

## ~AHAB 1 (890)

(A'hab) [Father's brother]

- Condones False Worship
- Capital Construction, Victories Over Syria
- Murder Of Naboth - And Consequences

- Son of Omri and a king of the northern kingdom of Israel. He ruled in Samaria 22 years, from about 940 B.C.E.
- Finally Omri lay down with his forefathers and was buried in Samaria, and **Ahab** his son began to reign in place of him. (1 Kings 16:28)
- And as for **Ahab** the son of Omri, he became king over Israel in the thirty-eighth year of Asa the king of Judah, and **Ahab** the son of Omri continued to reign over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. (1 Kings 16:29)

### • Condones False Worship

- **Ahab's** record was one of the worst as regards the vital area of true worship. Not only did the corrupted worship of Yehowah by means of Jeroboam's golden calves continue but **Ahab** also allowed Baal worship to infect Israel on an unprecedented scale due to his early marriage to Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon.
- Josephus, quoting ancient historian Menander, refers to Ethbaal as Ithobal, and the account [Against Apion, I, 123, 18] relates that he was the priest of Astarte before ascending the throne by murdering the king.
- **Ahab** allowed his pagan wife Jezebel to lead him into Baal worship, to build a temple for Baal, and to erect a sacred pole in honor of Ashtoreth, or Astarte.
- And **Ahab** the son of Omri proceeded to do worse in the eyes of Yehowah than all those who were prior to him. (1 Kings 16:30)
- And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians and began to go and serve Baal and to bow down to him. (1

### **Kings 16:31)**

- Further, he set up an altar to Baal at the house of Baal that he built in Samaria. (**1 Kings 16:32**)
- And **Ahab** went on to make the sacred pole, and Ahab came to do more to offend Yehowah the God of Israel than all the kings of Israel that happened to be prior to him. (**1 Kings 16:33**)
- Before long there were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the sacred pole, all being fed from Jezebel's royal table.
- And now send, collect together all Israel to me at Mount Carmel and also the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of the sacred pole, who are eating at the table of Jezebel. (**1 Kings 18:19**)
- True prophets of Yehowah were slain by the sword, and only the action of **Ahab's** house manager Obadiah, a man of faith, preserved the lives of 100 of them by hiding them in caves, where they subsisted on bread and water.
- Meantime, **Ahab** called Obadiah, who was over the household. Now Obadiah himself had proved to be one greatly fearing Yehowah. (**1 Kings 18:3**)
- Hence it came about that when Jezebel cut off Yehowah's prophets, Obadiah proceeded to take a hundred prophets and keep them hid by fifties in a cave, and he supplied them bread and water. (**1 Kings 18:4**)
- Has not my lord been told what I did when Jezebel killed the prophets of Yehowah, how I kept some of the prophets of Yehowah hid, a hundred men by fifties in a cave, and kept supplying them bread and water? (**1 Kings 18:13**)
- To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies. For the sons of Israel have left your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (**1 Kings 19:10**)
- As a result of his turning to Baal worship, **Ahab** was informed by Elijah of the coming of a severe drought that, according to (**Luke**

**4:25)** and (**James 5:17**), covered a period of three years and six months.

- And Elijah the Tishbite from the inhabitants of Gilead proceeded to say to **Ahab**; As Yehowah the God of Israel before whom I do stand is living, there will occur during these years neither dew nor rain, except at the order of my word! (**1 Kings 17:1**)
- And it came about after many days that Yehowah's own word came to Elijah in the third year, saying; Go, show yourself to **Ahab**, as I am determined to give rain upon the surface of the ground. (**1 Kings 18:1**)
- The rains would return only at Elijah's word, and though **Ahab** searched for him in all the surrounding nations and kingdoms, Elijah stayed out of his reach until the due time.
- The word of Yehowah now came to him, saying; (**1 Kings 17:8**)
- Rise up, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and you must dwell there. Look! I shall certainly command there a woman, a widow, to supply you food. (**1 Kings 17:9**)
- Accordingly Elijah went to show himself to **Ahab**, while the famine was severe in Samaria. (**1 Kings 18:2**)
- As Yehowah your God is living, there is not a nation or kingdom where my lord has not sent to look for you. After they had said; He is not here, he made the kingdom and the nation swear that they could not find you. (**1 Kings 18:10**)
- **Ahab** now endeavored to place the blame on Elijah for the drought and famine, an accusation that Elijah refuted, showing the real cause to be the Baal worship patronized by **Ahab**. A test held on top of Mount Carmel proved Baal to be a nonentity and manifested Yehowah as the true God, the prophets of Baal were slain at Elijah's command, and shortly thereafter a drenching downpour brought an end to the drought.
- And it came about that, as soon as **Ahab** saw Elijah, **Ahab** immediately said to him; Is this you, the bringer of ostracism upon Israel? (**1 Kings 18:17**)
- To this he said; I have not brought ostracism upon Israel, but

