, gore*

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:11-14**

There was something in the way Micaiah said this that let Ahab know this wasn't the truth. This could also be translated, "Attack and be victorious, for they will be given into your hand!" And you can almost hear Micaiah's sarcastic tone of voice. Notice also that Micaiah does not begin with the usual words for a prophecy like, "Thus says the Lord!" Ahab picked up Micaiah's meaning right away.

### **Read 2 Chronicles 18:15-16.**

In other words Ahab was dead.

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:17-18.**

Now Micaiah does begin with the usual words for a prophecy.

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:19.**

The true God planned Ahab's death in the battle. Ahab's gods could not rescue him!

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:20-21.**

Does the fact that this spirit would be a lying spirit in the mouth of all Ahab's prophets necessitate that this would be a demon? No, not really. A lying spirit here was a spirit who would encourage false prophecy. Ahab's prophets did not receive words from God as Micaiah did. They relied on intuition, emotion, and likely some divination. That spirit could give a little nudge here and a little encouragement there and easily have these false prophets tie into a false prophecy.

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:22.**

Micaiah meant, "This is what God really has said." All of Ahab's prophets were not only worthless, they were misleading. Micaiah, the one Ahab hated, was the prophet who spoke the truth. You would think Ahab would have learned that by now.

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:23-27.**

Micaiah was absolutely certain that his words were God's words!

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:28-29.**

Ahab tried to get around Micaiah's prophecy, and knowingly put Jehoshaphat at risk. Jehoshaphat went along with Ahab's plan, and as a result put himself in the crosshairs of the enemy!

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:30-31.**

Who was really calling the shots here... Ahab, Jehoshaphat, the king of Syria? Were these things taking place this way by chance? Behind the scenes God was directing the battle! The Lord protected Jehoshaphat, and the Lord would make Ahab's death a certainty.

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:32-33.**

That arrow hit Ahab in the small unprotected area between his breastplate and the metal platelets that comprised the lower armor. There is no such thing as "at random" from God's perspective here. It is only random from man's perspective. Ahab's plan never had any chance of succeeding. He would die in the battle. God would make sure of that. And God had still more prophecy to fulfill with Ahab.

**Read 2 Chronicles 18:34.**

But an earlier prophecy had been given by Elijah concerning Ahab (1 Kings 21:19). Ahab didn't bleed out where Naboth did. But God would tie up that loose end. There are a couple more details from the parallel passage in 1 Kings 22:35, 38.

I like the dynamics of this passage, but it is much more than that. There are two other reasons. 1<sup>st</sup> – This story always reminds me of God's unseen hand behind the details of our lives. How many times has He protected us because we are His? How many times has He steered us into difficulties when we have sinned? We don't know the specifics, but we do know His ability and His willingness. 2<sup>nd</sup> – I am challenged to avoid Jehoshaphat's general dedication to God in favor of a more staunch dedication to God. This is becoming more and more challenging for me in our politically correct environment. I will not shrink back from declaring what Christ said in John 14:6!