

## Keeping God's Word Relevant

### 1 Kings 22:1-40

Central Truth: God's Word stays relevant in our lives only when we [believe it](#) and [obey it](#).

- **GOD'S WORD PROVIDES [INCONVENIENT TRUTH](#).**

*But in the third year Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel. <sup>3</sup>And the king of Israel said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us, and we keep quiet and do not take it out of the hand of the king of Syria?" <sup>4</sup>And he said to Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to battle at Ramoth-gilead?" And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." <sup>5</sup>And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, "Inquire first for the word of the LORD." <sup>6</sup>Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, "Shall I go to battle against Ramoth-gilead, or shall I refrain?" And they said, "Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king." <sup>7</sup>But Jehoshaphat said, "Is there not here another prophet of the LORD of whom we may inquire?" <sup>8</sup>And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, Micaiah the son of Imlah, but I hate him, for he never prophesies good concerning me, but evil." And Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so." 1 Kings 22:2-8 (English Standard Version)*

*I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him . . . <sup>20</sup>But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die. <sup>21</sup>And if you say in your heart, 'How may we know the word that the LORD has not spoken?'—<sup>22</sup>when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken . . . Deuteronomy 18:18, 20-22 (ESV)*

*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God . . . 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)*

- **GOD'S WORD MUST NOT BE [MANIPULATED](#).**

*Then the king of Israel summoned an officer and said, "Bring quickly Micaiah the son of Imlah." <sup>10</sup>Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting on their thrones, arrayed in their robes, at the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate*

*of Samaria, and all the prophets were prophesying before them. <sup>11</sup>And Zedekiah . . . made for himself horns of iron and said, "Thus says the LORD, 'With these you shall push the Syrians until they are destroyed.' " <sup>12</sup>And all the prophets prophesied so and said, "Go up to Ramoth-gilead and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king." <sup>13</sup>And the messenger who went to summon Micaiah said to him, "Behold, the words of the prophets with one accord are favorable to the king. Let your word be like the word of one of them, and speak favorably." <sup>14</sup>But Micaiah said, "As the LORD lives, what the LORD says to me, that I will speak." 1 Kings 22:9-14 (ESV)*

- **[OUR OBEDIENCE](#) TO GOD'S WORD IS WHAT KEEPS IT RELEVANT IN OUR LIVES.**

*And when he had come to the king, the king said to him, "Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we refrain?" And he answered him, "Go up and triumph; the LORD will give it into the hand of the king." <sup>16</sup>But the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you speak to me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?" <sup>17</sup>And he said, "I saw all Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd. And the LORD said, 'These have no master; let each return to his home in peace.' " <sup>18</sup>And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Did I not tell you that he would not prophesy good concerning me, but evil?" 1 Kings 22:15-18 (ESV)*

[You are] "making void the word of God by your tradition . . ." Mark 7:13 (ESV)

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11 (New King James Version)*

See 1 Kings 22:19-22.

- **GOD'S WORD IS [CERTAIN](#).** (1 Kings 22:29-38)

*Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." <sup>35</sup>The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot. <sup>36</sup>Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!" 1 Kings 22:34-36 (NKJV)*

*And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left;  
<sup>20</sup>and the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?'  
And one said one thing, and another said another. <sup>21</sup>Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.'  
<sup>22</sup>And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?'  
And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.'  
And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.'  
<sup>23</sup>Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you." 1 Kings 22:19-22 (ESV)*