you and the house of your father have, because you men have left the commandments of Yehowah, and you went following the Baals. (1 Kings 18:18)

- And now send, collect together all Israel to me at Mount Carmel and also the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of the sacred pole, who are eating at the table of Jezebel. (1 Kings 18:19)
- And **Ahab** proceeded to send among all the sons of Israel and collect the prophets together at Mount Carmel. (1 Kings 18:20)
- Then Elijah approached all the people and said; How long will you be limping upon two different opinions? If Yehowah is the true God, go following him, but if Baal is, go following him. And the people did not say a word in answer to him. (1 Kings 18:21)
- And Elijah went on to say to the people; I myself have been left as a prophet of Yehowah, I alone, while the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men. (1 Kings 18:22)
- Now let them give us two young bulls, and let them choose for themselves one young bull and cut it in pieces and put it upon the wood, but they should not put fire to it. And I myself shall dress the other young bull, and I must place it upon the wood, but I shall not put fire to it. (1 Kings 18:23)
- And you must call upon the name of your god, and I, for my part, shall call upon the name of Yehowah, and it must occur that the true God that answers by fire is the true God. To this all the people answered and said; The thing is good. (1 Kings 18:24)
- Elijah now said to the prophets of Baal; Choose for yourselves one young bull and dress it first, because you are the majority, and call upon the name of your god, but you must not put fire to it. (1 Kings 18:25)
- Accordingly they took the young bull that he gave them. Then they dressed it, and they kept calling upon the name of Baal from morning till noon, saying; O Baal, answer us! But there was no voice, and there was no one answering. And they kept limping around the altar that they had made. (1 Kings 18:26)
- And it came about at noon that Elijah began to mock them and

- say; Call at the top of your voice, for he is a god, for he must be concerned with a matter, and he has excrement and has to go to the privy. Or maybe he is asleep and ought to wake up! (**1 Kings 18:27**)
- And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (**1 Kings 18:28**)
  - And it came about that, as soon as noon was past and they continued behaving as prophets until the going up of the grain offering, there was no voice, and there was no one answering, and there was no paying of attention. (**1 Kings 18:29**)
  - At length Elijah said to all the people; Approach me. So all the people approached him. Then he proceeded to mend the altar of Yehowah that was torn down. (**1 Kings 18:30**)
  - So Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom Yehowah's word had come, saying; Israel is what your name will become. (**1 Kings 18:31**)
  - And he went on to build the stones into an altar in the name of Yehowah and to make a trench, of about the area sowed with two seah measures of seed, all around the altar. (**1 Kings 18:32**)
  - After that he put the pieces of wood in order and cut the young bull in pieces and placed it upon the pieces of wood. He now said; Fill four large jars with water and pour it upon the burnt offering and upon the pieces of wood. (**1 Kings 18:33**)
  - Then he said; Do it again. So they did it again. But he said, Do it a third time. So they did it a third time. (**1 Kings 18:34**)
  - Thus the water went all around the altar, and the trench also he filled with water. (**1 Kings 18:35**)
  - And it came about at the time that the grain offering goes up that Elijah the prophet began to approach and say; O Yehowah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant and it is by your word that I have done all these things. (**1 Kings 18:36**)

