

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

People at the two extremes of a spectrum deal with an imminent danger differently. A lot of people faced the worst winter storm of the century in the U.S. a month ago. Many of us have never seen so much snow in our lives. Millions of people lost electricity and water supply, and had to endure brutally cold weather. We overcame it safely by God's grace. Those who took heed of the warnings from the weathermen prepared ahead of time. They bought food, water, firewood and even power-generators. Others who believed everything should be fine even without much preparation were hard hit. Natural disasters pose threat to us quite often. We have severe rain storms every year. There is hurricane in the southeast, and forest fire and earthquake on the west coast. While we cannot prevent those catastrophes from happening, we should take precautions to protect ourselves. Scientists work diligently to provide the most accurate forecasts. It is up to the public to make wise decisions accordingly. In the book of 1 Kings, God had foretold king Ahab that his life would come to an end soon. Instead of turning away from sins and turning back to God, Ahab stayed on his course toward destruction.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 忠實的朋友 Good Friend

Last time we saw that Ahab could have eliminated king Ben-Hadad of Aram. But Ahab let him go free. Now Israel and Aram met again in a battlefield. Let us begin by reading [1 Kings 22:1-5](#). Ramoth Gilead was located to the east of Jordan river. Israel and Aram made a peace treaty and a trade agreement three years ago. Ben-Hadad agreed to return the cities his father captured to Israel. Perhaps he did not follow through his promise. Now Ahab suggested to use force to reclaim Ramoth Gilead. We wonder why Ahab asked Jehoshaphat for help. The Bible tells us that Jehoshaphat's son married Ahab's daughter. That was why the two kings became friends. Jehoshaphat was a godly king, while Ahab worshipped idols. Jehoshaphat was willing to send his troop to help Ahab on one condition. Ahab should ask God for advice first. Ahab's officials only wanted to get things done. However, Jehoshaphat wanted to seek God's will. Ahab should be grateful for such a godly friend. We need to seek the Lord's will on major decisions. We objectively evaluate our resources and various options. We ask our friends for input. But a godly friend will suggest: "Why don't we pray for the matter together?" In doing so, we humbly admit that we do not have all the information and we cannot predict the future. We desire to please God in what we do.

### 2. 忠誠的建議 Godly Advice

Ahab agreed with Jehoshaphat's suggestion. Let us continue to read [verse 6 to 8](#). Those prophets suggested to Ahab unanimously: "Go to the battle. God will help you win." Previously, queen Jezebel tried to get rid of all the prophets of Jehovah. Therefore, those 400 people were more than likely messengers of idols. They used the name of Jehovah to justify their counsel. They said what Ahab expected to hear. They were more like puppets than prophets! When you ask a

friend for advice, do you want to get some information to help you make a wise decision, or do you just want to get a confirmation of what you have already decided to do? A person who does not want to hurt your feeling or the relationship may say what you like to hear. But only a godly friend will say what you need to hear to benefit you. **Proverbs 27:6** tells us: Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. A dear friend acts out of love even when he/she inflicts a wound on you. But an enemy may treat you nicely out of deceit. I am sure we all want true friends and not fake friends. The street goes both ways. If you want to have good friends, then you have to be one first! Honesty nurtures a relationship. Are we humble enough to listen to comments that contradict our plan? Or do we cannot wait to defend ourselves when getting negative remarks? But the Bible also teaches us to speak the truth in love. When people feel your love, they will be more willing to hear the truth. Instead of saying: “That outfit you wore on Sunday was really ugly.” You can state: “The color and style of those clothes do not look good on you.” May the Holy Spirit give us wisdom and gentleness as we give people feedback. You share your opinion without attacking the person.

