

Why did God allow or use lying prophets like with Ahab (1 Kings 22:20-23)?

1 Kings 22:1 And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel. 2 And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. 3 And the king of Israel said unto his servants, Know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours, and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?

- 1) Ahab is looking for trouble here. He wants to start a fight with the King of Syria but wants to have King Jehoshaphat go with him.

4 And he said unto Jehoshaphat, Wilt thou go with me to battle to Ramothgilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

- 2) Why didn't he go alone? Jehoshaphat was not ALL IN. He wanted to get Word from the Lord.
- 3) People that want to do wicked stuff always seek people to assist them in their stuff. They do not want to go down alone.

5 And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, Enquire, I pray thee, at the word of the LORD to day.

- 4) King Jehoshaphat was somewhat wise to want to inquire of the Lord before he fully committed.

6 Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

5) These prophets were false prophets. No godly prophets could be around Ahab and his wife Jezebel. Elijah and Micaiah did not.

6) Proverbs 29:12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants *are* wicked.

7 And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD besides, that we might enquire of him?

7) Notice that King Jehoshaphat knew that these prophets were on the **payroll** of Ahab.

A) They were not serving God, but Ahab which is why he sought for another prophet. They were ungodly and **false prophets and/or lying prophets**.

8 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

8) Micaiah had a **good reputation in the eyes of God**, not the eyes of Ahab, because he did what was right.

A) He was a godly prophet unlike all the other that had surrounded Ahab.

B) He spoke what God told him without the fear of man.

9) Notice Ahab **hated** Micaiah and the reason was he did not prophecy what he wanted—LIES (apparently “GOOD”).

A) Note: Ahab wanted to hear lies and because his heart was perverted, he believed it to be good. What a shame!

10) The word “evil” here is talking about judgment, not wickedness or something demonic.

9 Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah. 10 And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

- 11) These were not real prophets. They were false and lying prophets. This is important to understand other passages of deception.

11-12 11 And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them. 12 And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramothgilead, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the king's hand.

- 12) These so-called prophets were lying. They could not be trusted, but this is what Ahab wanted to hear—LIES. His heart was so hardened to the Lord that he could not receive or perceive truth. He spoke lies, deception and that is what his heart wanted to hear.

- 13) Micaiah Prophesied against Ahab.

13 And the messenger that was gone to call Micaiah spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them, and speak that which is good.

- 14) Ahab was feared by all around him. This compromised the authenticity around him, but that is what his heart wanted and desired.

- 15) This messenger tries to ask the real prophet — Micaiah to be as one of the other false prophets and compromise, go against his character and speak lies to Ahab.

14 And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak.

- 16) Of course, Micaiah rejects all the advances to lie. He would only speak the Word of the Lord.

17) How I wish all men of God would model after this prophet Micaiah whose heart was to speak only the Word of the Lord—nothing less and nothing more.

15 So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramothgilead to battle, or shall we forbear? And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

18) This response was sarcastic from Micaiah and Ahab also knew it. Micaiah was not lying before, he was being sarcastic

16 And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?

19) So, he asks this godly prophet to tell him what it is and to STOP being sarcastic. LOL!! This is funny. Ahab is acting like as if he wanted the TRUTH, but we know HE did not want the truth. He was a man of LIES who FED ON LIES AND HIS HEART WAS HARDENED IN LIES. Which explains the LYING PROPHECY AROUND HIM who always prophesied good and what he wanted to hear.

17 And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the LORD said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.

Here we go:

20) Now Prophet Micaiah tells him what the Lord is saying without sarcasm. Please note that Prophet Micaiah was not lying before when he said "Go, and prosper: for the LORD shall deliver it into the hand of the king," he was being sarcastic.

21) The prophecy was **judgment (evil)** not peace (good) that Ahab ALWAYS wanted.

18 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?

22) Again: Ahab is lying. When he was told the truth, He rejected it and got mad.

23) AHAB ONLY WANTED and LOVED PROPHECIES of LIES AND DECEPTION. He did not want the truth.

24) Ahab loved deception and lies. This was his language and heart. He could not receive truth.

1 Kings 22:29-23

Micaiah narrates what he saw in the spirit to Ahab and Jehoshaphat:

To understand 1 Kings 22:29-23, these following passages, you need to understand a few things:

Ahab's Heart

25) Ahab's heart and his relationship with lies.