- Answer me, O Yehowah, answer me, that this people may know that you, Yehowah, are the true God and you yourself have turned their heart back. (**1 Kings 18:37**)
- At that the fire of Yehowah came falling and went eating up the burnt offering and the pieces of wood and the stones and the dust, and the water that was in the trench it licked up. (**1 Kings 18:38**)
- When all the people saw it, they immediately fell upon their faces and said; Yehowah is the true God! Yehowah is the true God! (**1 Kings 18:39**)
- Then Elijah said to them; Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let a single one of them escape! At once they seized them, and Elijah then brought them down to the torrent valley of Kishon and slaughtered them there. (**1 Kings 18:40**)
- Elijah now said to **Ahab**; Go up, eat and drink, for there is the sound of the turmoil of a downpour. (**1 Kings 18:41**)
- And **Ahab** proceeded to go up to eat and drink. As for Elijah, he went up to the top of Carmel and began crouching to the earth and keeping his face put between his knees. (**1 Kings 18:42**)
- Then he said to his attendant; Go up, please. Look in the direction of the sea. So he went up and looked and then said, There is nothing at all. And he went on to say; Go back, for seven times. (**1 Kings 18:43**)
- And it came about at the seventh time that he got to say; Look! There is a small cloud like a man's palm ascending out of the sea. He now said; Go up, say to **Ahab**, Hitch up! And go down that the downpour may not detain you! (**1 Kings 18:44**)
- And it came about in the meantime that the heavens themselves darkened up with clouds and wind and a great downpour began to occur. And **Ahab** kept riding and made his way to Jezreel. (**1 Kings 18:45**)
- And the very hand of Yehowah proved to be upon Elijah, so that he girded up his hips and went running ahead of **Ahab** all the way to Jezreel. (**1 Kings 18:46**)

- **Ahab** headed back to Jezreel and to his wife, whom he informed of Elijah's actions against Baalism. Jezebel reacted with a violent threat to Elijah, resulting in his flight to Mount Horeb.
- Then **Ahab** told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and all about how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. (1 Kings 19:1)
- At that Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying; So may the gods do, and so may they add to it, if at this time tomorrow I shall not make your soul like the soul of each one of them! (1 Kings 19:2)
- And he became afraid. Consequently he rose up and began to go for his soul and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah. Then he left his attendant behind there. (1 Kings 19:3)
- And he himself went into the wilderness a day's journey, and at length came and sat down under a certain broom tree. And he began to ask that his soul might die and to say; It is enough! Now, O Yehowah, take my soul away, for I am no better than my forefathers. (1 Kings 19:4)
- Finally he lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree. But, look! Now an angel was touching him. Then he said to him, Rise up, eat. (1 Kings 19:5)
- When he looked, why, there at his head was a round cake upon heated stones and a jug of water. And he began to eat and drink, after which he lay down again. (1 Kings 19:6)
- Later the angel of Yehowah came back a second time and touched him and said, Rise up, eat, for the journey is too much for you. (1 Kings 19:7)
- So he rose up and ate and drank, and he kept going in the power of that nourishment for forty days and forty nights as far as the mountain of the true God, Horeb. (1 Kings 19:8)

## .. Capital Construction - Victories Over Syria

- It is believed that **Ahab's** construction works included the completing of Samaria's fortifications, shown by archaeology to have consisted of three immensely strong walls of superior workmanship. Excavations have revealed a rectangular palace platform measuring

about 90 meters (295 feet) by 180 meters (590 feet), with an enclosing wall of fine ashlar masonry. Numerous ivory panels for decorating furniture and wall panels were found, perhaps connected with **Ahab's** house of ivory mentioned at,

