

“Discerning God’s Call for Missionary Work” 1 Kings 22.1-28

Commonly Heard: “Every Christian is a Missionary” NOT TRUE

M is NOT an EVANGELIST > EVERY Xtian RESPONSIBLE to Share Gospel

MISSION > GOES to those who NOT YET HEARD, UNREACHED

TODAY most UNREACHED People in RESTRICTED ACCESS Places

WAR – GOV’T Hostile – STRONGHOLDS of OTHER Religions

HARD Places > Taken Church 2000 years and STILL NOT THERE

MORE need to be SENT > People of FIRM RESOLVE

WILL be OPPOSED, ATTACKED, MISUNDERSTOOD, ALONE

LAST LECTURE OF CHURCH HISTORY PROF IN SEMINARY

3 years – Detailed Study of 2000 years of Church History

“Remove HAT of Professor / Put on HAT of Prophet”

DAYS AHEAD WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS

WEPT & Said: “Wish I had another lifetime to preach Gospel” NOW RELATE!

When DARKER DAYS in WORLD / Then BRIGHTER LIGHT OF GOSPEL

PASSAGE – Dark Day 2500 years ago – Little Know Prophet Micaiah

CALLED TO HOLD UP LIGHT OF GOD’S TRUTH before KINGS

Ahab of Israel – Darkened throne of Israel for 22 years

Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those  
before him. 1 Kings 16.30

Jehoshaphat son of Asa became king of Judah in the fourth year of Ahab king of  
Israel...he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. The high places,  
however, were not removed, and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn  
incense there. 1 Kings 22.41-43

MORE RIGHTEOUS – STILL COMPROMISED CONVICTIONS

2 KINGS MADE BI-LATERAL PACT – Capture Ramoth-Gilead

Heavily fortified Aramean city near border / Israel & Syria

US HERE – Different Place and Time, COVENANT – same God

Same CALLING to SHINE His LIGHT: Bright Days AND Dark Nights

## 1. The Burden of Truth

a. You will be Lonely TRUTH HAS NEVER BEEN A MAJORITY OPINION

“Jezebel was killing off the Lord’s prophets” 1 Kings 18.4

“The king of Israel brought together the prophets - about four hundred men”  
1 Kings 22.6

NOT GOD’S PROPHETS – AHAB’S – Unfortunate Difference

Perhaps from Mt. Carmel: “the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.” 1 Kings 18.19

Or Perhaps personal prophets of Ahab – RELIGIOUS YES MEN

Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there not a prophet of the Lord here?” 1 Kings 22.7

The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD 1 Kings 22.8 > ONE MAN – Only ONE Left?!

FAITHFUL MAN IN A LONELY PRISON CELL wrote to Timothy  
“The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear” 2 Timothy 4.3

MICAIAH – ALSO in a PRISON CELL – 500 YEARS before PAUL  
The king of Israel then ordered... “Put this fellow in prison and give him nothing but bread and water until I return safely.” 1King 22.27

## **BIBLE NEVER SAYS WHETHER HE GOT OUT**

b. You will be Misunderstood – Micaiah Misunderstood by BOTH KINGS

Godless King Ahab – Used Prophets as Personal Magicians

To GAIN DIVINE FAVOR AND INFLUENCE PERSONAL OPINION, EX:

Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made iron horns and he declared, "This is what the LORD says: `With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.'" 1 Kings 22.11

Lying Prophet BROKE 3<sup>rd</sup> Comm. – TAKING GOD’S NAME IN VAIN

King Jehoshaphat of JUDAH - SLIGHTLY BETTER – More True Discernment  
So he (Ahab) asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight against Ramoth Gilead?" Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses."  
1 Kings 22.4

AFTER THOUGHT: But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "First seek the counsel of the LORD."  
1 Kings 22.5

