



prayer *life!*

Weekly Prayer Focus

June 26, 2022

In His Hands

And Micaiah said, "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; and the 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. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will entice him.' And 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.' Now therefore behold, the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these your prophets; the LORD has declared disaster for you." —1st Kings 22:19-23

Do you remember this passage from the Bible? Do you appreciate what it means? To *all the hosts of heaven*, God says, "Now hear this! I need volunteers to entice King Ahab to go into battle, so he'll die." Then the LORD—Jehovah, the Great I AM—chooses a lying spirit to do His will. This passage reveals divine sovereignty "in real time," and it says far more than the average person is ready to deal with.

The LORD, He is God, He rules and His rule is absolute. All the hosts of heaven answer to Him to accomplish His will, which is absolute. Whoever sins in any way does so with God's express permission, within His specified limits, and for His determined purpose.

All have sinned, and everyone sins. But when a person rebels deliberately, persistently, and with impunity, their sin can seem out of control—even as if sin is the secret of their success. But at any given moment, however things may appear, *The LORD reigns* (Psalm 93:1). *No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD* (Proverbs 21:30). *And The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble* (Proverbs 16:4). This passage "pulls back the curtain" and shows us heaven's view of how the world actually works.

King Ahab was an evil king who let his wife choose his god for him. She was no doubt a very popular person who knew the "cool" god to worship. One day, I sat in a class at UCLA. The professor said, "If you want a fun god to worship, I'd recommend Baal." He commended Baal worship for its sexual rituals and ignored the abortion and child sacrifice it entailed. Jezebel would have liked him. She trained Ahab to get whatever he wanted no matter whom he hurt. In his day, Israel abounded with unchecked evil.

But the LORD, He is God. While the Bible shows how bad sin can get, it also demonstrates how God always keeps sin within limits He sets—no matter how awful it may get. Ahab's defiance—Jezebel's too—could only go so far. Ahab had reached his limit. Now God would deal with him.

In this fallen world, God uses evil to contain evil. ALL of heaven's hosts answer directly to the LORD. The good and the evil can only do what God allows them to do. The first two chapters of Job paint the same picture of God in control of all things, allowing evil only to the extent He sees fit.

God disposes of the wicked rulers and influences of this world in His time and at His own discretion. All the hosts of heaven are at God's disposal, and none can go beyond His will. The sneering, conniving, arrogant, demonic wickedness behind everyday events and the excesses of evil surrounding us are all under the LORD's control. They do their evil only His bidding.

Wickedness is everywhere in this fallen world, but we normalize sin to our peril. Like the prophet Micaiah, Christians are *the light of the world*—the only shining example of truth and righteousness it has. Ask God to shine through you, and don't be afraid to be different. Seek His help to proclaim His truth and display His righteousness to those around you. God judges sin, and the world can only discern darkness from light, when God's people live in the light and shine it to the world around us.

To the praise of His glory.

Daily Bible Reading

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bible in 1 Year	1 st Kings 18-20	2 nd Kings 21-22; 2 nd Kings 1	2 nd Kings 2-4	2 nd Kings 5-7	2 nd Kings 8-10	2 nd Kings 11-13	2 nd Kings 14-16
Year 1	Numbers 4	Numbers 5	Numbers 6	Numbers 7	Numbers 8	Numbers 9	Numbers 10
Year 2	2 nd Kings 12	2 nd Kings 13	2 nd Kings 14	2 nd Kings 15	2 nd Kings 16	2 nd Kings 17	2 nd Kings 18
Year 3	Song of Songs 1	Song of Songs 2	Song of Songs 3	Song of Songs 4	Song of Songs 5	Song of Songs 6	Song of Songs 7

Prayers for Our Time

- For God's people in our nation, pray that ...
 - We will humble ourselves and pray, seek God's face and turn from our wicked ways.
 - And God will hear from heaven, forgive our sins, and heal our land.
- Pray that Roe versus Wade will be overturned, so our laws once again protect unborn human life.
- Ask God to protect our Supreme Court justices and calm the aggression surrounding abortion.
- Ask God to revive His Church world-wide (starting with Northpoint) and restore the United States to its foundation on God's Word.
- Pray for peace in Ukraine and in the many other conflicts throughout the world.

Daily Prayer

Sunday (Church): Pray for Taylor Mendoza, Student and Adult Ministries. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give insight into God's Word and into the lives of adults and students, so we can live and grow in Christ.

Monday (Home and Family): Pray for your spouse and children or your closest friends to display Christ's character, so His holiness, love, and joy will draw others to Him.

Tuesday (Job/School): Pray for leaders, coworkers and friends at work or school to come to know Christ and His love.

Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community): Pray for God's enabling to accomplish our mission: To Love God, Love others, and Reach the world.

Thursday (Our Nation): Ask God to give our local, state, and federal leaders wisdom that begins with "the fear of the Lord." Pray for God's guidance and provision in this year's elections.

Friday (The World): Pray for divine protection over those who suffer for their faith in Christ. Seek the comfort of His presence and assurance of their certain hope in Him.

Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing): Bless the Lord. He has blessed us with abundance, security, and freedom in the United States and dealt patiently with our sin. May God keep blessing America.

Prayer for Our Leaders

Pray for our leaders to foster boldness in us as a church.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Tamene Menna, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, and Amber McEwen.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Woody Armstrong, Steve Flood, Craig Hawkins, Perry Schaefer, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, John Cordill, Colin Cordill, Megan Cordill, Laura Flood, Noah Gauderman, Nolan Golightly, Carolee Jefferson, Nick Juarez, Cade MacRitchie, Sam Nguyen, Lauren Sanner, Corie Saunders, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez, Tyler Van Horssen, Christina Vasquez, and Holli Worthington.

The LORD Reigns

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. —Psalm 97:1-5