- As for the rest of the affairs of **Ahab** and all that he did and the house of ivory that he built and all the cities that he built, are they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Israel? (**1 Kings 22:39**)
- And I will strike down the winter house in addition to the summer house. And the houses of ivory will have to perish, and many houses will have to come to their finish, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Amos 3:15**)
- You men that are lying down on couches of ivory and are sprawling on their divans, and are eating the rams out of a flock and the young bulls from among fattened calves. (**Amos 6:4**)
- The wealth of the city and the strength of its position were soon put to the test by a siege set against Samaria by Syrian Ben-hadad II at the head of a coalition of 32 kings. At first meekly acquiescing to the aggressors demands, **Ahab** then balked at agreeing to allow the virtual plunder of his palace voluntarily.
- Peace negotiations fell through, and by divine direction **Ahab** employed a battle stratagem that caught the enemy off guard and led to their slaughter, though Ben-hadad escaped.
- Convinced that Yehowah was a mountain god only, Ben-hadad returned the following year with a military force of equal size, but drew up for battle on the generally flat tableland near Aphek in the territory of Manasseh, rather than advancing into the mountainous region of Samaria.
- The Israelite forces advanced to the battle site but looked like two tiny flocks of goats compared to the massive Syrian encampment. Reassured by Yehowah's promise to demonstrate that his power was not controlled by geography, **Ahab's** forces dealt a crushing defeat to the enemy.
- And it came about at the return of the year that Ben-hadad proceeded to muster the Syrians and to go up to Aphek for battle against Israel. (**1 Kings 20:26**)



- **As for the sons of Israel, they were mustered and supplied and began to go out to meet them, and the sons of Israel went into camp in front of them like two tiny flocks of goats, while the Syrians, for their part, filled the earth. (1 Kings 20:27)**
- **Then the man of the true God approached and said to the king of Israel, yes, he went on to say; This is what Yehowah has said; For the reason that the Syrians have said; Yehowah is a God of mountains, and he is not a God of low plains, I shall have to give all this great crowd into your hand, and you men will certainly know that I am Yehowah. (1 Kings 20:28)**
- **And they continued encamped for seven days, these in front of those. And it came about on the seventh day that the engagement in battle began, and the sons of Israel went striking down the Syrians, a hundred thousand men on foot in one day. (1 Kings 20:29)**
- **And those that were left went fleeing to Aphek, to the city, and the wall came falling down upon twenty-seven thousand men that were left. As for Ben-hadad, he fled and finally came into the city into the innermost chamber. (1 Kings 20:30)**
- **However, much like King Saul with Agag the Amalekite, **Ahab** let Ben-hadad survive and concluded a covenant with him by which captured cities would be returned to Israel and streets in Damascus would be assigned to **Ahab**, evidently for the establishment of bazaars, or markets, to promote **Ahab's** commercial interests in that Syrian capital.**
- **So his servants said to him; Here, now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are kings of loving-kindness. Please, let us carry sackcloth upon our loins and ropes upon our heads, and let us go out to the king of Israel. Perhaps he will preserve your soul alive. (1 Kings 20:31)**
- **Accordingly they girded sackcloth about their loins, with ropes upon their heads, and came in to the king of Israel and said; Your servant Ben-hadad has said; Please, let my soul live. To this he said; Is he still alive? He is my brother. (1 Kings 20:32)**
- **So the men themselves took it as an omen and quickly took it as a decision of his own accord, and they went on to say; Ben-**

hadad is your brother. At that he said; Come, fetch him. Then Ben-hadad went out to him, and he at once had him get up into the chariot. (1 Kings 20:33)

- Ben-hadad now said to him; The cities that my father took from your father I shall return, and streets you will assign to yourself in Damascus the same as my father assigned in Samaria. And as for me, in a covenant I shall send you away. With that he concluded a covenant with him and sent him away. (1 Kings 20:34)
- Similar to Saul, **Ahab** was condemned by Yehowah for this, with future calamity foretold for him and his people.
- And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said to his friend by the word of Yehowah: Strike me, please. But the man refused to strike him. (1 Kings 20:35)
- Therefore he said to him; For the reason that you did not listen to the voice of Yehowah, here you are going away from me, and a lion will certainly strike you down. After that he went away from beside him, and the lion got to find him and strike him down. (1 Kings 20:36)
- And he went on to find another man and to say; Strike me, please. So the man struck him, striking and wounding. (1 Kings 20:37)
- Then the prophet went and stood still for the king by the road, and he kept himself disguised with a bandage over his eyes. (1 Kings 20:38)
- And it came about that as the king was passing by, he cried out to the king and proceeded to say; Your servant himself went out into the thick of the battle, and, look! A man was leaving the line, and he came bringing a man to me and then said; Guard this man. If he should in any way be missing, your soul will also have to take the place of his soul, or else a talent of silver you will weigh out. (1 Kings 20:39)
- And it came about that as your servant was active here and there, why, he himself was gone. At this the king of Israel said to him; Thus your own judgment is. You yourself have decided. (1 Kings 20:40)

