

Micaiah Speaks the Truth

ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By the Rev. Alvin E. Bell
And Alfred J. Buescher

Scripture—1 Kings, Chapter 22



Ahab, the most wicked of all Israel's kings, and Jehoshaphat, one of the best of Judah's kings, came together at Samaria to plan an attack upon the armies of Syria. Jehoshaphat was trying to be a good neighbor to the wicked Ahab.



The good king suggested that they inquire the will of God in the matter. So Ahab got 400 of his wicked prophets to say they should go. But Jehoshaphat asked for a true prophet of God and Micaiah was brought whom Ahab hated because he always told the truth.



Micaiah came before the two kings as they sat on their thrones in the gate of Samaria and said, "What the Lord says to me that will I say to you". And he spoke against going into battle, Micaiah was brought whom Ahab hated because had him imprisoned.



In the battle Ahab tricked Jehoshaphat into wearing his royal robes while he wore common clothes to escape danger. But some unnamed soldier shot an arrow without aiming at anything and God guided it to strike Ahab and kill him. Those who fight against God and truth meet justice. (GOLDEN TEXT—1 Kings 22:14)

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Micaiah Speaks the Truth
THE WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

The Golden Text



1 Kings 22:14—"What the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak."

(The International Uniform Lesson on the above topic for July 29 is 1 Kings, Chapter 22, especially verses 1-14, the Golden Text being verse 14, "What the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak.")

By DR. ALVIN E. BELL
Are truth and right determined by majorities or minorities? Is fidelity to one's conscience always worth while? Does anything "just happen" in the providence of God? Is there such a thing as the retributive justice of Almighty God? These are some of the living practical questions answered in this week's lesson from the lives of Kings Ahab and Jehoshaphat and God's prophet Micaiah.

A Good King in Bad Company

When Jehoshaphat the good and godly king of Judah permitted himself to be drawn into an alliance with the wicked and idolatrous King Ahab, the worst of all the kings of Israel, he was "walking in the counsel of the ungodly." Ahab wanted Jehoshaphat's help in winning back from the Syrians part of his realm they had taken from him. Jehoshaphat, as his custom was, suggested that they inquire the will of Jehovah in the matter. Ahab sought to meet this condition by making up in quantity what his false prophets lacked in quality, so he gathered some four hundred of his prophetic flunkies together to impress the pious Jehoshaphat with the weight of their advice. Their answer was the answer they knew Ahab wanted them to give, and they spoke their little piece like school boys in recital: "Go up and prosper; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king." Ahab thought it was fine! But Jehoshaphat asked Ahab: "Is there not here besides a prophet of the Lord that we might inquire of him?"

A Good Prophet Speaks Up

Ahab replied, "There is yet one man whom we may inquire of the Lord, Micaiah, the son of Imlah; but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil." What a compliment paid Micaiah by his hatred and this explanation of it! "Woe unto you when all men speak well of you," said Jesus to his disciples.

Facing the two kings mounted on their thrones this lone prophet began by mousing the identical words of the false prophets, probably mimicking their identical holy tone and solemn gestures: "Go up and prosper for the Lord shall deliver it into thy hand." Ahab caught the point of the lone prophet's irony, so he shouted: "How many times shall I adjure thee that thou speak unto me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?"

Ahab's Doom Pronounced
Then came the pronouncement of Ahab's doom, the forecasting of his death in the impending battle with the Syrians and the leaving of his

armies leaderless: "I saw Israel scattered on the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd; and the Lord said, These have no master; let them return every man to his house in peace." To the king's children "I told you so," the lone prophet replied by explaining his false prophets, rosy promises of victory as a "lying spirit" to entice Ahab into the judgment he so richly deserved. The results of the vindicated the lone prophets revelation. Ahab treacherously attempted to divert the Syrian attack from himself to Jehoshaphat, and almost succeeded until some unnamed soldier "drew his bow at a venture and smote the king of Israel." The soldier took no aim, but God aimed it for him and it struck the mark and the dogs licked up Ahab's blood from his chariot as Elijah had promised. It was the retributive justice of God. In his providence nothing "just happens" even when men "draw bows and shoot arrows at a venture!"

ELON WILL START ITS TERM SEPT. 4

Elon College, July 27.—Elon College will begin its forty-sixth school year Tuesday, September 4, with the annual two-day freshman period.

Registration day for upper classes will be held September 6, and the annual faculty reception will be held September 8. The opening address of President L. E. Smith will be delivered September 9.

