

“God’s Word Affirmed”
1 Kings 22:26-53
(Preached at Trinity, October 31, 2021)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. **Chapters 20-22** focus primarily on Ahab’s failures as a king and as a person. When sin goes unchecked, it continues to fester and grow. This is illustrated clearly in the life of Ahab. These final chapters reveal Ahab’s repeated opposition to the Word of God. In **Chapter 20** we were witness to Ahab’s failure to take God at His Word in his battle with the Arameans.
1 Kings 20:13 NAU - "I will deliver them into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the LORD."
God promised to deliver His enemies into the hand of Ahab. Ahab on the other hand made a covenant with the enemy and let him live.
1 Kings 20:42-43 NAU - "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have let go out of *your* hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'" ⁴³ So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and vexed, and came to Samaria."
The word for “sullen” means resentful. Ahab was continually resentful of God’s Word and continually resisted it.
2. In **Chapter 21** we again find Ahab’s resentment towards God’s Word. Naboth was a peasant who had a vineyard located near the summer palace of Ahab. Ahab decided the plot would be a great location for a vegetable garden and asked Naboth to sell it to him.
 - A. Naboth refused on the grounds that it violated God’s Word.
1 Kings 21:3 NAU - "The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."
 - B. The property belonged to his family. It was their inheritance and Naboth saw it as being entrusted to his care. Naboth knew God’s Word obeyed it. Ahab despised God’s Word and dismissed it. God’s Word did not fit his plans. So, he responded in his usual way. He was resentful.
1 Kings 21:4 NAU - "So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him"
3. Now we come to **Chapter 22**. And again, we’ll find Ahab resentful of God’s Word. The author tells us it had been three years without war between Aram or Syria and Israel. Ahab determined it was long overdue for Israel to seize the land of Ramoth-Gilead from the Arameans. Jehoshaphat, king of Judah had come to Israel to visit Ahab and Ahab sought an alliance with him to go against the Arameans. Jehoshaphat agreed with one provision, “We must first inquire of God’s Word.”
4. What follows is the procession of 400 of Ahab’s top prophets—but they were false prophets. They were Ahab’s yes men, although they claimed to speak for God. Jehoshaphat knew right away that these men were charlatans masquerading as God’s prophets.
1 Kings 22:7 NAU - "But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not yet a prophet of the LORD here that we may inquire of him?"

5. Ahab admitted that there was one prophet of God, but he hated him. He hated him because he was God's spokesman. He spoke God's Word. Ahab despised God's Word. **1 Kings 22:8 NAU** - "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil."
6. Ahab was basically saying, "I hate him because he doesn't tell me what I want to hear." For Ahab, it wasn't what was true or false, right or wrong, but whatever fit his particular agenda. The first half of **Chapter 22** is a testimony of Ahab's hatred of God's Word and Micaiah's faithfulness to it. So, who was right?
7. In **Verse 24** Zedekiah is asking, "How did the Holy Spirit pass from me to you?" In other words, how could it be that both could be claiming to speak by the Holy Spirit and speak such contradictory words?
Who was speaking the truth? How could they know?
8. This is the drama that plays before us every day. Multitudes despise God's Word. They dismiss it and they dismiss us for holding to it. So who's right? They claim they are right, and we are following after naïve superstitions.
I get this all the time. How do we know we are right when everyone else claims they have the truth? Most people believe that right is whatever they believe and wrong is whatever is in disagreement. No one thinks their beliefs and ideas are wrong.
9. Ahab says in **Verse 27**, put Micaiah in prison and I'll deal with him when I return from my victory. Micaiah declares,
1 Kings 22:28 NAU - "If you indeed return safely the LORD has not spoken by me."
Micaiah is basically saying, "Wait and see."
He tells Zedekiah in **Verse 25** - "Behold, you shall see on that day"
He doesn't increase his argumentation. He simply says, "You will see."
It's interesting how many people have predicted the return of Christ. They set dates and then declare, "Wait and see." But when the date comes and goes they simply move the bar and set another date. That's the definition of a false prophet.
10. Tonight, as we conclude the life of Ahab we find the Word of God on trial. Was Micaiah speaking the truth?
I want to address a subject we've seen several times as we've made our way through this book. I want us to see again the infallibility of God's Word. It is a subject that is repeated over and over. The Word of God is certain, absolute, definite. We need to hear this clearly in our generation.
11. But how do we know? Micaiah declared, "Wait and see."
There is an element of truth in this for us. How do we know the promises of God in Christ are true? Wait and see.
Mark 14:61-62 NAU - "Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?" ⁶² And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

12. But this isn't the whole truth for us. We have seen. The resurrection validated the claims of Christ.

Acts 13:29-33 NAU - "And when they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. ³⁰ "But God raised Him from the dead; ³¹ and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. ³² "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, ³³ that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus"

Romans 10:8-10 NAU - "But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart "-- that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."