### 3. 堅定的信念 Strong Conviction

At Jehoshaphat’s request, Ahab summoned a true prophet. Continue to read **verse 13 to 17**. Now the heat was on Micaiah. All 400 false prophets had the same voice and two kings were waiting for his answer. Micaiah knew what kind of vicious king Ahab was. But he stood firm without fear. He responded the messenger: “I can only tell Ahab what the Lord tells me.” Going against peer pressure needs much courage. Perhaps your supervisor at work asks everyone in your team to engage in something unethical. For example, he wants to change some numbers to make a report look better or he tries to hide a mistake as if it did not happen. No one dares to raise any objection. What will you do? Or perhaps your kid attends a party at someone’s home. His friends persuade him to watch something you will not approve, sip alcohol or puff a smoke. How should he react? A crisis will reveal the true character of a person. Ultimately, we have to choose between pleasing God or others. A conviction to do the right thing is built up from our daily walk with the Lord. We let His Word sink into our mind. Then we do not need to think for a moment when a crisis comes. Your manager can fire you and friends can dump you. But nothing will lessen God’s love for you.

### 4. 奇特的異象 Strange Vision

Ahab asked Micaiah whether or not he should fight against Aram. Micaiah replied: “Sure!” We need to use some imagination to visualize that answer. He might have said so with a sarcastic tone: “Go right ahead. You can definitely win!” Ahab sensed that Micaiah was not being sincere. He pressed the prophet again to speak the truth. Let us go on to read **verse 19 to 23**. How should we understand this strange vision? This is a good example for us to learn how to interpret the Bible. We should not extrapolate an odd case to develop our theology. Rather, we need to understand an unusual passage in light of the general truth in the whole Bible. In this instance, God did not tell a lie to trick Ahab. Rather, God allowed an evil scheme to happen to bring about His judgment to Ahab. I know you may have questions about that statement. Please be patient with me. Let us unfold the incident. In verse 19, Micaiah saw a vision where God sat on His heavenly throne. That picture portrays sovereignty. Remember prophet Isaiah saw a similar vision where God sat on His throne? He heard the angels singing: “Holy, Holy, Holy!” At that

time the northern kingdom was about to be defeated by Assyria. Babylon was also gaining strength to become the next super power. God was telling Isaiah: “Relax. It is by My permission to allow nations to rise and fall.” Similarly, it did not matter what Aram would do. God had the final outcome in His hand. That should give us comfort. The Lord of the future will fulfill His plans in our lives. We obey His Word and step out in faith. We may doubt or even dislike some results. But we should trust that God always has His perfect will for us.

Now we tackle the most difficult part of the story. God intended to persuade Ahab to go to war so that he would perish in the battle. It was a judgment for his idolatry. The host of heaven surrounding God each gave his proposal. The word “host” refers to the multitude of angelic army. Finally, God approved one angel to become a lying spirit in the mind of the 400 false prophets. God did not lie to the prophets. He sent an angel to deceive those people. Some of you may protest: “Asking someone to commit a crime will make the person an accomplice!” We can get into a complicated theological debate. Let me give you a simplified answer. God is holy and righteous, and so He cannot sin. **James 1:13-15** read: 13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sins; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. We cannot blame even Satan for dragging us to sin. We stumble because we exercise our freedom to violate God’s commands. Ultimately, God will hold us accountable for what we did. Jesus was betrayed by His disciple Judas, falsely accused by the religious leaders, sentenced to death by the Governor Pilate and crucified on the cross by some soldiers. Who were to be blame for Jesus’ death? Not God, but all the men involved in the process. God permitted every step to achieve redemption for us. God also orchestrated the plan to judge Ahab. Eventually the 400 false prophets were guilty for their sins. I may not answer all the questions in your mind. I encourage everyone to read the passage again and share your insights with me. As we can imagine, the false prophets and Ahab were mad on hearing Micaiah’s message. One prophet named Zedekiah slapped Micaiah on his face. The king ordered to put Micaiah in jail and gave him barely enough food until his return from the battle. We should be ready to suffer for standing up for God. Jesus urged us to bear the cost as His disciples. People will mock at us as fools. Even Jesus’ family thought that He was a religious fanatic! God will give us courage and wisdom if we rely on Him. Micaiah did not regret for telling the truth. He responded in **verse 28**: ... “If you ever return safely, the Lord has not spoken through me.” Then he added, “Mark my words, all you people!” That is a proof if a prophecy indeed came from God. Any person can predict that 500 years later the world will come to an end. A natural reaction will be: “Yeah right! Both he and I will be gone by then.” God cares about the credibility of His messengers as much as His faithfulness. Our faith is rooted in God’s unfailing truth. God’s Word is precise. All the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus had been fulfilled, except His second coming. No one knows when that will take place, but it will surely happen. Jesus will come back to usher His believers into heaven. He will judge the world. There will be an end to the problem of sin. God will make all the wrongs right. Our hope is not in the economy and our government. It is in our eternal Lord.

