### 1 Kings

## Chapter 22

1As a result, there was no more war between IsraEl and Syria during the next three years.  
  
2But in the third year, King JehoShaphat (of Judah went to visit King [Ahab] of IsraEl... 3[And it so happened that at the time], the king of IsraEl had been talking to his servants about [the city of] RamOth GileAd, for it really belonged to him and he had yet to take it back from Syria.  
  
4So King [Ahab] of IsraEl asked JehoShaphat:  
  
 ‘Will you join us in our war for RamOth GileAd?’  
  
5And JehoShaphat replied:  
  
 ‘You and I and your people and mine are the same race, so my horses are your horses!  
  
 ‘However, why don’t you go and ask [Jehovah about this] today?  
  
 ‘You should definitely ask Him first!’  
  
  
6Well, the King [Ahab] of IsraEl gathered all his prophets (about 400 of them), and the king asked them:  
  
 ‘Should I go to war against RamOth GileAd, or should I wait?’  
  
And their reply was:  
  
 ‘Go, and the Lord will give it into the hands of the king!’  
  
7But then [King] JehoShaphat asked the King [Ahab] of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘Don’t you have any prophets of Jehovah?  
  
 ‘We should go to them to ask Jehovah about this matter.’  
  
8And King [Ahab] of IsraEl said to JehoShaphat:  
  
 ‘Well, there’s still one man of Jehovah whom we can ask... However, I detest him because he never tells me good things, just bad things!  
  
 ‘His name is MicaJah son of JemBlaAh.’  
  
So King JehoShaphat of Judah said to him:  
  
 ‘We should really hear what he has to say.’  
  
9Therefore, King [Ahab] of IsraEl called his primary eunuch and told him:  
  
 ‘Quickly, bring MicaJah son of JemBlaAh to me.’  
  
  
10So then King [Ahab] of IsraEl and King JehoShaphat of Judah both sat down on their thrones, and all the prophets came in and started prophesying before them.  
  
11ZedekiAh (son of HanaAn) actually made himself some iron horns, and he said:  
  
 ‘This is what the Lord says:  
  
 ‘With these you will gore the Syrians until you finish them off!’  
  
12And all the other prophets agreed, saying:  
  
 ‘Go to war for RamOth GileAd and you will be blest, for [God] will hand the king of Syria over to you!’  
  
  
13Meanwhile, the messenger who was sent to call for MicaJah finally found him, and he said to him:  
  
 ‘{Look!} All the prophets are telling the king good things, so you must go there and do the same!’  
  
14But MicaJah replied:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah lives, I’ll say whatever He tells me to say.’  
  
  
15However, when he went before the king and the king asked:  
  
 ‘Should I go to war for RamOth GileAd, or should I wait?’  
  
MicaJah told him:  
  
 ‘Go, and Jehovah will bless the hands of the king!’  
  
16But King [Ahab of IsraEl] said to him:  
  
 ‘How often do I have to ask you to promise to speak the truth to me when you’re speaking in the Name of Jehovah?’  
  
17And MicaJah replied:  
  
 ‘Well, [what I said really] isn’t true... For I saw all IsraEl scattered in the mountains like a flock with no shepherd!  
  
 ‘Then the Lord said to me:  
  
 ‘When these people no longer have a lord, they should return to their homes in peace!’  
  
18Well at that, King [Ahab] of IsraEl turned to [King] JehoShaphat and said:  
  
 ‘Didn’t I tell you that this one would only prophesy bad things?’  
  
19And MicaJah said to him:  
  
 ‘That isn’t true! For, all I do is listen to the words of Jehovah… And that’s what I’ve done!  
  
 ‘I saw Jehovah the God of IsraEl sitting on His throne and the whole army of the heavens was standing around Him on His right and on His left...  
  
 20‘Then Jehovah asked:  
  
 ‘Who will fool King Ahab of IsraEl and make him go to war for RamOth GileAd?’  
  
 ‘And one said this and another said that... 21But then a spirit came and stood before Jehovah and said:  
  
 ‘I’ll deceive him!’  
  
 22‘So Jehovah asked him:  
  
 ‘How will you do that?’  
  
 ‘And he replied:  
  
 ‘I’ll go and become a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets.’  
  
 ‘And God said:  
  
 ‘You will surely deceive him, so go on and do it!’  
  
 23‘Therefore, {Look!} Jehovah has put a lying spirit into the mouths of all your prophets, and He’s really foretold bad things for you!’  
  
24Well at that, ZedekiAh (son of HanaAn) came up to MicaJah and hit him in the mouth!  
  
Then he asked:  
  
 ‘So, what kind of spirit has Jehovah prophesied for you?’  
  
25And MicaJah replied:  
  
 ‘{Look!} You’ll know [the answer] when you have to run and hide in the inner chamber of a storeroom!’  
  
26Then the king of IsraEl told his servants to take MicaJah to AmMon (who was the mayor of the city) and to his son JehoAsh, 27who should keep him under guard.  
  
He told them to say:  
  
 ‘Don’t give him anything to eat other than bread and water until after I’ve returned in peace!’  
  
28But MicaJah said:  
  
 ‘Since you won’t be returning in peace, the Lord told me to say this to you:  
  
 ‘Listen all you people!  
  
 29‘The king of IsraEl [will go to war], and JehoShaphat the king of Judah will go with him.’  
  