The 10 large college buildings, five of which recently underwent an enlarged rebuilding program, are being cleaned and inspected for repairs by a crew of college men, under direction of Alfred Apple.

The Carlton Memorial Library, of which Mrs. Oma U. Johnson is librarian, has been enlarged and orders have been placed for several new volumes.

Radicalism Being Curbed As Pendulum Swings Back

(Continued from Page One)

Fascism in one form or another. The growth of the Machine Age has created tremendous problems in this country in recent years. It is now very evident that the brute force of unrestrained capitalism must be curbed. Governments will gradually take over more and more of private business, but this will be a slow process and need harm no one who has his investments properly diversified.

Radicalism at Flood Tide
Furthermore, we must remember that the law of action and reaction applies not only in economics and physics, but also in human relations. Social trends move in cycles just as business trends move in cycles. Because the government is momentarily in the driver's seat does not mean that it will control business permanently. This country of ours is forever going crazy about something—war, woman's suffrage, prohibition, cross-word puzzles, Florida, the stock market, or what next. Only six years ago Wall Street was in the saddle and Congress was a joke. Today Wall

Street is a grey ghost and the country has gone Washington crazy. But Washington's popularity may now be at its zenith.

There will be an end to the Washington boom just as there was an end to the Florida boom and the Wall Street boom. People will come to their senses when they realize the CCC, TVA, OLC, FERA, etc., have all turned out to be IOU's. The Ten Commandments and the multiplication table cannot be ignored for long. Already there is a feeling throughout the nation that the present socialistic experiments have gone far enough for the time being. I expect to see a conservative reaction from the brain trust's alphabet building; otherwise this country may be forced to adopt some form of Fascism.

Foresees Return to Conservatism

I say the above merely because it will be absolutely impossible for our country, with capital and labor fighting one another, with our curtailing of production and destruction of crops and with our lack of experienced leaders, to compete with foreign industrialists operating efficiently under a dictatorship. With the situation set up as it now is in the United States, only higher tariffs can prevent a flood of European goods from coming into our country. Eventually, however, these higher tariffs would mean the loss of almost all of our foreign trade. Therefore, I believe that the great middle class of people will ultimately demand a return to conservative government in order to compete successfully with other countries and at the same time have people normally employed.

Of course, there are many things about conservative capitalism which are contrary to the teachings of Jesus. The world, however, has been slowly getting better ever since He preached the great "Sermon on the Mount". We should always use our influence to bring about more equal opportunities for all. Not only is this our duty to humanity, but our own life and prosperity are safe only as others enjoy similar privileges. Ultimately, the health and prosperity of each is dependent upon the health and prosperity of all. But in redistributing wealth and opportunities, we must not ignore the laws of reward and punishment.

Obey Fundamental Laws

The goal of President Roosevelt and his brain trust is right; but they must not attempt to reach that goal without getting at the root of the trouble. Congress may pass laws distributing some rug to stop pain; but the disease goes on just the same. Only great integrity, balanced budgets, sound currency, international and domestic cooperation, and increased production can eliminate unemployment. Surely there can be more goods to divide only as more goods are produced! Also, remember that permanent social changes are brought about not by radicals in Congress, but by scientists in laboratories, preachers in churches, and teachers in universities.

Business, as registered by the Babsonchart, is now 11 per cent below a year ago, and 23 per cent below normal.

Henry Stevens Is To Oppose Bailey

(Continued from Page One)

tack from any source on the ground of "ingratitude".

Mr. Stevens would, of course, furnish big opposition. His personal popularity with him the State commandery in 1925 and that administration led to his eventual selection as commander of the national Legion post. The Duplin attorney is regarded the most powerful candidate who could be offered. He would make it a race if he should decide to do so.

He is known to have made a great friend of former Governor Cam Morrison, whose hort terms in the United States Senate with Mr. Bailey as the junior senator, did not enhance their

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IN SUPERIOR COURT, OCTOBER TERM, 1934, STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF VANCE:

JAKE R. NORWOOD, JR. VERSUS VIOLA CAMERON NORWOOD

The defendant, Viola Cameron Norwood, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Vance County, N. C., to procure for the plaintiff a divorce absolute on the grounds of more than two years separation; said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear before the Clerk of Vance County Superior Court, at the courthouse in Vance County, N. C., on Monday the 27th day of August, 1934, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said action.

This 26th day of July, 1934, J. M. PEACE, Clerk of the Superior Court of Vance County, N. C., Attorney for Plaintiff.

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