## 5. 真神的保護 God’s Protection

Ahab ignored Micaiah’s warning and went to the battle anyway. Let us read **verse 29 to 36**. Ahab was a sneaky man. He wondered what if Micaiah’s prediction came true. Therefore, he changed

to plain cloths and asked Jehoshaphat to dress as a king like usual. The Arameans followed an order to hunt for Ahab. They chased after the only man in a royal attire. Verse 32 says Jehoshaphat cried out, then the enemies recognized that he was not Ahab. **2 Chronicles 18:31** gives us further details: ... Jehoshaphat cried out, and the Lord helped him. God drew them away from him. When Jehoshaphat asked God for help, somehow the soldiers saw clearly that they were following a wrong target. Thus, they stopped pursuing Jehoshaphat. God used His means to protect a godly king. As for Ahab, he was shot by a random arrow. Jehoshaphat was safe in his robe, but Ahab was hit in his armor. Of course, nothing happened by chance. God used His power to accomplish His will. Very often, we will be amazed by how God has been leading us as we look back. My older son is in his third year of high school. Different colleges start sending him information. One day, I handed him something sent in the mail. I told him that I actually applied for that school. Then I said if I had attended another university, I would not have met his mom. Without his mom, then he does not even exist! Very likely I will not be in Memphis today. It is quite a series of profound questions if you think about it. The decisions you made, the people you met and the timing of everything altogether determined the way you are today. Nothing happens by luck! If you are a child of God, your life is in His hand. He knows us much better than we know ourselves. Life is an exciting adventure to explore what God has in store for us. Listen to Him and follow His guidance. Subsequently, Ahab died of his injury. That ended the ruling of a wicked king. Ahab was subsequently succeeded by his son.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

God sent His warnings to Ahab through two other prophets besides Micaiah. He clearly told the king that he would die. But Ahab refused to repent nor sought God's mercy. Therefore, God executed His judgment as determined. Many non-believers mistakenly believe that God is like a gentle grandpa who cannot wait to spoil his grandkids. They cannot understand why a God of love will allow people to go to hell. God never has any confusion about His attributes. He is patient and compassionate. But He is also holy and just. God has been sending us warning. Life is fragile and unpredictable. About the time we were hit by the ice storm, another strange accident occurred. United Airlines flight 328 had one engine catch fire soon after it took off from Denver. Fortunately, it safely returned to the airport and no one was hurt. As a side-note, I once read that modern aircrafts can still fly with one functional engine. It was quite a scary incident if you had watched the news. The engine was completely burnt up. Huge debris fell from the sky and dropped into residential areas. One passenger later recalled that he thought he was done. He moved his wallet to his chest pocket so that people can easily identify him if he passed away. Everyone on the plane and on the ground was spared. People came up with various explanations: technology, luck, protection from the deities they worship, etc. God spoke to us from this weird incident. He watches over us no matter where we are. Come to know Him and seek His protection. It is not just about the dangers of this life. More importantly, it is also about eternal condemnation. Only Jesus can save us. He died on the cross for our sake. Confess your sin to God and receive Jesus by faith today if He is not your Lord.

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

不同的人會以不同的心態面對即將來臨的危險。一個月前，許多人經歷本世紀美國最嚴重的暴風雪。很多人也許從來沒有見過那麼多的雪。數以百萬計的人失去了水電供應，並且忍受寒冷的天氣。靠著神的恩典，我們平安渡過。那些聽從氣象員警告的人提前做好準備。他們購買了食物、水、木柴甚至發電機。那些不相信會有什麼事的人卻受到沉重的打擊。自然災害經常對我們構成威脅。我們每年都有暴風雨。住在東南面的人會遇到颶風，西海岸有森林大火和地震。儘管我們無法阻止這些災難的發生，但我們應該採取預防措施來保護自己。科學家們盡量提供最準確的預測。公眾應該根據資訊做出明智的決定。在《列王記上》之中，神曾預告亞哈王說他的生命將很快結束。亞哈不願意認罪並回到神面前，他卻是繼續朝著毀滅的方向前進。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 忠實的朋友 Good Friend

