The Danger of Believing a Lie - 1 Kings 22

Intro:
A. There are many lessons that we can learn from 1 Kings 22:
   1. We Should Be Careful Who We Trust – (5,6)
   2. A Majority Does Not Determine Truth – (6,12)
   3. Hatred Can Be Developed For The Messengers of Truth – (8)
   5. Truth Is Not Always Pleasant To Receive or Present – (13,18,26-28)
   6. The Lord Will Permit One To Believe A Lie – (19-23)
B. As we look at 1 Kings 22 we need to see a brief overview:
   1. Jehoshaphat visits Ahab – Ahab request that Jehoshaphat help him reclaim Ramoth Gilead from the Syrians. (1-4)
   2. Jehoshaphat wants to inquire of the Lord – Ahab assembles 400 prophets who tell of victory (5,6, 10-12)
   3. Jehoshaphat is not satisfied – he asked that they inquire advice from a prophet who is of the Lord. (7)
   4. Ahab sends for Micaiah – whom he hates. (8,9)
   5. Micaiah is advised to speak as Ahab’s prophets – but declares he will only speak what the Lord says – (13,14)
   7. Ahab’s death fulfills Micaiah’s words – (29-40)

II. We should be careful of who we believe and trust - vrs 5-6
A. Not Preachers – Matt. 15:14
   1. Matthew 15:14 - 14 “Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”
B. Not Creeds – Matt. 15:9
   1. Matthew 15:9 - 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”
   1. Luke 14:26 - 26 “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
D. Not Friends – 1 Cor. 15:33
   1. 1 Corinthians 15:33 - 33 Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”
E. Not Feelings – Prov. 14:12
   1. Proverbs 14:12 - 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
   1. Psalm 19:7 - 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
   2. John 17:17 - 17 “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.
   3. John 16:13 - 13 “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

III. The Majority does not determine truth - vrs 6,12
A. Do not follow the multitude to do evil – Ex 23:2
   1. Exodus 23:2 - 2 “You shall not follow a crowd to do evil; nor shall you testify in a dispute
so as to turn aside after many to pervert justice.

B. The majority travels the broad way – Matt. 7:13,14

1. Matthew 7:13-14 - 13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

C. The majority is following the devil - 1 John 5:19

1. 1 John 5:19 - 19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

D. The majority view is usually the wrong view!

IV. Hatred can be developed for the messenger of truth - vrs 8

A. Evil hates the truth – John 3:19-21

1. John 3:19-21 - 19 “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 “But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

B. The Jews hated the prophets of God – 2 Chr. 36:16; Matt. 23:33-36

1. 2 Chronicles 36:16 - 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.

2. Matthew 23:33-36 - 33 “Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? 34 “Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city. 35 “that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. 36 “Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

C. Jesus was hated – John 7:7

1. John 7:7 - 7 “The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

D. Jesus’ disciples were hated – John 15:18,19; Rev. 11:7-10

1. John 15:18-19 - 18 “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

2. Revelation 11:7-10 - 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

E. Paul made enemies because he told people the truth – Gal 4:16

1. Galatians 4:16 - 16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

F. This is still true today!! -

V. Truth is what the Lord says - not what He does not say - vrs 14-17

A. There is safety and assurance in following what God says – Jer. 6:16; Matt. 7:24-27
1. **Jeremiah 6:16** - 16 Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is. And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

2. **Matthew 7:24-27** - 24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 “and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

B. We must speak as the oracles of God - **1 Peter 4:11**

1. **1 Peter 4:11** - 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

C. Authority is established in God’s word – not God’s silence – **Lev 10:1,2; Matt. 21:25; Heb 7:14**

1. **Leviticus 10:1-2** - Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. 2 So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

D. Walking by faith requires that we walk by revelation – not silence – **2 Cor 5:7; Rom 10:17**

1. **2 Corinthians 5:7** - 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2. **Romans 10:17** - 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

VI. **Truth is not always pleasant to receive or present** - vrs 13,18, 26-28

A. Sinners often reject truth and persecute the truth giver – **1 Kings 21:20; Prov 9:7-9**

1. **1 Kings 21:20** - 20 So Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” And he answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD:

2. **Proverbs 9:7-9** - 7 “He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself. And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

B. Jesus warns us not to cast our pearls before swine – **Matt. 7:6**

1. **Matthew 7:6** - 6 “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

C. Truth divides – **Matt. 10:34; Gal 4:16**

1. **Matthew 10:34** - 34 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

2. **Galatians 4:16** - 16 Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?

D. There is the temptation to preserve a relationship, or forego persecution – **2 Tim 4:2-4**

1. **2 Timothy 4:2-4** - 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

VII. **The Lord Will Permit one to believe a Lie** - vrs 19-23

A. The Lord permitted a lying spirit convince Ahab to go to Ramoth Gilead – (**22,23**)

1. **1 Kings 22:22-23** - 22 “The LORD said to him, ‘In what way?’ So he said, ‘I will go out and
be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.’ And the L ORD said, ‘You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.’ 23 “Therefore look! The L ORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these prophets of yours, and the L ORD has declared disaster against you.”

B. Eve’s deception – Gen 3:2-6
1. Genesis 3:2-6 - 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 “but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’ ” 4 Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. 5 “For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

C. The Lord will give men over to their own lust – Psa. 81:12; Rom 1:20-28
1. Psalm 81:12 - 12 So I gave them over to their own stubborn heart, To walk in their own counsels.
2. Romans 1:20-28 - 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. 26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

D. Those who do not love the truth will be given over to deception – 2 Thess. 2:9-12
1. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 - 9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

VIII. Lies destroy the ones who believe them - vrs 29-40
A. Ahab was destroyed because he believed the false prophets – and rejected truth
B. False teachers destroy those who follow them – Jer 23:13,14,16,17; Matt. 15:14
1. Jeremiah 23:13 - 13 “And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And caused My people Israel to err.
2. Vrs 14 Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.
3. Vrs 16 Thus says the L ORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart. Not from the mouth of the L ORD.
4. **Vrs 17** They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, “You shall have peace” ’; *And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, “No evil shall come upon you.”*

5. **Matthew 15:14** - 14 “Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

C. There are **many false teachers today** – **BEWARE!** – 2 Pet 2:1-3; 3:16-18

1. **2 Peter 2:1-3** - But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and bring on themselves swift destruction.*
2. **2 Peter 3:16-18** - 16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.17 You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked;18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

IX. **Conclusion:**

A. Be Careful Who You Trust – (5,6)
B. A Majority Does Not Determine Truth – (6,12)
C. Messengers of Truth Are Often Hated – (8)
D. Truth Is What The Lord Says – Not What He Doesn’t Say – (14-17)
E. Truth Is Not Always Pleasant To Receive or Present – (13,18,26-28)
F. The Lord Will Permit One To Believe A Lie – (19-23)
G. Liars Destroy Those Who Believe Them – (29-40)