30Well at that, King [Ahab] of IsraEl turned to King JehoShaphat of Judah and said:  
  
 ‘Let me disguise myself in the battle, and I want you to put on my clothes.’  
  
So the King [Ahab] of IsraEl put on [JehoShaphat’s] clothes, and they went to the battle...  
  
31Meanwhile, the king of Syria had given these instructions to the 32 men who were in charge of his chariots.  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘Don’t attack his foot soldiers or his generals… Go catch the king of IsraEl by himself.’  
  
32So when those who were in charge of the chariots saw the king of Judah [wearing Ahab’s clothes], they shouted:  
  
 ‘That looks like the king of IsraEl!’  
  
Then they circled and prepared to attack him. However, JehoShaphat shouted, 33and when the men in charge realized that it wasn’t the king of IsraEl, they turned away.  
  
34But thereafter, a skilled bowman recognized the king of IsraEl and shot him in the chest between his lungs!  
  
And [the king] said to his chariot driver:  
  
 ‘Turn around and take me away from the battle, because I’ve been hit.’  
  
35Well, this turned the tide of the battle, and King [Ahab] sat in his chariot across from the fighting for the rest of the day, as blood poured all over the chariot... Then he died later that evening.  
  
  
Well, as the blood started running from the chariot towards the enemy camp, 36a messenger went throughout IsraEl’s camp after sundown, shouting:  
  
 ‘Everyone should go back to his city and land, 37because the king is dead!’  
  
So, everyone returned to Samaria, and they carried the king back and buried him in a tomb in Samaria. 38However, when they started washing the blood off the chariot in the Spring of Samaria, pigs and dogs came and licked up his blood, and whores bathed in the bloody water, just as Jehovah had said!  
  
39Well, {Look!} the rest of the things that Ahab said and did, as well as [a description] of the house of ivory that he had built and of all the cities he created, have been written about in the scrolls of the words of The Days of the Kings of IsraEl.  
  
40So after Ahab went to sleep with his ancestors, his son AhaziJah started ruling in his place.  
  
  
41Well, [King] JehoShaphat (son of Asa) had started his rule over Judah [much earlier on] in the 4th year of Ahab the king of IsraEl. 42He was 35 years old when he started his reign, and he ruled in JeruSalem for 25 years. His mother’s name was Azuba, and she was the daughter of SalAi.  
  
43He had followed in the path of his father Asa unswervingly, doing what was upright in the eyes of Jehovah! However, he never tore down the high places where the people burned incense and offered sacrifices.  
  
44But during his reign, he was at peace with the king of IsraEl.  
  
45The rest of the things that JehoShaphat said, as well as the area of his rulership, was written about in the scrolls of the words of The Days of the Kings of Judah.  
  
46And during his reign, he completed everything that had been started or neglected during the reign of his father Asa.  
  
47(Meanwhile, there was no king reigning in Syria.)  
  
48King JehoShaphat also had a Tharsis-style ship made in order to go to Ophir and bring back gold... But it never [reached Ophir], because it was wrecked at GeBer.  
  
49So King AhaziJah of IsraEl said to JehoShaphat:  
  
 ‘Your servants can travel there with my servants.’  
  
50But JehoShaphat didn’t want to do that.  
  
51Finally, JehoShaphat went to sleep with his ancestors, and they buried him in the tomb of his fathers in the city of his ancestor David.  
  
So, his son JehoRam started to rule.  
  
  
52It was in the 17th year of the reign of JehoShaphat the king of Judah that AhaziJah (Ahab’s son) had started ruling over IsraEl from Samaria. However, he only ruled for 2 years, 53because he also acted wickedly before Jehovah, following in the steps of his father Ahab, his mother JezeBel, and of JeroBoam son of NaBat (who was the first one who led IsraEl into sin)…  
  
54For he served the BaAls, bowing before them, and this angered Jehovah, the God of IsraEl.

# 2 Kings

2 Kings is a history book.  
  
It’s the final part of a 4-part history book (1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, and 2 Kings). It’s usually pronounced as ‘Second Kings,’ not ‘Two Kings.’  
  
It covers the period starting with the death of IsraEl’s King AhaziAh to the destruction of JeruSalem by Babylon King NebuChadNezzar. It also includes the activities of EliJah and EliSha.  
  
We don’t know who wrote or complied this book. Jewish tradition says that it was written by the Prophet Jeremiah. This could be true.  
  
  
Chronology problems  
  
Like 1 Kings, the internal chronology of 2 Kings is, unfortunately, impossible for us to understand today. Why? Well, the methods used to count the length of a king’s reign evidently differed over the years, and we don’t know which method was used for which king.  
  
For example, some kings had their first few months before the new year counted as ‘1 year,’ while others didn’t. Also, there were certainly some gaps and overlapping between the reigns (for example, time before a son took over, or time when a son co-ruled with his father). None of these details are recorded in the text – probably because it was obvious to the people at the time (or you could get the details from another book), but all of this is long-forgotten today, and of all the other ancient books about the events are long-lost.  
  
Some modern scholars have tried to work out the chronology, but there’s no consensus. So all the BCE dates that you may see for their reigns are just best-guesses.  
  
Further, some of the numbers given by the Greek Septuagint text (which we use) are different from the numbers given in the Hebrew Masoretic text. Which one is right? Or do both have errors? We don’t know, but we’re usually inclined to follow the Greek text.