

CONFERENCE IN HEAVEN. 1 KN. 22:19-28. 5/28/23. #60.

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¹⁹Then *Micaiah* said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left. ²⁰And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. ²¹Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' ²²The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade *him*, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' ²³Therefore look! The LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the LORD has declared disaster against you." ²⁴Now Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near and struck Micaiah on the cheek, and said, "Which way did the spirit from the LORD go from me to speak to you?" ²⁵And Micaiah said, "Indeed, you shall see on that day when you go into an inner chamber to hide!" ²⁶So the king of Israel said, "Take Micaiah, and return him to Amon the governor of the city and to Joash the king's son; ²⁷and say, 'Thus says the king: "Put this *fellow* in prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and water of affliction, until I come in peace.'" ²⁸But Micaiah said, "If you ever return in peace, the LORD has not spoken by me." And he said, "Take heed, all you people!"

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1. A passage that raises many questions

- a. After Micaiah described foreseeing the troops of Israel scattered among the hills without a master, he describes a scene in heaven before God
- b. Many questions raised about this vision:
 - a1. Is it metaphorical or real?
 - a2. Since God needs no counsel, why would he call a conference to seek advice?
 - a3. Are both elect angels & demons present?
 - a4. Was the spirit of a lying tongue an elect angel or a demon?
 - a5. Since God tempts no man (Jm. 1:12), was the device used an enticement?
- c. Since Micaiah presents this drama as an actual vision, we must assume that it was real on some level (actual or representative)
- d. Though God needs no counsel, he has often allowed men to confer with him
 - a1. Gn. 18 he conferred with Abr. over Sodom
 - a2. He did not destroy Israel when Moses intervened on their behalf
 - a3. He allowed Ezekiel to bake bread over animal dung instead of human waste

- a4. He allowed Balaam to go to Balak
- a5. He allowed David to choose his own punishment after he numbered the people
- e. Until Satan & the demons are permanently banned from heaven during the tribulation (Rev. 12), they apparently reported regularly to God (Job 1)
 - a1. Mic.'s vision of angels to the left & right of the throne could be of elect angels on one side & demons on the other (sheep/goats)
 - a2. It is most likely that a demon suggested putting a lying spirit in the mouths of the false prophets (demons love mayhem)
- f. Ps. 106:15 God will send consequences upon evil men (hardening Pharaoh's heart, sending a reprobate mind to the rebellious, post-Rapture doubters who rejected the Gospel being sent a delusion)

2. Rejection of the message

- a. God shows Ahab exactly what He is going to do
 - a1. God had shown Ahab his power before
 - a2. Ahab ignores the prophecy
 - a3. Jehoshaphat should have backed away
- b. Zedekiah strikes Mic. & asks how did the Lord speak to him so he struck the prophet
 - a1. Mic. states that he will find out when he has to hide after the battle
 - a2. Evil men love affirmation & not truth

3. Truth that will not be silenced

- a. Ahab responds to Mic.'s prophecy by ordering him to be imprisoned until Ahab returns
- b. Mic. responds by saying that if Ahab returns, the Lord has not spoken through him
- c. Death by decree
 - a1. God gave Ahab clear & just warning
 - a2. God encouraged Ahab to follow his will
 - a3. The prophet was maltreated for his truth (God's people pay a high price for truth)
- d. Ahab will die as both Elijah & Micaiah predicted
 - a1. Jehoshaphat will suffer defeat with Ahab
 - a2. Mic. disappears from the narrative