- Upon that he hurriedly removed the bandage from over his eyes, and the king of Israel got to recognize him, that he was from the prophets. (**1 Kings 20:41**)
- He now said to him; This is what Yehowah has said; For the reason that you have let go out of your hand the man devoted to me for destruction, your soul must take the place of his soul, and your people the place of his people. (**1 Kings 20:42**)
- At that the king of Israel went on his way toward his house, sullen and dejected, and came to Samaria. (**1 Kings 20:43**)

**See Also APHEK 5**

### **.. Murder Of Naboth - And Consequences**

- During a three-year interval of peace, **Ahab** turned his attention to the acquisition of the vineyard of Naboth of Jezreel, a piece of land much desired by **Ahab** because it bordered his residential palace grounds there. When Naboth refused the request on the basis of God's Law regarding the inviolability of hereditary possessions, **Ahab** petulantly withdrew to his house, where he lay on his couch with his face to the wall, refusing to eat.
- Learning the cause of his dejection, pagan Jezebel arranged the murder of Naboth under guise of a trial for blasphemy, using letters written in **Ahab's** name. When **Ahab** went to take possession of the coveted plot of ground, he was met by Elijah, who scathingly denounced him as a murderer and as one who sold himself to do wickedness at the constant prodding of his pagan wife.
- As the dogs had licked up Naboth's blood so dogs would lick up **Ahab's** blood, and Jezebel herself and **Ahab's** descendants would become food for dogs and scavenger birds. These words hit home, and in deep grief **Ahab** fasted in sackcloth, alternately sitting and pacing the floor in despondence. On this basis a measure of mercy was extended to him as regards the time when the calamity would come on his house.
- And it came about after these things that there was a vineyard that happened to belong to Naboth the Jezreelite, which was in Jezreel, beside the palace of **Ahab** the king of Samaria. (**1 Kings 21:1**)

- So **Ahab** spoke to Naboth, saying; Do give me your vineyard, that it may serve as a garden of vegetables to me, for it is close by my house, and let me give you in place of it a vineyard better than it. Or if it is good in your eyes, I will give you money as the price of this. (**1 Kings 21:2**)
- But Naboth said to **Ahab**; It is unthinkable on my part, from Yehowah's standpoint, for me to give the hereditary possession of my forefathers to you. (**1 Kings 21:3**)
- Consequently **Ahab** came into his house, sullen and dejected over the word that Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him, when he said; I shall not give you the hereditary possession of my forefathers. Then he lay down upon his couch and kept his face turned, and he did not eat bread. (**1 Kings 21:4**)
- Finally Jezebel his wife came in to him and spoke to him; Why is it that your spirit is sad and you are not eating bread? (**1 Kings 21:5**)
- At that he spoke to her; Because I proceeded to speak to Naboth the Jezreelite and say to him; Do give me your vineyard for money. Or, if you prefer, let me give you another vineyard in place of it. But he said; I shall not give you my vineyard. (**1 Kings 21:6**)
- Then Jezebel his wife said to him; Is it you that now exercise the kingship over Israel? Rise up, eat bread and let your heart be merry. I myself shall give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. (**1 Kings 21:7**)
- Accordingly she wrote letters in **Ahab's** name and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the older men and the nobles that were in his city dwelling with Naboth. (**1 Kings 21:8**)
- But she wrote in the letters, saying; Proclaim a fast, and have Naboth sit at the head of the people. (**1 Kings 21:9**)
- And make two men, good-for-nothing fellows, sit in front of him, and let them bear witness against him, saying; You have cursed God and the king! And bring him out and stone him that he may die. (**1 Kings 21:10**)

