

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 18

Another remarkable chapter providing us with several practical lessons on account of Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab, king of Israel! Let's try to enumerate (some of) them. But just before we do, let's recall the well-known text in 2Tim 3:16,17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

The Scriptures referenced here undoubtedly comprise our Old Testament, therefore this passage before us! Consider,

- (i) Jehoshaphat was cautious before prosecuting war; Ahab was more instinctive (impulsive). Ahab probably knew that Jehoshaphat was following wise protocols so summoned 400 of his own prophets. What qualified them? Simply this: they prophesied what the king wanted to hear. Jehoshaphat was suspicious! He sensed these prophets were a delusional cabal! He asked for a 'prophet of the Lord' to be summoned. In doing so, he challenged publicly king Ahab calling him & his prophets to account.

Caution: have we been guilty of this? Do we prefer the reassuring compliance of the mainstream voices? Have we subtly silenced the odd (maverick) man of God we've encountered? Zedekiah's demonstrative prophecy had been theatrical & impressive – but it was false!

- (ii) Ahab's primary concern was himself. His dispute with Micaiah concerned his LACK OF ENCOURAGEMENT (v12). His religion was more existential (based on how it made him feel) rather than on what was objectively true. Micaiah's reply is noteworthy:

Micaiah said, "As the Lord lives, whatever my God says, that I will speak." (v13)

Caution: It's not how we feel that matters most of all but rather what God says – i.e. how HE feels! An important goal for us is to (i) embrace God's truth and only then (ii) trust God to furnish our hearts with appropriate sentiments. Many get this back to front and so go astray.

- (iii) Micaiah's nerve to sport with the king! Matched only by the king's momentary lapse of concentration – exposing his general suppression of God's truth (vs14&15)!!

Caution: (a) the wicked may legitimately forfeit their right to receive God's truth from God's messengers. OCCASIONALLY we may legitimately sport with them (e.g. Tucker Carlson did [this](#) with Joe Biden – 'Orange Man in the Whitehouse'!); (b) again the wicked cannot live consistently with their lies & suppression of God's truth. We must seize upon moments of opportunity they present us with when they expose themselves. In his heart of hearts, king Ahab knew that Micaiah was God's man who knew God's mind & God's will, etc.

- (iv) Micaiah was fearless before the king. But he suffered personally for his courage (vs 23&26).

Caution: Have you/I been persecuted for speaking the truth? If so, be encouraged, you're in good company!

- (v) Notwithstanding Ahab's best efforts to evade capture & death (v29), God's providence superintended the affray. Ahab was struck by an arrow fired 'at random' (v33).

Caution: God's miraculous providence rules over the affairs of us all.

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment (Heb 9:27)

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 18:

- ***Why is it so difficult to swim against the tide?***
- ***Micaiah's prophecy saw Israel as scattered sheep on a mountainside (v16). Why was this apt?***
- ***God commissioned a lying spirit to enter Ahab's prophets. Might He still do such a thing?***
- ***How closely does God's providence superintend every detail of our lives?***