**DANGER – MAKE OUR PLANS / ASK GOD TO BLESS**

**DANGER – MIXING POLITICS AND RELIGION – DISTORTION**

Church Leaders often asked RELIGIOUS MANDATE for MAN’S PLANS

BECAME A PASTOR – Sought the Advice of Seasoned Pastor

“You better define yourself – BEFORE everyone else will define you instead”

**MICAHIAH walked into SETTING Filled with MISUNDERSTANDINGS**

Messenger sent to INVITE Micaiah to speak to the Kings  
The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, "Look, as one man the other prophets are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably."  
1 Kings 22.13

**NOT MUCH WIGGLE ROOM – BETTER WAVE PARTY BANNER**

**SAME MISUNDERSTANDING SURROUNDED JESUS**

“Who do people say the Son of Man is?” “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets” Matthew 16.13

**PROFESSOR: Christian University OXYMORON – FAITH for FOOLS**

**STUDENT: NON-Christian FRIENDS/FAMILY think FORGOT to Have FUN**

**FOREIGNER: Those back HOME think you’re LOST IN AFRICA**

**Micaiah NEVER MISUNDERSTOOD CALL OF GOD ON HIS LIFE**

“As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what the Lord tells me”

1 Kings 22.14

c. You will be Hated – World is at WAR with the Prince of PEACE

**AHAB WOULD LOVE Micaiah IF HE GAINED HIS ENDORSEMENT**

The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." 1 Kings 22.8

Then Zedekiah son of Kenaanah (Lying, Horny Hatted FALSE PROPHET) went up and slapped Micaiah in the face. 1 Kings 22.24

**WHEN PEOPLE HATE THE MESSAGE / MESSENGER TAKES HIT**

**MESSENGER'S MESSAGE LIKE SEARCHLIGHT – exposes Evil**

"This is the verdict" said Jesus "Light has come into the world, but men loved the darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear his deeds will be exposed" John 3.19,20

**BELIEVERS FOLLOW STEPS OF CRUCIFIED MASTER**

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you" John 15.18,19

**WORDS OF GREAT SADNESS AND PAIN**

"a man's enemies will be the members of his own household" Matthew 10.36

**ADONIRAM JUDSON – America's First Missionary – to NEW RECRUITS**

"I can assure you that months and months of heart-rending anguish are before you, whether you want them or not. Yet, take the bitter cup with both hands, and sit down to drink. You will soon learn a secret, there is sweetness at the bottom"

Adoniram Judson

Michaiah's DRAMATIC EXAMPLE – being Lonely, Misunderstood, & Hated

**GOD FORBID THAT YOU WILL HAVE SUCH A SEVERE EXPERIENCE**

**BUT YOU WILL DRINK SAME CUP – FOLLOW SAME MASTER**

**VERY NATURAL TO THINK THIS BURDEN WOULD SILENCE Michaiah**

**Micaiah NOT NATURAL – EXAMPLE OF SUPER-NATURAL**

## 2. Boldness for the Truth

### a. He was Clear –NO DOUBT ABOUT MESSAGE /CLARION CALL

#### NO POLITICAL NEW SPEAK OF RELIGIOUS DOUBLE TALK

Micaiah LOOKED AT CORRUPT SHEPHERD OF ISRAEL Spoke BOLDLY  
Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the LORD said, `These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.'" 1 Kings 22.17

#### AS HE WAS BEING STRAIGHT-ARMED OUT TO PRISON

Micaiah declared, "If you ever return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me." Then he added, "Mark my words, all you people!" 1 Kings 22.28

#### APOSTOLIC EXAMPLE OF PAUL

"We have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary we set forth the truth plainly, we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God" 2 Corinthians 4.2

#### DANGER – Some churches HIGHER VALUE on SAFETY THAN on TRUTH

#### Wise as serpents – BUT NOT TOLD TO TALK LIKE SERPENTS

"No such thing as a Secret Disciple – Either the secrecy will destroy the discipleship, or the discipleship will destroy the secrecy"

### b. He was Consistent HIS LIFE WAS HIS LOUDEST SERMON

#### DUTY TO SPEAK THE TRUTH AND WALK IN IT

AHAB HATED the Prophet & MESSAGE – EXPECTED NOTHING LESS  
The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "... I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." 1 Kings 22.8

#### AFTER Micaiah WAS AGAIN CONSISTENT IN HIS MESSAGE

The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?" 1 Kings 22.18

WHAT is your TRACK RECORD – WHAT do people EXPECT of You?

