

INFORMATION, OR AFFIRMATION?

TEXT: (I Kings 22:1-8, NIV)

¹ For three years there was no war between Aram and Israel. ² But in the third year Jehoshaphat king of Judah went down to see the king of Israel. ³ The king of Israel had said to his officials, “Don’t you know that Ramoth Gilead belongs to us and yet we are doing nothing to retake it from the king of Aram?”

⁴ So he asked Jehoshaphat, “Will you go with me to fight against Ramoth Gilead?” Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, “I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” ⁵ But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “First seek the counsel of the LORD.”

⁶ So the king of Israel brought together the prophets—about four hundred men—and asked them, “Shall I go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?”

“Go,” they answered, “for the LORD will give it into the king’s hand.”

⁷ But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there no longer a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?”

⁸ The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, “There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.”

INTRODUCTION

1. “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety” (Proverbs 11:14, ESV).
2. “Without good direction, people lose their way; the more wise counsel you follow, the better your chances” (Proverbs 11:14, MSG).
3. “Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me. My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times” (Psalm 119:18-20, NIV).
5. “But Jehoshaphat asked, ‘Is there no longer a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?’

The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, “There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah” (I Kings 22:7-8, NIV).

6. “And who do you think you are to teach us? Who are you to lord it over us? We’re not babies in diapers to be talked down to by such as you—‘Da, da, da, da, blah, blah, blah, blah. That’s a good little girl, that’s a good little boy’” (Isaiah 28:9-10, MSG).

I. FEARING INFORMATION

A. Willingly Ignorant

1. “For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (II Peter 3:5-7, KJV).

B. Afraid of the Truth

1. "For three years there was no war between Aram and Israel. But in the third year Jehoshaphat king of Judah went down to see the king of Israel" (I Kings 22:1-2, NIV).
2. "But Jehoshaphat asked, 'Is there not a prophet of the LORD here whom we can inquire of?'"

The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, 'There is still one man through whom we can inquire of the LORD, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah'" (I Kings 22:7-8, NIV).

C. Truth Upsets the Status Quo

1. "Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: 'Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words'" (Amos 7:10, NIV).

II. CAREFUL WHO YOU CHOOSE TO LISTEN TO

A. Rehoboam Succeeds Solomon as King

1. "So they sent for Jeroboam, and he and the whole assembly of Israel went to Rehoboam and said to him: 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but now lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke he put on us, and we will serve you'" (I Kings 12:3-4, NIV).
2. "Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. 'How would you advise me to answer these people?' he asked.

They replied, 'If today you will be a servant to these people and serve them and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your servants.'

But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him" (I Kings 12:6-8, NIV).
3. "The young men who had grown up with him replied, 'Tell...them, "'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions'" (I Kings 12:10-12, NIV).
4. "When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king: 'What share do we have in David, what part in Jesse's son? To your tents, O Israel! Look after your own house, O David!'

So the Israelites went home" (I Kings 12:16, NIV).

B. The First Jerusalem Council

1. "Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: 'Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.' This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them" (Acts 15:1-2, NIV).
2. "So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question" (Acts 15:2, NIV).

3. "The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: 'Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are'" (Act 15:6-11, NIV).
4. "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood" (Acts 15:19-20, NIV).
5. "The men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter" (Acts 15:30, NIV).

III. FIND DIRECTION THROUGH SURRENDER

A. Make Every Effort to Enter

1. "So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall" (Hebrews 4:11, NLT).

B. Pressing into the Kingdom

1. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19, NIV).
2. "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:44-46, NIV).

C. The Path of Disobedience Always Goes from Bad to Worse

1. "Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn from it and go on your way" (Proverbs 4:14-15, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 12:13-14, NIV).
2. "Live a more disciplined life, and listen carefully to words of knowledge" (Proverbs 23:12, GW).