

ATTITUDES TOWARD TRUTH

(1 Kings 22:1 – 28)

S. R. 1 Kings 22:1 – 7

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Intro.

- A. We are in battle for absolute truth in our culture
 - 1. The prevailing view is that there is really no such thing as absolute truth.
 - 2. The concept of absolute, unchanging truth is considered an aberration of a simplistic Judaeo – Christian ethic that once dominated western civilization.
 - 3. America has shifted into relativism to the extent that now “the point is not to correct the mistakes and really be right; rather it is not to think you are right at all” - *The Closing of the American Mind*, (Allan Bloom, Simon and Shuster, NY, NY 1987) , p. 26

- B. The Bible Claims Truth is Indispensable
 - 1. Call upon Jehovah in truth (Psalm 145:18)
 - 2. Serve Jehovah in truth (1 Samuel 12:24)
 - 3. Walk before Jehovah in truth (Psalm 86:11)
 - 4. Worship God in truth (John 4:24)

- C. Truth is a characteristic of Deity
 - 1. Jehovah is a God of truth (Titus 1:1 – 2)
 - 2. Jesus is the epitome of truth (John 14:6)
 - 3. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (John 16:13 – 15)
 - 4. The Bible is the word of truth (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Th. 2:13)

- D. For centuries Western Civilization has recognized that truth inheres in God and is expressed through His word, the Bible.
 - 1. John Locke, an English philosopher, expressed the search for truth.
 - 2. “To love truth for truth’s sake is the principal part of human perfection in this world, and the seed-plot of all other virtues.” (*Letter to Anthony Collins, Esq.*, Oct. 29, 1703)

- E. Background: [1 Kings 22] “After the treaty of peace Ahab made with Ben-hadad of Syria (or Aram), there were three years of peace between the kingdoms (cf. 1 Kings 20:34 AY). But Syria held the city of Ramoth-Gilead that was suppose to belong to Israel. Ramoth-Gilead was in the territory of Gad on the east side of the Jordan River and was one of the cities designated as a city of refuge for the Israelites (see Deut. 4:41-43). Possibly of even more importance to Ahab, Ramoth-Gilead was located on the trade route known as the King’s Highway. It was the first Israelite city caravans would pass through on their way south and the last city on their way north. Therefore, it was a very important city for collecting toll. It disturbed Ahab for such a city to be in the hands of an enemy. He discussed the matter with his officials, saying: “Don’t you know that Ramoth-Gilead belongs to us and yet we are doing nothing to retake it from the king of Syria?” (*Till There Was No Remedy*, Waldron, p. 35)

I. AHAB HATED TRUTH

- A. Decided what he was going to do before consulting truth (22:3)
- B. Consulted with prophets who would approve what he wanted to do (22:6)
- C. Didn't want to consult with Micaiah (22:8)
- D. Rejected the truth (22:17-18)
- E. Got rid of the messenger (22:26-27)
 - 1. Telling Ahab the truth made him angry.
 - 2. He seeks to disguise his hatred for God and His truth by hating the messenger.
 - 3. Jesus said it would be that way
 - a. **John 15:18**, 17:14)
 - a. (1 Kings 18:17-18).
 - 5. When people reject God's truth they look elsewhere for answers (**1 Tim.4:1**)

II. PROPHETS – PERVERTED TRUTH

- A. Read (**1 Kings 22:6, 11- 12**)
 - 1. Told Ahab what he wanted to hear
- B. These prophets perverted truth in order to say what was popular and gain favor.
 - 1. These were used by God to deceive Ahab (**22:19 – 23**) God will allow those who do not love truth to be deceived. (2 Thess. 2:10 – 12)

III. JEHOSHAPHAT - CONSIDERED TRUTH

- A. (2 Chron. 18:1,2 “induced him” 3; 19:1-2) Social, marital, and political alliance.
- B. He made a commitment before evaluating God's will. (1 Kings 22:4 – 5)
- C. Jehoshaphat had an interest in truth and wanted it on his side (vs. 7),

IV. MICAIAH – LOVED TRUTH

- A. Micaiah was hated by Ahab because he told him the truth (22:14)
- B. Micaiah could not be bought or intimidated (22:24, 26 - 28).
- C. Powerful men can always buy someone to tell them what they want to hear (1 Kings 16 and 18) Ahab and Jezebel found hundreds.
- D. Micaiah had spoken truth and all would know that sooner or later (22:28, 38; Jn.12:48)
- E. What Micaiah says and does is controlled by truth. **He reasons based upon conviction, rather than consequences.**

Conclusion: What is your attitude toward truth?

- A. Four attitudes:
 - 1. Ahab hated the truth (1 Ki. 22:3, 6, 8, 17-18, 26-27)
 - 2. Prophets perverted the truth (1 Kings 22:6, 11 – 13)
 - 3. Jehoshaphat wanted truth on his side (1 Ki. 22:5, 7)
 - 4. Micaiah wanted to be on the side of truth (1 Ki. 22:14)
- B. John 8:31 – 32 “So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."