

## Where Should We Turn to Find a Sure Word from God in 2024

(And what if we don't follow it or find it?)

A sermon on 1 Kings 22, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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### Background:

This is my favorite chapter in the whole Bible. It is entertaining, flawlessly constructed, and at points (vv. 8, 16) jaw-droppingly incoherent! Rather than “fix” its problems (the Holy Spirit thanks you nonetheless), the story is best understood as a parody about Israel's difficulty, and ours, in finding a sure Word from God at a time of need. In fact, the confusing aspects illustrate the problem and provide a backdrop (by way of a treasure hunt) for the answer “where to turn for a sure word from the Lord.”

### Introduction

-any forks in the road to decide between in 2024? Where can Christians find answers from God?

-a personal experience that illustrates the problem.

#### I. WHERE SHOULD WE TURN TO FIND A TRUE WORD FROM GOD? (VERSES 1-28)

##### A. A too-simple answer. Find a godly prophet

There *were* good guidelines that helped ancient Israel distinguish a true prophet from a false one. Many are illustrated in our passage (e.g., the prophecy comes true, is spoken in the name of the Lord, is often an unpopular minority view, the prophet is privy to council-chamber deliberations).

But in the end, there were many problems.<sup>i</sup> This chapter highlights them and subtly points elsewhere for our answer, namely

##### B. The real answer: Scripture itself

Holy Scripture is our definitive source. (It's as though Israel said to God. We need your word in writing rather than from the mouths of people claiming to speak your word. Yes, there is Jesus the perfect true prophet but our authoritative knowledge of Him is mediated also through Scripture)

#### II. WHAT IF WE DISOBEY OR DON'T GET A SPECIFIC ANSWER? (VERSES 29-40)

God's sovereign will shall prevail!

### Conclusion

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<sup>i</sup> Not to mention the problem that equating a prophet then with a godly mentor today, which many people do, overlooks the biblical component inherent to the former. In other words, prophets in the Bible are special for being part of the authoritative witness of the Bible.