

The Council of Heaven

In the book of I Kings we find one of the strangest passages in the entire Bible. The prophet Micaiah tells us that there is a Council of Heaven that gives God suggestions on how to accomplish God's will on Earth:

I Kings 22:19: “And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw **the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him** on his right hand and on his left.

20 And the Lord said, **Who shall persuade Ahab**, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him.

22 And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, **I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.** And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: **go forth, and do so.”**

To say that this is unexpected is an understatement. This is one of the most unusual truths in the Bible – so let's take a little bit of time to delve into the matter.

First of all, we need to understand that this is not a myth or a bizarre fantasy. Micaiah makes it clear in verse 19 that what he is saying is the “word of the Lord”. This scene *actually happened*. God really did ask “Who will trick Ahab into going out and dying in battle?” and then took suggestions. The Lord then picked the suggestion that would work and commanded the spirit to go do the job. It is entirely possible that this is something that

God does on a regular basis.

Before anyone jumps to the wrong conclusion, I want to point out that God knows all things and has all power. God did *not* ask this question because He was genuinely at a loss and didn't know what to do, and also He didn't ask it because He was weak and needed help. He knew exactly how He would handle this situation before He created the world, and He was fully capable of handling it without assistance from anyone.

What we are seeing here is something a bit different. We all know that God works through people on Earth to accomplish His will. This passage tells us that God does something similar in Heaven with the angels. I don't know how often this happens, but God apparently brings situations before His angels and asks for their input, then dispatches them to do His work.

This passage gives us a little glimpse at the way things are done in Heaven. It's certainly not what we would expect – which is what makes it so fascinating.