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A Lying Spirit Sent from God.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

A Lying Spirit Sent from God.

INTRODUCTION

In the Bible it is recorded that a spirit came up before the LORD saying, "I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of Ahab's (the king of Israel) four hundred prophets." And the LORD told the spirit to go out and entice the prophets and the LORD put a lying spirit in the mouth of all Ahab's prophets (1 Kings 22:21-23). The following is not a dogmatic interpretation of these verses, but hopefully it will give the reader some insight and help them in their own study to come to their own conclusions.

THE STORY

At this time Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah and Ahab was the king of Israel. The King of Syria's land is Ramoth in Gilead (also called Ramothgilead). Jehoshaphat has aligned with Ahab to go to battle against the king of Syria. Jehoshaphat asks Ahab to enquire of the prophets if it is God's will that Judah and Israel go to battle against Syria and if they will they win, so Ahab enquires of four-hundred prophets who all tell him to go up to battle against Syria because the LORD will deliver Syria into the hand of the king of Israel and the king of Judah, but Jehoshaphat does not trust the prophets so he asks if there are any other prophets. Ahab says, "Yes there is one other prophet named Micaiah, but he hates Micaiah because he never prophesies what he wants to hear," nevertheless Jehoshaphat asks Ahab to enquire of the prophet Micaiah and so he does.

Micaiah tells Ahab he saw:

- All Israel defeated and scattered upon the hills and that the LORD said do not go to battle (1 Kings 22:17-18).

Ahab the king of Israel then said to Jehoshaphat (king of Judah) "Did I not tell you that Micaiah would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil? (Meaning defeat).

NOTICE: Ahab king of Israel only wanted to go to prophets who would tell him what he wanted to hear and the four-hundred prophets told the king exactly what he wanted to hear, only one prophet told the truth. The four-hundred prophets were all accepted and popular, but the prophet who told the truth was not accepted or popular with the king or the people. This shines a spotlight on the truth that the old adage, "The majority is always right," is not always true.

Micaiah then goes on to say to Ahab king of Israel:

- **1 Kings 22:20-23:** "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left; ²⁰the LORD said, 'Who will entice Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?' And one said one thing, and another said another. ²¹Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.' ²²And the LORD said to him, 'By what means?' And he said, 'I will go out, and will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And he said, 'You are to entice him, and you shall succeed; go out and do so.' ²³Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your (Ahab's) prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you."

This entire picture is a vision that Micaiah uses to warn the Kings that the four-hundred prophets are lying. Micaiah knows they are only telling the king of Israel what he wants to hear, so Micaiah prophesies what he has already perceived by the Spirit and explains through prophecy that they are lying by telling the king he has seen the prophets lies in a heavenly

vision. What the prophets are doing and why they are lying is so clear to Micaiah, that he has a vision of it within his mind, this is called a heavenly vision because it is a true vision and expresses the mind and will of God very clearly to king Ahab. Micaiah understands the prophets are lying because they fear the king and want to be accepted by him rather than suffer the punishment that Micaiah did for prophesying what the king did not want to hear. (Micaiah was thrown in prison and feed meagre rations of bread and water) (1 Kings 22:27). Micaiah explains the lying spirit he sees flowing out from the hearts of the false prophets by using heavenly language to explain the spiritual things that came to him as a prophet and through his ability to discern what was already in the hearts of the prophets because they had previously told him to tell the king what he wants to hear so he already knew they had a lying spirit (or nature). Ahab (king of Israel) and Jehoshaphat (king of Judah) did not listen to Micaiah and went up to Ramothgilead to battle and were defeated by the king of Syria (Dogs licked up the blood of Ahab).

SUMMARY

The king of Israel and Judah did not accept the true word of God, rather they accepted the lies of the four-hundred false prophets, these prophets spoke what the kings wanted to hear, while Micaiah the true prophet knows the false prophets are lying. This entire picture is a vision that Micaiah uses to warn the Kings that the four-hundred prophets are lying. The heavenly language and vision of Micaiah explains the spiritual things that come from the heart of man, if man does not believe God, He will send them delusions and lies. God is in total control of the universe, He is truth, the opposite to truth is lies, there is no other alternative, so if a person is not going to believe God they automatically believe lies. It is almost like God has written a spiritual default button into His laws for the universe, (i.e., if a person does not believe Him, they automatically believing lies by default), it is in this sense that God sends lying spirits. God will allow lies to guide people if they choose to deny him and not to believe His word (especially when it is spoken from a faithful prophet as Micaiah was and it was made so clear to Ahab and Jehoshaphat). There is only one alternative for people that do not believe God (who cannot lie) and that is to believe the one who does lie (1 Kings 22:20-23).

For related topics see the title:

- Spirit (ON WEBSITE MENU).