上次我們看到亞哈本來可以消滅亞蘭王便哈達。但是亞哈把他放走了。現在，以色列和亞蘭再次在戰場上相遇。讓我們來讀**列王紀上 22:1-5**。基列的拉末位於約旦河以東。以色列和亞蘭三年前達成了和平條約和貿易協定。便哈達同意將他父親佔領的城市歸還以色列。也許他沒有遵守諾言。現在，亞哈建議用武力奪回基列的拉末。我們猜想亞哈為何向約沙法求助。聖經告訴我們，約沙法的兒子娶了亞哈的女兒。這就是為什麼兩個國王成為朋友。約沙法是個敬虔的王，但亞哈卻敬拜偶像。約沙法願意派遣部隊來幫助亞哈，但亞哈必須先尋問神。亞哈的官員只是想把事情辦好。但是，約沙法想尋求神的旨意。亞哈應該為這樣一位敬虔的朋友感到高興。我們必須在重大決定上尋求主的旨意。我們客觀地評估各樣資源和方案。我們也會徵求朋友的意見。但是一位敬虔的朋友會建議：「我們為什麼不一起為這件事禱告？」當我們這樣做時，我們謙卑地承認我們沒有所有的信息，也無法預測未來。我們希望在各樣事情上討神的喜悅。

### 2. 忠誠的建議 Godly Advice

亞哈同意約沙法的建議。讓我們繼續閱讀**第 6 至 8 節**。那些先知一致向亞哈說：「神會幫助你贏的。」之前，皇后耶洗別曾試圖消滅所有耶和華的先知。因此，這 400 人很可能是拜偶像的假先知。他們冒用耶和華的名來支持自己的論點。他們講出亞哈期望聽到的信息。他們比較像是傀儡，而不是先知！當你向朋友尋求意見

時，你是想獲得一些信息以幫助你做出明智的選擇，還是只是想確認自己已經做好的決定？不想傷害你的感情或彼此關係的人可能會說你喜歡聽的話。但是只有忠誠的朋友會說出你需要聽到的話使你受益。箴言 27:6 告訴我們：**朋友加的傷痕出於忠誠；仇敵連連親嘴卻是多餘。**一個朋友即使帶來傷害，也是出於愛你的緣故。但是敵人可能會向你說好話，只是為了騙你。我相信每個人都想要結交真正的朋友，而不是假的朋友。這個道理是雙面的。如果你想有好朋友，那麼你必須先成為別人的好朋友！真誠能夠建立關係。我們是否謙卑地聽取與我們的想法相抵觸的觀點？還是在聽到負面的意見時就迫不及待地為自己辯護？但是聖經也教導我們要用愛心說誠實話。當人們感受到你的愛時，他們會更願意接受事實。與其說：「你上週穿的那套衣服真是難看死。」你可以說：「那些衣服的顏色和樣式看起來不太適合你。」求聖靈賜給我們智慧和溫柔的心與人交流，使我們在發表個人意見時不會攻擊對方。

### 3. 堅定的信念 Strong Conviction

應約沙法的要求，亞哈召集了一位真正的先知。繼續閱讀**第 13 至 17 節**。所有 400 位假先知都給了相同的建議，兩個國王也在等待回答。米該雅很清楚亞哈是個邪惡的王。但是他立場堅定，毫不畏懼。他對使者說：「主給我什麼信息，我就照樣告訴亞哈。」面對同伴的壓力需要很大的勇氣。也許你的老闆要求每個員工都參與一些不道德的事情。例如，他想更改一些數字使報告更好看，或者他試圖隱藏錯誤，好像沒有發生一樣。沒有人敢提出任何異議。你會怎麼做？或者你的孩子去別人家參加派對。他的朋友說服他看一些你不同意的東西，飲酒或抽煙。他應該如何回應？危機顯示出一個人的品格。最終，我們必須在取悅神或他人之間做出選擇。做正確事情的信念是建立在每天與主同行。我們讓神的話語進入心中。當危機來臨時，我們就連想都不用想也知道如何回應。你的老闆可以解僱你，朋友可以撇棄你。但是，沒有什麼因素能減少神對你的愛。