A) The state of Ahab's heart is reflected through his marriage to Jezebel, killing Naboth for refusing to sell his vineyard to him, not following the Lord, and Only listening to prophets who prophecy what he wants to hear.

a) Ahab did evil in the sight of God by worshiping Baal and "did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel than all the kings of Israel that were before him." (1 Kings 16:33).

b) 1 Kings 16:30-33 30 And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. 31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. 32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. 33 And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

- c) Ahab had declared war on God by killing His prophets — *1 Kings 18:13 Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?*
- d) *1 Kings 21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. 26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.*
- B) A reprobate (Romans 1:28)— God gave Ahab over a reprobate mind (Lying mind and heart) to do whatever was not appropriate because he chose that through His freewill.
- C) Just as Pharaoh hardened his heart in rebellion, Ahab had his heart hardened in deception. Both hearts were hardened, and, in both cases, God ultimately gave them the desires of their hardened hearts—Pharaoh to rebellion and Ahab to lying. In other words, Pharaoh's heart was hardened in his rebellion by God the same way Ahab's heart was hardened in lying.
- D) How God deals with those who harden their hearts such as Pharaoh, king Nebuchadnezzar, and Ahab for example.

A heart that chooses to be hardened will be hardened. A heart that chooses hell will go to hell, and a heart that chooses sickness will be sick, a heart that chooses lack and poverty will be and a heart that chooses to be deceptive and walk in lies will—all the way, God will always find a way to accomplish His will even in the midst of the hardened hearts or deceptive hearts of men like Ahab's and Pharaoh's.

- E) We saw that Pharaoh hardened his heart over five times before the Lord hardened his heart—an act of agreeing and respecting his freewill and course of life even if it was detrimental to his way of life.

Freewill

26) Ahab's freewill

- A) It goes without saying that all that God did was in line and agreement of these men's freewill. Ahab exercised his freewill to lie and the other exercised his freewill to rebellion. God let them have the desires of their own hearts.
- B) Since Ahab continued to prefer the lies of his false prophets over the truth given by God's prophets—Micaiah and Elijah, God chose to use the false prophets to carry out His plan. **Ahab received the message his heart desired—one of lies and deception.**

27) Freewill of the prophets and Ahab = Lying

- A) One other thing is true, the Lord only worked within the freewill of the Prophets and the King. The FREEWILL and HEART of the Prophets and King Ahab, was FULL of LYING PROPHETS AND LYING KING.
- B) God did not violate their freewill but worked within the same to execute the judgment that was long overdue to Ahab.

19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. 20 And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead?

- 28) The word "*persuade*" has been translated as "*lying*" by other versions, but also it means "entice." The Lord was not doing what was not a reality or present in Ahab. He had his heart in deceit and continual lies. This is what the Lord used, nothing more!

29) Why persuade or lie to Ahab and not tell him the truth?

Certain people do not receive truth no matter what you will do. Their hearts are hardened against truth. That is what they hear and speak.

- A) AHAB ONLY WANTED and LOVED PROPHECIES of LIES AND DECEPTION. He did not want the truth.
- B) DECEPTION was his language and heart. This is what he understood and received. He would not receive truth. Notice that even when God gave him the truth, he would not receive it. God is a God of truth, not lies. He let lies be because this man WOULD not receive or accept TRUTH. Ahab's freewill was filled with DECEPTION and LIES.

What God wanted to accomplish and why? Judgment of Ahab

30) Notice the word **fall**. This was about judgment. Ahab's time was up. His judgment was ripe. God was going to use Ahab's chosen way of life to execute judgment and justice. This was the goal of this *"Who shall persuade Ahab that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead?"*

- A) Romans 6:23 — This man had planted bad seed at this time where he had to be persuaded to go to war so his fate should be fulfilled. His time was up and was leaving on borrowed time. Being persuaded to go to battle was a judgment from the Lord and because his heart was stubborn, he had to be persuaded (lied) to go. He spoke the language of deception. Just like Pharaoh hardened his heart, this man did the same.
- B) God had given this man so much grace and extended his life: Ahab mourned and humbled himself before the Lord, and the Lord granted him some more time (1 Kings 21:27-29), but was marked for judgment.
 - a) Ahab again and again rejected the clear warnings from God. God again showed His power and mercy to Ahab, but the king refused to submit and

obey Him. God had already pronounced a death sentence upon Ahab (1 Kings 20:42, 21:19), but had given him an opportunity to repent of his wickedness.