Micaiah's first words to King – APPEAR TO BE INCONSISTENT

When he arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?" "Attack and be victorious," he answered, "for the LORD will give it into the king's hand." 1 Kings 22.15

VERSE WOULD BE MORE CLEAR IN THE MOVIE VERSION

HEAR – tone of Mockery and Sarcasm in Micaiah's Voice

SEE – sneer of Scorn and Shame on Micaiah's Face

KING IN REGAL POMP – surrounded by YES men – GO AHEAD!!

Even Godless KING DOES NOT WANT FLATTERY – HE WANTS TRUTH

The king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?" 1 Kings 22.16

NOW AHAB WILL GET IT RIGHT BETWEEN THE EYES

"The Lord has decreed disaster for you" 1 Kings 22.23

ALL BELIEVERS MUST WALK the TALK – BE Consistent – Esp. Missionary

"Watch your life and doctrine closely, persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers" 1 Timothy 4.16

ENGLISH CRICKET PLAYER – C.T. Studd – M. to China, India, and Africa

"For 5 years we never went outside without a volley of curses from our neighbors...Had I cared for the comments of people, I would never have been a missionary" C.T. Studd

c. He was Courageous

IT IS ONE THING TO SPEAK TRUTH IN CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

ANOTHER TO DECLARE IT IN THE ARENA OF ENEMIES

Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them. 1 Kings 22.10

JUST A FEW YEARS BEFORE

"Jezebel was killing off the Lord's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves" 1 Kings 18.4

## MORE RECENTLY

Ch. 21 Jezebel had Naboth – Vineyard Owner – STONED to DEATH

Herodians to Jesus – “Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by man, because you pay no attention to who they are” Matthew 22.16

But Micaiah said, "As surely as the LORD lives, I can tell him only what the LORD tells me." 1 Kings 22.14

NOT FIGURE OF SPEECH – LIKE CHANGING CONVICTION

SERVED LIVING GOD / NOT IDOLS LIKE BAAL OR ASHERAH

NOT IMPRESSED WITH EARTHLY KINGS ON FEEBLE THRONES

SIGHTS WERE FIXED ON HIGHER VISTAS - FEARLESS IN GOD

Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the host of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. 1 Kings 22.19

WE ARE IN TRIBULATION – BUT WE KNOW HOW IT WILL END

“They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings – and with him will be his called, chosen, and faithful” Revelation 17.14

### 3. Blessing of Truth

a. It is True HEAVEN & EARTH PASS AWAY /God’s Word Endures

BUILDING w/ IMPERISHABLE TRUTHS – Gold, Silver, Precious Stone

EVEN UNBELIVERS ACKNOWLEDGE TRUTH OF GOD

AHAB SAID HE HATED MICAIAH – Jehoshaphat rebuked Ahab  
"The king should not say that," Jehoshaphat replied. 1 Kings 22.8

Even Godless King AHAB SAYS

The king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?" 1 Kings 22.16

When FOUNDATION OF FALSE HOPES SHAKEN – People want Truth

PEOPLE CALLING ON LORD – EVEN THO DON'T KNOW HIM  
 TESTIMONY FROM WORLD TRADE CENTER – Christian Man  
 Worked in Upper Floors – Plane Hit Above – Ran down stairs to Exit  
 BUILDING BEGAN TO FALL – MANY Shouted Call on Jesus to be SAVED  
 Hundreds began Screaming name of Jesus – FEAR AND FAITH