13. Some principles to consider:

I. God's Word is not dependent upon our schemes

A. Ahab believed he had everything under control

1. Sure, Micaiah declared, "Thus says the LORD—you will not survive."
2. But Ahab had other plans. He always did. He always thought his way was superior to God's way. His marriage to Jezebel was a plan superior to God's way. Baal worship was a superior worship. Allowing Ben-Hadad to live was a better plan. Murdering Nabal was a better plan—and on and on. He hated and resented God's Word and resisted it to the very end.
3. Micaiah spoke God's judgment upon Ahab. Doom and gloom was in the air. Ahab hated the Word of God but knew its authority. How could he survive when God says he would not?

Ahab thought he had the perfect plan that would overcome God's Word. Knowing the enemy would direct their fire upon the king, he disguised himself and had Jehoshaphat ride forth in royal array. What a good plan! It's amazing Jehoshaphat went along with it.

1 Kings 22:30 NAU - "I will disguise myself and go into the battle, but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into the battle."

4. We should note, this battle is with the very king that Ahab let go free in **Chapter 20**.

1 Kings 20:42 NAU - "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have let go out of *your* hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people."

B. According to God's Word spoken by Micaiah, Ahab was killed in battle.

1. The all-powerful, sovereign hand of God is often unseen to the human eye, but it is infallible. It is testimony to God's infallible Word.

1 Kings 22:34 NAU - "Now a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the fight; for I am severely wounded."

2. Ahab was heavily armored, covered from head to toe, and yet a single arrow shot at random found its way in between two plates of his armor. And the arrow found its way into the lifeblood of Ahab. It reminds us that there are no accidents with God. Nothing happens by chance.
3. We should also note, when God's hand is with us, nothing in the world can harm us.

1 Kings 22:32 NAU - "So when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel," and they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out."

 - a. Jehoshaphat went home that evening and Ahab bled out in his chariot.
 - b. Stonewall Jackson said, "My religious beliefs teach me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time of my death. I do not concern myself with that, but to be always ready whenever it may overtake me. That is the way all men should live, and all men would be equally brave."¹

II. God's Word is carried out to the fullest.

A. God had already declared His Word to Ahab

1. It was a vivid declaration of Ahab's future

1 Kings 21:19 NAU - "Thus says the LORD, "Have you murdered and also taken possession?" And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours."

1 Kings 20:42 NAU - "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have let go out of *your* hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people."

 - a. What if Ahab had destroyed Ben-hadad according to the Word of the Lord? What if God's glory had been of greater importance than his political position.
 - b. The reason Ahab was at war was because he had let Ben-hadad live. Ben-hadad had reneged on every promise he had made to Ahab.
 - c. And now Ahab is receiving that which God declared in His Word. "Because you have let go out of *your* hand the man whom I had devoted to destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people."

¹ Quoted from <https://www.historynet.com/stonewall-jackson-quotes>.

2. Ahab's life ended precisely as God declared.

1 Kings 22:35-38 NAU - "The battle raged that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot in front of the Arameans, and died at evening, and the blood from the wound ran into the bottom of the chariot. ³⁶ Then a cry passed throughout the army close to sunset, saying, "Every man to his city and every man to his country." ³⁷ So the king died and was brought to Samaria, and they buried the king in Samaria. ³⁸ They washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood (now the harlots bathed themselves *there*), according to the word of the LORD which He spoke."

- B. Such is the nature of the Word of God

Psalms 19:7-11 NAU - "The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. ¹⁰ They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward."

Conclusion:

1. There are multitudes today who have the heart of Ahab. They deny the truth of God's Word. Ahab refused to accept God's Word, but that in no way changed it.
2. They don't believe there's a God who is all encompassing. They don't believe they stand guilty before a holy God. They don't believe they will be called to give account on the Day of Judgment. But God's Word declares it.
3. Most do believe there's a heaven and most believe that is where they are going. But God's Word declares differently.
Revelation 20:11-13 NAU - "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.
Revelation 21:7-8 NAU - "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. ⁸ "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part *will be* in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
4. God's Word commands them to confess their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Redeemer and Lord, but they don't believe that. Not enough to allow it to transform their lives. Their unbelief does not change the truth of God's Word.
5. God's Word forever stands.
Isaiah 46:11 NAU - "Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned *it*, *surely* I will do it."