- C) God letting this lying to go ahead was to judge Ahab. He was wicked and had done lots of wickedness,

A lying spirit = Demonic spirit

21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. 22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

- 31) The way this is worded seems to reveal that this was not a spirit of God or an angel of God.
- 32) Notice that this spirit was willing to persuade (lie) to him. It was this spirit's **character** to do so. Even the way it is described, it does not appear or sound something of God.
- 33) Lying spirit — I do not know nor believe that God has lying spirits. According to the scriptures, I believe this had to be a demonic spirit doing what demons do—lie and what the Lord did was simply let the demons be what they are—Lying spirits to a lying false prophet and lying King Ahab.
- 34) The Lord asked how it was going to persuade him, not because He did not know but to stay in the bounds his freewill.
- 35) Standing before the Lord does not necessarily mean this spirit went to heaven. The presence of God is not only in heaven.

23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

400 False-Lying prophets

36) Ahab's 400 false and lying prophets

A) These prophets were liars and hardened in deception and lies. Again, the Lord did not do anything to them that they had not wanted or done to themselves. They were liars and their relationship with lies *with the exception of Micaiah and Elijah*.

37) These prophets already had the lying heart. What the Lord did is let the LYING PROPHETS to what they do best TO A LYING AND DECPETIVE KING.

38) Ahab brought 400 false prophets together, Jehoshaphat recognized their falsehood and asked whether a true prophet of God could be summoned.

Truth — God communicates truth through Micaiah, the prophet

39) God communicated truth to Ahab through Micaiah revealing God's heart.

A) Micaiah told him the truth which reveals that if the Lord really wanted to lie to Ahab, He wouldn't have had Micaiah reveal the truth of what happened behind the scenes in the spiritual realm. The Lord influenced all these false prophets to deceive Ahab, but Micaiah showed him the truth.

B) The false prophets lied to Ahab

40) The word "evil" here is judgement.

24 But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah on the cheek, and said, Which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee? 25 And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. 26 And the king of Israel said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son; 27 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 come in peace. 28 And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the LORD hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O people, every one of you.

- 41) The heart of king Ahab is further revealed in the way he treats the Prophet Micaiah after he tells him the truth that he asked for.

Judgment — Ahab about to FALL

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

- 42) Ahab, a man whose heart loved and was filled with lies, received lies from the lying—false prophets still rejected truth because this man's heart was hardened to the Lord.

- 43) He was offered two options to choose:

A) The lies from the false-Lying prophets

B) Truth from Prophet Micaiah

- a) He willfully and knowingly chose lies—rejecting the truth—not primarily because God wanted him to be lied to but because he was a man who loved, spoke, received, and only listened to lies.

- 44) How can you lie to a person who only speaks and receives only LIES? This man's heart was hardened to the Lord. God simply spoke the language this man spoke—the language of lies in order to fulfill His judgment on him.

- 45) God only used what was available to Him, knowing this man's heart—a hardened heart.

46) These lying prophets as well had their hearts hardened in the direction of lying and deception.

A) God did not bring about or use something new, but what was exactly the freewill of these men (Ahab and his false-lying prophets). This was their chosen course which the Lord used to execute the much-required overdue judgment.

47) **If this man was a man of truth, God would have spoken truth to him. As a matter of fact, He spoke TRUTH to him (Ahab), and he did not receive it.**

48) **Note:** God does not force Himself on people, yet He has ways to accomplish His will without violating the freewill of man. He simply used what this man—Ahab gave Him to use of his own freewill.

30 And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.

49) Confirmation, of the heart of Ahab, he disguised himself in the effort to save his life and get Jehoshaphat killed. Every move made by this man was one of deception.

31 But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel. 32 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out. 33 And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him. 34 And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. 35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. 36 And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. 37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. 38 And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he

spake. 39 Now the rest of the acts of Ahab, and all that he did, and the ivory house which he made, and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?