

# Discerning God's Will Amid Deception

## 1 Kings 22

### Key Bible Texts

1 Kings 22

### Key Bible Verse(s)

“And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the LORD?” — (1 Kings 22:16)

## Overview of I Kings & Background to I Kings 22

### Overview of I Kings

The Book of 1 Kings recounts the transition of Israel from a United Kingdom under David and Solomon to a divided kingdom. It covers **119 years**, documenting significant events such as Solomon’s reign, the construction of the Temple, and the rise of prophetic figures like Elijah, who confronted Ahab and Jezebel, the Mt. Carmel showdown, and his successor Elisha. (1 Kings 17–22).

- Solomon’s Reign (Chapters 1-11): Begins with Solomon’s ascension, his renowned wisdom and the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, and his eventual downfall due to idolatry. Solomon’s idolatry and weaknesses (1 Kings 11:1-8) sowed the seeds of Israel’s downfall.
- Division of the Kingdom (Chapter 12): After Solomon’s death, Rehoboam’s harsh policies lead to the split—Israel (Northern Kingdom) under Jeroboam and Judah (Southern Kingdom) under Rehoboam.
- Ahab’s Downfall (Chapter 22): Ahab ignores Micaiah’s prophecy, disguises himself in battle, and is fatally struck by an arrow, fulfilling divine judgment.

Beyond its historical accounts, 1 Kings provides insights into Israel’s character, religious customs, military affairs, and alliances, showing both spiritual decline and moments of faithfulness. The book highlights Solomon’s economic success and Israel’s golden age of fine arts, during which Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon were written.

The book is deeply theological, emphasizing that Israel’s covenant with God carried a sacred responsibility—kings were judged based on their obedience to God’s laws.

### Background of I Kings 22

This account details Ahab’s final battle. Seeking to reclaim land held by Syria, Ahab, Israel’s wicked king, persuaded Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, to join him—likely due to their family ties. Jehoshaphat’s

alliance was unfortunate, given Ahab’s corruption.

Before going to battle, Ahab consulted four hundred prophets who affirmed his plans, but they were false voices, possibly prophets of Asherah linked to Jezebel. Only Micaiah spoke God’s true message, warning of disaster, but Ahab dismissed him and had him imprisoned.

Despite knowing his fate was sealed, Ahab ignored divine warnings, choosing deception over repentance. Even in disguise, he could not escape God’s judgment—an arrow struck him through a gap in his armour, leading to his death. Jehoshaphat, though also warned, narrowly survived.

By the close of 1 Kings, Israel had fallen into division. The era that began with David’s faithful reign ended with Ahab’s downfall, marking a tragic contrast in leadership.

TESTIMONIES FROM OUR DAY

*Years ago, while walking back from college, the sight of the sunshine brought the song Heavenly Sunlight to mind. Though the melody was comforting, its words reminded me of my past church experiences—ones I had rejected. As a skeptic, I resisted believing in Heaven or Hell, choosing instead to ignore the eternal consequences.*

*Despite my rebellious nature, God persistently reached out to me—even through a simple song. I had thought Christianity was too restrictive, yet I never fully embraced worldly ways either. I failed to realize that submission to Christ and His forgiveness are essential, not optional.*

*Just like King Ahab, who sought only agreeable prophecies and ignored God’s truth, I had tried to filter reality through my preferences. But God’s Word remains unchangeable. Instead of asking Him to approve our plans, we must yield ourselves to His purpose and direction.*

A Closer Look

Question 1	How did King Ahab try to circumvent Micaiah’s prophecy? (I Kings 22: 17,22-23,30) How does this chapter highlight the difference between true and false prophets? (I Kings 22: 6,15,17) What are signs of spiritual deception that believers should be aware of today?
Question 2	What dangers did Jehoshaphat face for his poor choice in joining Ahab? I Kings 22: 7-8, 29-30) What does this teach about the importance of discernment in alliances and friendships?
Question 3	Ahab disguised himself to avoid danger, yet a random arrow found its mark. How does this demonstrate God’s sovereignty over circumstances? How should this shape our trust in Him? (I Kings 22:34-38)

#### Question 4

Despite knowing God's judgment was coming, Ahab refused to repent. What does this reveal about the hardness of the human heart? In your life, how can you be sure that you are following the truth?

## Take Home

God's Word is sovereign. When He decrees, there is no debate: one ballot, no recount.