### INTERESTING TEACHING ON TRUTH – ROMANS 1

v. 20 “clearly seen, being understood from what has been made”

v. 21 “they knew God”

v. 18 “suppress the truth by their wickedness”

v. 25 “exchanged the truth of God for a lie”

v. 22 “although they claimed to be wise, they became fools”

v. 24 “therefore God gave them over in the sinful desire of their hearts”

v. 18 “the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth”

### TRAGIC INDICTMENT ON THE HUMAN RACE – ALL SINNED

### VIEW OF GOD'S TRUTH DETERMINES ETERNAL DESTINY

“They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved” 2 Thess 2.10

“all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness”  
 2 Thessalonians 2.12

30 X's Gospel of Matthew – Jesus says “I tell you the truth”

Gospel of John – Even Deeper

“The Word became flesh....full of grace and truth” John 1.14

“He who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him”  
 John 7.18

“I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through me”  
 John 14.6



PAUL to EPHESIANS ABOUT “the truth that is in Jesus” Ephesians 4.21

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth”

3 John 4

b. It is from God Micaiah was messenger of God of Truth

AHAB SAT ON FEEBLE THRONE – Surrounded by Flattering Prophets

TRUE GOD IS ENTHRONED IN THE HEAVENS

Surrounded by INNUMERABLE Angels who ETERNALLY Sing His Praise

THOSE WHO GAVE THEMSELVES TO EVIL

Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, ‘I will entice him.’ ‘By what means?’ the LORD asked. “‘I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said. “You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’ “So now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours.

1 Kings 22.21-23

THERE ARE OTHER GOSPELS AND FALSE CHRISTS IN WORLD

Mystery of SOVEREIGNTY of GOD – LORD Even over the SPIRIT WORLD

WHEN YOU SERVE TRUE GOD – Leave your Concerns in His hands

MICAHIAH DID NOT RETALIATE WHEN ZEDEKIAH SLAPPED Him

v. 25 “You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room”

SYRIAN ARMY would RETURN THAT SLAP A THOUSAND FOLD

CANNOT ESCAPE PERFECT JUDGMENT OF GOD OF TRUTH

ELIJAH WAS NOT ALONE, NEITHER WAS MICAHIAH, NOR YOU

c. It has Power to Save RAISE DEAD / SAVE SINNER’S SOUL

“God wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth”

1 Timothy 2.4

GOD’S MERCY WAS REACHING OUT EVEN TO AHAB

NO SINNER IS BEYOND GOD’S SAVING GRACE

GOD SENT ELIJAH AND MICAHIAH TO CALL AHAB TO REPENT

**AHAB REFUSED TO REPENT – BELIEVE TRUTH – BE SAVED**

So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried him there...  
and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the LORD had declared.

1 Kings 22.38

**FULFILLED** Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep  
without a shepherd..."

1 Kings 22.17

**OT PROPHETS LOOKED FOR ANOTHER SHEPHERD**

"I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them;  
he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my  
servant David will be prince among them."

Ezekiel 34.23

David's Son and David's Lord came as Savior and Shepherd

Jesus said "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me –  
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for  
the sheep"

**GOD OF TRUTH / WORD MADE FLESH / REDEEMS AND SAVES**

**FIND HIM AS SAVIOR BEFORE YOU FACE HIM AS JUDGE**

**DARK DAYS OF SIN AND DENIAL – Trouble in World and Church**

**Discerning God's Call for Missionary Work > Follow Faithfully at Home**

**WILL be OPPOSED, ATTACKED, MISUNDERSTOOD, ALONE**

**CALLED to CARRY BURDEN OF TRUTH – KNOW ITS BLESSING**

**TRUTH THAT SAVED US / TRUTH WE NOW SERVE – JESUS**

**IN ALL PRESURES TO CONFORM AND DENY – say like Micaiah**

"As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell ...only what the Lord tells me"

1 Kings 22.14