- So the men of his city, the older men and the nobles that were dwelling in his city, did just as Jezebel had sent to them, just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them. (**1 Kings 21:11**)
- They proclaimed a fast and had Naboth sit at the head of the people. (**1 Kings 21:12**)
- Then two of the men, good-for-nothing fellows, came in and sat down in front of him, and the good-for-nothing men began to bear witness against him, that is, Naboth, in front of the people, saying; Naboth has cursed God and the king! After that they brought him out to the outskirts of the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. (**1 Kings 21:13**)
- They now sent to Jezebel, saying; Naboth has been stoned so that he is dead. (**1 Kings 21:14**)
- And it came about that, as soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned so that he died, Jezebel immediately said to **Ahab**; Rise up, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is no longer alive, but dead. (**1 Kings 21:15**)
- And it came about that, as soon as **Ahab** heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab at once rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. (**1 Kings 21:16**)
- And Yehowah's word came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying; (**1 Kings 21:17**)
- Rise up, go down to meet **Ahab** the king of Israel, who is in Samaria. There he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. (**1 Kings 21:18**)
- And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; Have you murdered and also taken possession? And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said, In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours. (**1 Kings 21:19**)
- And **Ahab** proceeded to say to Elijah; Have you found me, O enemy of mine? To which he said; I have found you. For the reason that you have sold yourself to do what is bad in the eyes

of Yehowah. (1 Kings 21:20)

- Here I am bringing calamity upon you, and I shall certainly make a clean sweep after you and cut off from **Ahab** anyone urinating against a wall and the helpless and worthless one in Israel. (1 Kings 21:21)
- And I shall certainly constitute your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the offense with which you have offended and then caused Israel to sin. (1 Kings 21:22)
- And also as regards Jezebel Yehowah has spoken, saying; The very dogs will eat up Jezebel in the plot of land of Jezreel. (1 Kings 21:23)
- Anyone of **Ahab's** that is dying in the city the dogs will eat up, and anyone dying in the field the fowls of the heavens will eat up. (1 Kings 21:24)
- Without exception no one has proved to be like **Ahab**, who sold himself to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, whom Jezebel his wife egged on. (1 Kings 21:25)
- And he went acting very detestably by going after the dungy idols, the same as all that the Amorites had done, whom Yehowah drove out from before the sons of Israel. (1 Kings 21:26)
- And it came about that as soon as **Ahab** heard these words, he proceeded to rip his garments apart and to put sackcloth upon his flesh, and he went on a fast and kept lying down in sackcloth and walking despondently. (1 Kings 21:27)
- And Yehowah's word came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying; (1 Kings 21:28)
- Have you seen how **Ahab** has humbled himself on my account? For the reason that he has humbled himself because of me, I shall not bring the calamity in his own days. In the days of his son I shall bring the calamity upon his house. (1 Kings 21:29)

- **Ahab's** relations with Judah to the South were strengthened through a marriage alliance in which **Ahab's** daughter Athaliah was married to King Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram.
- And Jehoshaphat kept peaceful relations with the king of Israel. (1 Kings 22:44)
- And he went walking in the way of the kings of Israel, just as those of the house of **Ahab** had done, for it was **Ahab's** daughter that became his wife, and he kept doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (2 Kings 8:18)
- Twenty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and for one year he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri the king of Israel. (2 Kings 8:26)
- And Jehoshaphat came to have riches and glory in abundance, but he formed a marriage alliance with **Ahab**. (2 Chronicles 18:1)
- During a friendly visit by Jehoshaphat to Samaria, **Ahab** induced him to support him in an effort to retake Ramoth-gilead from the Syrians, who evidently had not carried out to the full the terms of the covenant made by Ben-hadad. While a body of false prophets chorused their assurances of success, at Jehoshaphat's insistence the prophet Micaiah, hated by Ahab, was called and predicted certain calamity.
- Ordering Micaiah's arrest, **Ahab** stubbornly went ahead with the attack, though taking the precaution to disguise himself, but he was hit by a random arrow so that he slowly died. His body was brought to Samaria for burial and when they began to wash off the war chariot by the pool of Samaria the dogs went licking up his blood.
- A large artificial basin has been excavated in the Northwest corner of the spacious palace courtyard in Samaria, and this may be the location of this fulfillment of prophecy.
- And for three years they continued dwelling without war between Syria and Israel. (1 Kings 22:1)
- And it came about in the third year that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah proceeded to go down to the king of Israel. (1 Kings 22:2)
- Then the king of Israel said to his servants; Do you really know

