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THE PROPHETS' WORDS

Ahab, king of the northern kingdom of Israel, was evil as was also his wife, the very controlling Jezebel. Just as David was judged for his sin of shedding the innocent blood of Bathsheba's husband, so Ahab was also guilty of shedding Naboth's innocent blood (via Jezebel's scheme) so that he could take Naboth's land.

Just as the prophet Nathan was sent by God to pronounce judgement to David, so the prophet Micaiah pronounced Ahab's judgement of a bloody death. (I Kings 21:17-24)

Ahab was determined to fight the king of Syria to take Ramoth-Gilead. Judah's king, the godly Jehoshaphat, agreed to fight with him. Ahab called all of his prophets to inquire of them whether the battle would go in his favor. Over 400 prophets (probably of Bálal) all predicted success for Ahab. Jehoshaphat was not satisfied. He asked if there was a prophet of Jehovah of whom they could inquire. (I Kings 22) Ahab sent for Micaiah who was instructed by Ahab's advisors to speak well as had the hundreds of other prophets. Micaiah followed that advice, but the king knew the prophet was not speaking a true word from Jehovah and admonished him to speak the truth. Micaiah then delivered the true word from the LORD, which showed defeat. The false prophet Zedekiah challenged Micaiah and smote him. Ahab commanded his advisors to take Micaiah to prison and give him the "bread and water of affliction" until Ahab returned in victory. I Kings 22:20-23 tells us that the Lord had put a lying spirit in the mouth of Ahab's 400 prophets so that the Lord's judgement could be carried out. Notice here that not all prophets speak the true word of the Lord.

We are presently experiencing judgement throughout the land. I expect it will only get worse in the absence of national (or world-wide) repentance. Yet, there are many "prophets" speaking of a great revival about to come. Many of these speak only "good words" that people like to hear, just like Ahab's many prophets were speaking to him. Nobody wishes to hear words of warning or exhortations or a call to repentance. They flock to the ones who decree pleasing words.

How do you distinguish between the true and the false? First of all, study what the Bible says about our "end times." Next, diligently inquire of Holy Spirit to help you discern the "word" and the "times." Listen to that "still small voice" (I Kings 19:12) that tugs at your inner spirit.

Be very cautious about listening to today's "prophets." Do not automatically accept what they say until you check out the bible's word and pray about it. It might sound good or it might not sound good; how it sounds to you is not the important thing.

Does the prophet's word "witness" with your spirit (the still small voice)? Does it line up with the written Word? If "yes," then hold it in your heart until you see it come to pass. If "no," then let it go and don't hold on to it.