### 4. 奇特的異象 Strange Vision

亞哈問米該雅，他可否去攻擊亞蘭。米該雅回答：「當然可以！」我們需要運用一些想像力來理解他的回答。他可能用諷刺的語氣說：「去吧。你絕對可以贏的！」亞哈感覺到米該雅不是真誠的。他要求先知講真話。讓我們繼續閱讀**第 19 至 23 節**。我們應該如何理解這個奇特的異象？這是我們學習明白聖經的一個很好的例子。我們不應該用一個特殊的個案來發展我們的神學。相反，我們必須根據整本聖經的普遍真理來理解一段不尋常的經文。在這個事件中，神沒有撒謊欺騙亞哈。神乃是允許一個邪惡的計劃發生，藉此審判亞哈。我知道你心裡可能有一些疑問。請耐心聽下面的解釋。讓我們逐步分析整個事件。在第 19 節中，米該雅看到了神坐在天上的寶座。那幅圖畫形容神的主權。還記得以賽亞先知看到過類似的異象嗎？

他看到神坐在寶座上，並且聽到天使在唱歌：「聖哉，聖哉，聖哉！」當時，北國即將被亞述打敗。巴比倫也漸漸壯大，成為下一個超級強國。神對以賽亞說：「不用擔心。列國的興衰必須經過我的允許。」同樣，無論亞蘭接下來會做什麼，神早已掌握最後的結果。這樣的信息帶給我們安慰。明日的主會繼續在我們的生命中實現祂的計劃。我們聽從神的話語，憑著信心向前邁步。我們可能會懷疑甚至不喜歡某些結果。但是我們必須相信，神總是對我們有祂完美的旨意。

現在，我們來處理故事中最難了解的部份。神打算說服亞哈去參戰，使他在戰場上受害。這是神對他拜偶像的審判。天上的使者圍繞神的寶座，各自提供建議。「萬軍」是指眾多神的天兵。最後，神批准一位天使在這 400 個假先知的心中成為撒謊的靈。因此，神沒有撒謊。祂是派一位天使去欺騙那些人。中間有些人可能會抗議：「要求別人去犯罪就等於是幫兇！」我們可以進行一個複雜的神學辯論。讓我給你一個簡單的答案：神是聖潔公義的，祂不可能會犯罪。雅各書 1:13-15 說：**13 人被試探，不可說：「我是被神試探」；因為神不能被惡試探，他也不試探人。14 但各人被試探，乃是被自己的私慾牽引誘惑的。15 私慾既懷了胎，就生出罪來；罪既長成，就生出死來。**我們甚至不能怪撒旦牽著我們去犯罪。我們跌倒是因為我們運用自由來違反神的命令。最終，我們必須為自己的行為負責。耶穌被祂的門徒猶大出賣，被宗教領袖的詭計陷害，被巡撫彼拉多判處死刑，並被一些羅馬士兵釘在十字架上。誰應該為耶穌的死負責？不是神，而是所有參與在其中的人。神允許每一步的發生來成就祂的救贖計劃。神也安排了審判亞哈的計劃。最終，這 400 名假先知也會被定罪。你的心中也許還有其他疑問。我鼓勵大家詳細閱讀這段經文，並與我分享你的見解。可以想像，假先知和亞哈聽到米該雅的信息後便很生氣。一位名叫西底家的先知便打米該雅一巴掌。王下令將米該雅關在監獄，並給他有限的食物，直到亞哈從戰場平安回來。我們必須準備好為神而受苦。耶穌提醒我們作祂門徒的代價。人們會嘲笑我們是傻瓜。連耶穌的家人都認為祂是宗教狂熱份子！如果我們依靠神，神就會給我們勇氣和智慧。米該雅並不後悔說實話。他在第 28 節中回答：...**「你若能平平安安的回來，那就是耶和華沒有藉我說這話了」；又說：「眾民哪，你們都要聽！」**預言得到應驗，那便證明信息是來自神。任何人都可以預言 500 年後將會是世界末日。一個自然的反應是：「只有傻瓜才會相信！到那時他和我都不在了。」神是信實的，祂也要求祂的使者要忠誠。我們的信仰是植根於神永恆不變的真理。神的話是精確的。舊約中所有關於耶穌的預言都已經應驗，除了祂的再來。沒有人知道耶穌什麼時候會回來，但是祂一定會回來。到時候耶穌會帶領祂的信徒進入天堂。祂將審判世界。罪的問題將有一個終結。神會糾正所有罪所引起的破壞。我們的盼望不是寄託在社會的經濟或是我們的政府，而是在我們永恆的主裡面。