**that Ramoth-gilead belongs to us? Yet we are hesitating to take it out of the hand of the king of Syria. (1 Kings 22:3)**

- **And he went on to say to Jehoshaphat; Will you go with me to the fight at Ramoth-gilead? At this Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel; I am the same as you. My people are the same as your people. My horses are the same as your horses. (1 Kings 22:4)**
- **However, Jehoshaphat went on to say to the king of Israel; Inquire, please, first of all for the word of Yehowah. (1 Kings 22:5)**
- **So the king of Israel collected the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them; Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead in war, or shall I refrain? And they began to say; Go up, and Yehowah will give it into the king's hand. (1 Kings 22:6)**
- **But Jehoshaphat said; Is there not here a prophet of Yehowah still? Then let us inquire through him. (1 Kings 22:7)**
- **T that the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat; There is still one man through whom to inquire of Yehowah, but I myself certainly hate him, for he does not prophesy good things concerning me but bad, Micaiah the son of Imlah. However, Jehoshaphat said; Do not let the king say a thing like that. (1 Kings 22:8)**
- **Accordingly the king of Israel called a certain court official and said; Do bring Micaiah the son of Imlah quickly. (1 Kings 22:9)**
- **Now the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah were sitting each one on his throne, clothed in garments, in the threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria, and all the prophets were acting as prophets before them. (1 Kings 22:10)**
- **Then Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made for himself horns of iron and said; This is what Yehowah has said; With these you will push the Syrians until you exterminate them. (1 Kings 22:11)**
- **And all the other prophets were prophesying the same as that, saying; Go up to Ramoth-gilead and prove successful, and Yehowah will certainly give it into the king's hand. (1 Kings 22:12)**
- **And the messenger that had gone to call Micaiah spoke to him,**



saying; Look, now! The words of the prophets are unanimously of good to the king. Let your word, please, become like the word of one of them, and you must speak good. (1 Kings 22:13)

- But Micaiah said; As Yehowah is living, what Yehowah will say to me, that is what I shall speak. (1 Kings 22:14)
- Then he came in to the king, and the king proceeded to say to him; Micaiah, shall we go to Ramoth-gilead in war, or shall we refrain? At once he said to him; Go up and prove successful, and Yehowah will certainly give it into the king's hand. (1 Kings 22:15)
- At that the king said to him; For how many times am I putting you under oath that you should not speak to me anything but truth in the name of Yehowah? (1 Kings 22:16)
- So he said; I certainly see all the Israelites scattered on the mountains, like sheep that have no shepherd. And Yehowah went on to say; These have no masters. Let them go back each one to his house in peace. (1 Kings 22:17)
- Then the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat; Did I not say to you; He will prophesy concerning me, not good things, but bad? (1 Kings 22:18)
- And he went on to say; Therefore hear the word of Yehowah; I certainly see Yehowah sitting upon his throne and all the army of the heavens standing by him, to his right and to his left. (1 Kings 22:19)
- And Yehowah proceeded to say; Who will fool **Ahab**, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And this one began to say something like this, while that one was saying something like that. (1 Kings 22:20)
- Finally a spirit came out and stood before Yehowah and said; I myself shall fool him. At that Yehowah said to him; By what means? (1 Kings 22:21)
- To this he said; I shall go forth, and I shall certainly become a deceptive spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. So he said; You will fool him, and, what is more, you will come off the winner. Go out and do that way. (1 Kings 22:22)

