### 2 Chronicles

## Chapter 18

1Well, after JehoShaphat became very rich and famous, he decided to ally himself with the house of [King] Ahab [of IsraEl] through marriage. 2So after several years, he went to visit Ahab in Samaria with a large contingent of his people, and he sacrificed many calves and sheep on behalf of Ahab.  
  
Then to show his love for him, he consented to go with him to [fight at] RamOth GileAd. 3For King Ahab of IsraEl had asked King JehoShaphat of Judah:  
  
 ‘Will you go to RamOth GileAd with me?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘You and your people are the same as [me and] my people, so we’ll join you in the war.’  
  
4However, JehoShaphat said to the king of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘But first, let’s ask for [God’s direction]!’  
  
5So the king of IsraEl gathered all his prophets (some 400 men) and asked them:  
  
 ‘Should I attack RamOth GileAd or should I wait?’  
  
And they replied:  
  
 ‘Go there, and God will hand them over to the king!’  
  
6But then JehoShaphat asked:  
  
 ‘Aren’t there any Prophets of Jehovah that we can ask?’  
  
7And the king of IsraEl replied:  
  
 ‘There’s one man who searches for answers from Jehovah, but I detest him, because he never prophesies anything good for me. All he ever tells me is bad things!  
  
 ‘He’s MichaiJah, son of JemBla.’  
  
But JehoShaphat said:  
  
 ‘The king shouldn’t talk that way!’  
  
8Then the king called one of his eunuchs and said:  
  
 ‘Quickly! Go find MichaiJah, son of JemBla, and bring him to me!’  
  
  
9Well, at the time, the king of IsraEl and JehoShaphat (the king of Judah) were each sitting on thrones in the broad area near the city gate of Samaria dressed in [their royal] robes, and all the prophets were there prophesying before them.  
  
10Then one of them (ZedekiAh, son of CanaAn) made some iron horns for himself and said:  
  
 ‘This is what the Lord says:  
  
 ‘You will gore the Syrians with these until you’ve wiped them out completely!’  
  
11And all the rest of the prophets said the same thing.  
  
They said:  
  
 ‘Go to RamOth GileAd and you’ll succeed! For the Lord will give it into the hands of the king!’  
  
12Well, the messenger that had been sent to call MichaiJah said to him:  
  
 ‘Look! All the prophets are saying good things to the king, so it would be a blessing if you’d tell him good things too.’  
  
13And MichaiJah replied:  
  
 ‘As Jehovah lives, I’ll say whatever God tells me to say!’  
  
14So MicaiJah went before the king, and the king asked:  
  
 ‘Should I attack RamOth GileAd or should I wait?’  
  
And he replied:  
  
 ‘Go, and you’ll be blest, because it will be given into your hands!’  
  
15But the king said:  
  
 ‘How often do I have to tell you to swear to only tell me the truth in the Name of the Lord?’  
  
16And MichaiJah said:  
  
 ‘I see IsraEl being scattered in the mountains like sheep without a shepherd.  
  
 ‘For Jehovah said:  
  
 ‘They will be without a leader, so each one should return to his home in peace.’  
  
17Then the king of IsraEl said to JehoShaphat:  
  
 ‘You see… Didn’t I tell you that he wouldn’t prophesy anything good, just bad things?’  
  
18And MichaiJah said:  
  
 ‘That isn’t so! [These are] the words of Jehovah!  
  
 ‘For I saw Jehovah sitting on His Throne and all the armies of the heavens were sitting beside Him on His right and on His left.  
  
 19‘Then Jehovah asked:  
  
 ‘Whom can I send to deceive Ahab the king of IsraEl so that he attacks RamOth GileAd and is defeated?’  
  
 ‘Well, one suggested this and another suggested that; 20but then a spirit stepped forward into the presence of Jehovah and said:  
  
 ‘I can fool him!’  
  
 ‘And when Jehovah asked how, 21he said:  
  
 ‘I will go into the mouths of his prophets as a lying spirit.’  
  
 ‘And [God] said:  
  
 ‘You will indeed be able to fool him, so go there and do it!’  
  
 22‘As a result {Look!}, Jehovah has put a lying spirit into the mouths of all these, your prophets.  
  
 ‘And it was Jehovah that spoke these bad things against you, [not me]!’  
  
23Then ZedekiAh (son of CanaAn) [came up] and hit MichaiJah in the jaw and shouted:  
  
 ‘How has the Lord’s Breath passed from me to you, so that you should feel so free to speak?’  
  
24And MichaiJah replied:  
  
 ‘{Look!} You’ll know it in that day when you have to run from closet to closet to hide!’  
  
25Then the king of IsraEl gave the order:  
  
 ‘Take MichaiJah and hand him over to Emer the city mayor and to [my] son JoAsh the governor... 26Tell them that the king wants this man thrown in jail and just fed moldy bread and water until we return in peace!’  
  
27And MichaiJah said:  
  
 ‘Well, as Jehovah told me; you’re not going to return in peace… Listen to this, all you people!’  
  
  
28So the king of IsraEl and King JehoShaphat of Judah rode up to RamOth GileAd.  
  
29And the king of IsraEl said to JehoShaphat:  
  
 ‘I’m going to disguise myself when I go into battle, so I want you to wear my clothes!’  
  
Thus, the king of IsraEl disguised himself and rode into the battle.  
  
30Then the king of Syria told the generals who were standing near him (those who were in charge of his chariots):  
  
 ‘Don’t attack the regular soldiers, just attack the king of IsraEl.’  
  
31So when the generals in charge of the chariots saw JehoShaphat, they shouted:  
  
 ‘That’s the king of IsraEl!’  
  
And they surrounded him and prepared to attack... But JehoShaphat called out, and Jehovah saved him by turning them away from him. 32For when the generals in charge of the chariots saw that it wasn’t the king of IsraEl, they turned and left him.  
  
33Then a skilled archer pulled his bow tight and shot an arrow at the king of IsraEl, hitting him in the middle of his chest, between his lungs!  
  
And [the king] said to his chariot driver:  
  
 ‘Turn around and take me away from the battle, because I’m in a lot of pain!’  
  
34So the king of IsraEl left the battle that day; and there he sat on his chariot, right across from the Syrian lines, until the evening... Then he died just as the sun was setting.