## 5. 真神的保護 God's Protection

亞哈沒有理會米該雅的警告，決定要上戰場。讓我們讀**第 29 至 36 節**。亞哈是個狡猾的人。他生怕米該雅的預言會實現。因此，他換上了便衣，但他要求約沙法照常穿王袍。亞蘭人遵循命令搜尋亞哈。他們追趕唯一穿著王室裝束的人。第 32 節說約沙法呼喊，然後敵人認出他不是亞哈。歷代志下 18:31 給我們一些細節：**…約沙法一呼喊，耶和華就幫助他，神又感動他們離開他**。當約沙法向神求助時，士兵們便馬上看到他們追錯了目標。因此，他們停止追趕約沙法。神用祂的方式來保護一個敬虔的王。至於亞哈，他被一個士兵隨便射箭擊中。約沙法穿著王袍也很安全，亞哈身穿鎧甲卻被射中。當然，沒有偶然發生的事情。神使用祂的能力來成就祂的心意。很多時候，當我們回首過去時，我們會驚訝地察覺原來神一直在帶領我們。我的大兒子現在是高中三年級。不同的大學開始向他發送信息。有一天，我遞給他一封郵件。我告訴他當年我也申請過那所學校。然後我說，如果我上了另一所大學，我便不會認識他的媽媽。沒有他的媽媽，他根本不會存在！我很可能今天也不會在孟菲斯。想想看，這是一連串挺有意思的問題。你所做的決定，你遇到的人以及一切事情發生的時間都決定了你的今天。當然沒有運氣這回事！如果你是神的兒女，那麼你的生命就在祂的手中。神比我們更了解我們自己。生命是令人興奮的旅程，探索神為我們預備的方向。我們必須聽從神的話，並順服祂的引導。結果，亞哈因為重傷而去世。這就結束了這個邪惡君王的統治。隨後亞哈的兒子繼承王位。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

除了米該雅之外，神其實曾經差遣另外兩位先知向亞哈發出警告。神清楚地告訴亞哈他會沒命。但亞哈拒絕悔改並尋求神的憐憫。因此，神執行祂的審判。許多非信徒錯誤地認為神就像一個慈祥的祖父，喜歡寵他的孫子孫女。他們不明白為何慈愛的神會讓人下地獄。神的屬性從來不會自相矛盾。神有忍耐和憐憫。但是祂也是聖潔和公義的。神一直在向我們發出警告。生命是脆弱而且無法預知的。大約在一個月前，的暴風雪差不多的時候，發生了一宗奇怪的事。聯合航空 328 班機從丹佛起飛後不久，一邊的引擎忽然起火。還好飛機能安全地返回了機場，沒有人受傷。附帶說明，我曾經讀過一篇報導，現代的飛機就算只剩下一個引擎仍然可以繼續飛行。如果你看了新聞，你可能會被嚇壞。引擎完全被燒毀。巨大的碎片從天而降，掉落到住宅區。後來一位乘客回憶說，他以為自己已經沒有希望了。他將錢包移到胸前的口袋裡，方便人們在他去世後可以很容易地辨別他的身份。飛機上和地面上的所有人都倖免。人們提出了各種各樣的解釋：科技、運氣、神明的保佑等。神藉著這宗奇怪的事件向我們說話。無論我們身在何處，祂都會照顧我們。神鼓勵任何人都來認識祂並尋求祂的保護。這不僅關乎今生的危險。更重要的是關乎永恆的審判。只有耶穌才能拯救我們。祂為了我們的緣故，死在十字架上。如果耶穌不你的主，你今天就可以向神認罪，並憑信心接受耶穌。