- **And now here Yehowah has put a deceptive spirit into the mouth of all these prophets of yours, but Yehowah himself has spoken calamity concerning you. (1 Kings 22:23)**
- **Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah now approached and struck Micaiah upon the cheek and said; In just which way did the spirit of Yehowah pass along from me to speak with you? (1 Kings 22:24)**
- **At that Micaiah said; Look! You are seeing which way on that day when you will enter the innermost chamber to hide yourself. (1 Kings 22:25)**
- **Then the king of Israel said; Take Micaiah and turn him back to Amon the chief of the city and to Joash the king's son. (1 Kings 22:26)**
- **And you must say; This is what the king has said; Put this fellow in the house of detention and feed him with a reduced allowance of bread and a reduced allowance of water until I come in peace. (1 Kings 22:27)**
- **Upon that Micaiah said; If you return at all in peace, Yehowah has not spoken with me. And he added; Hear, all you peoples. (1 Kings 22:28)**
- **And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah proceeded to go up to Ramoth-gilead. (1 Kings 22:29)**
- **The king of Israel now said to Jehoshaphat; There will be a disguising and entering into the battle for me, but you, for your part, put on your garments. Accordingly, the king of Israel disguised himself and entered into the battle. (1 Kings 22:30)**
- **As for the king of Syria, he had commanded the thirty-two chiefs of the chariots that were his, saying; You must fight, neither with the small nor the great, but with the king of Israel alone. (1 Kings 22:31)**
- **And it came about that, as soon as the chiefs of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, they, for their part, said to themselves; Surely it is the king of Israel. So they turned aside against him to fight, and Jehoshaphat began to cry for aid. (1 Kings 22:32)**

- And it came about that, as soon as the chiefs of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, they immediately came back from following him. (**1 Kings 22:33**)
- And there was a man that bent the bow in his innocence, but he got to strike the king of Israel between the appendages and the coat of mail, so that he said to his charioteer; Turn your hand around, and take me out from the camp, because I have been badly wounded. (**1 Kings 22:34**)
- And the battle kept rising in intensity on that day, and the king himself had to be kept in a standing position in the chariot facing the Syrians, and gradually he died in the evening, and the blood of the wound kept pouring out upon the interior of the war chariot. (**1 Kings 22:35**)
- And the ringing cry began to pass through the camp about the setting of the sun, saying; Everyone to his city, and everyone to his land! (**1 Kings 22:36**)
- Thus the king died. When he was brought to Samaria, then they buried the king in Samaria. (**1 Kings 22:37**)
- And they began to wash off the war chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs went licking up his blood, and the prostitutes themselves bathed there, according to Yehowah's word that he had spoken. (**1 Kings 22:38**)

## .. Moabite and Assyrian Inscriptions

- Mention is made of the rebuilding of Jericho during **Ahab's** reign, perhaps as part of a program for strengthening Israel's control over Moab.
- In his days Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho. At the forfeit of Abiram his firstborn he laid the foundation of it, and at the forfeit of Segub his youngest he put up its doors, according to Yehowah's word that he spoke by means of Joshua the son of Nun. (**1 Kings 16:34**)
- Then the men that were designated by their names rose up and took hold of the captives, and all their naked one's they clothed from the spoil. So they clothed them and furnished them with

sandals and fed them and gave them drink and greased them. Furthermore, in the case of anyone tottering, they gave them transportation on the asses and brought them to Jericho, the city of palm trees, beside their brothers. After that they returned to Samaria. (**2 Chronicles 28:15**)

- The Moabite Stone by King Mesha of Moab speaks of the domination of Moab by King Omri and his son.
- Assyrian inscriptions describing the battle waged between Shalmaneser III and a coalition of 12 kings at Karkar include the name *A-ha-ab-bu* as a member of the coalition. This is generally accepted by most scholars as a reference to King **Ahab** of Israel, however, for evidence showing that such a claim is subject to question, see the article on.

**See Also SHALMANESER 1**