

GNITN

#522

Prophets In The White House

A Special Kind Of Bug

Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." 9 And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." 10 Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice.

11 Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?"

12 And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." (2 Kings 6:8-12, NKJV)

In this example from the Bible we see that military intelligence was being compromised by the prophet of God, in this case Elisha who was given special insights into the Syrian army plans ahead of time. In modern times the Syrian king would have had his palace swept for listening devices or bugs to make sure that he wasn't being spied on, but in the Old Testament no such technology existed. When no bugs were found they would end up in the same situation as this foreign king and realize that there was a person who had special abilities to literally hear things spoken miles away. This sounds like a story found in a spy movie like *Mission Impossible* but in this case it was real.

It Was Common

Throughout the Bible we read about leaders who knew about seers, which is the same word in the original language for prophets. They were on his staff because they had special abilities to see into the future and guide them in battles. We read another instance of these spiritual counselors in **1 Kings 22**:

So he asked Jehoshaphat, "Will you go with me to fight against Ramoth Gilead?"

Jehoshaphat replied to the king of Israel, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses." 5 But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, "First seek the counsel of the Lord."

6 So the king of Israel brought together the prophets—about four hundred men—and asked them, "Shall I go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I refrain?"

"Go," they answered, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand." (1 Kings 22:4-6, NKJV)

400 men? That's a lot of people on a payroll whose only job was to advise the King. Now, to be fair they didn't just prophesy but probably gave him counsel on more mundane matters, but as we read in this case they were also on his staff to predict the future. And King Ahab wasn't the first or last leader to have people like that serving them. It was a common practice. Just as today our presidents lean on people to give them sage advice before they embark on a military action, kings and leaders in the Middle East in Old Testament days did the same. But in their cases they also relied upon people who could really see into the future with accuracy. However, in this particular story, accuracy wasn't their strong suit. But one man should have been trusted.

He's Always Telling Me Bad News

As the story goes, those 400 prophets weren't speaking for God and King Jehoshaphat knew it when he wanted King Ahab to find the one who did hear from God:

But Jehoshaphat asked, "Is there no longer a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?"

8 The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, "There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the Lord, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." (1 Kings 22:7-8, NKJV)

Initially the messenger told Micaiah to just agree with the 400 other prophets, but he told him that he couldn't do that:

The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, "Look, the other prophets without exception are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably." (1 Kings 22:13-14, NKJV)

14 But Micaiah said, "As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what the Lord tells me."

Interestingly, this prophet Micaiah was my kind of guy since initially when he came to King Ahab he gave him a sarcastic answer before he told him what God told him about going into this battle:

When he arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or not?"

"Attack and be victorious," he answered, "for the Lord will give it into the king's hand."

16 The king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?" (1 Kings 22:15-16, NKJV)

Eventually he told King Ahab what God really saw happening and that was that the army would be routed and that he would die (see **1 Kings 22:29-38**). And now you know why King Ahab didn't like him. In hindsight, he would have been better off listening, but as they say, pride comes before a fall, and in this case that fall was fatal.

And It Happens To This Day

While it was common practice to have prophetic voices to guide leaders in the Bible times it's not like we haven't seen it happen in our lives. In an [article](#) from *Newsweek.com* we see that an American president consulted with a psychic during his time in the oval office:

The subject of Dixon's prophecies returned to the Oval Office two days later when Nixon met with Kissinger for a discussion of the terrorism threat. Kissinger reported that he had just talked with Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin. Nixon referred to the "tremendous pressure" the Israelis were under because of Munich. He then instructed Kissinger to create a "governmentwide" counterterrorism committee--and seemed to offer an unusual explanation as to why.

"Rose talks to this soothsayer, Jeane Dixon, all the time," Nixon told Kissinger, according to a tape of the Sept. 21, 1972, meeting. "They are desperate that [the terrorists] will kidnap somebody. They may shoot somebody. We have got to have a plan. Suppose they do, for example, Henry, suppose they kidnap Rabin? And they ask us to release all blacks who are prisoners around the United States. And we didn't and they shoot him? Think of it! What the Christ do we do? We are not going to give into it. We have got to have contingency plans for hijacking, for kidnapping, for all sorts of things that can happen around here."

Did Dixon really have that much influence? According to the infamous Nixon tapes, she did: *Still, none of Dixon's seemingly wacky predictions seem to have shaken Nixon's faith. White House tapes show Woods (who died in January at the age of 87) provided Nixon with Dixon briefings on a wide range of subjects, covering such matters as the Panama Canal, nuclear arms*

talks with the Soviets (Dixon thought arms negotiator Paul Nitze "could be a double agent") and the president's prospects during the Watergate crisis. "Jeane Dixon tells us that May and June are going to be pretty bad. June may be worse than May. But everything will turn out fine," Woods told Nixon on May 14, 1973.

Sound familiar? Dixon was just like the 400 seers for King Ahab. But wait, there's more.

An Astrologer And The White House

I found an interesting side bar in the *Newsweek* article that connects Dixon to another president, Ronald Reagan:

Her forecasts grew so unreliable that one of her most prominent clients, astrology buff Nancy Reagan, concluded that Dixon had lost her powers and shifted to a rival astrologer, Joan Quigley, who provided advice while she and her husband were in the White House.

Just how much influence did this woman who used astrology to divine the future for the Reagan presidency? We see in an [article](#) from the *hollywoodreporter.com*:

*It was Donald Reagan who let the cat out of the bag. President Reagan's former chief of staff, who quarreled regularly with Nancy Reagan, dropped the bombshell early on in his 1988 memoir, *For the Record*: "Virtually every major move and decision the Reagans made during my time as White House Chief of Staff," Reagan wrote, "was cleared in advance with a woman in San Francisco who drew up horoscopes to make certain that the planets were in a favorable alignment for the enterprise." Those moves included setting the timing for summit meetings, presidential debates, Reagan's 1985 cancer surgery, State of the Union addresses and every takeoff and landing of Air Force One.*

How influential was she during Reagan's presidency? The article states this:

She was definitely responsible for changing President Reagan's mind about the "evil empire," [a term he coined to refer to the Soviet Union in 1983]. People said, "He changed his tune overnight. Who did that?" Well, it was Joan. She spent three and a half hours on the phone with Nancy. She asked Nancy to get her [former president of the Soviet Union Mikhail] Gorbachev's birth information. When she compared Gorbachev's chart with Ronnie's, she said there was such chemistry between them, they could work together. She wrestled Nancy to the mat on that one, and of course Nancy convinced Ronnie.

History shows that when the two world leaders met for the Reykjavik Summit (which Quigley scheduled using astrology) they essentially ended the cold war. It is debatable on just how much this astrologer actually changed history, but it is not debatable that she did play a part. But this wasn't the first time astrology found its way into the White House as we read in an [article](#) from the *Washington Post*:

Vice President Henry Wallace, who served with Franklin Roosevelt for a term, was a "stargazer of many cults," as a Washington Post columnist put it in 1940.

Other presidents received astrological advice free of charge, and perhaps unwanted.

In 1908, an astrologer made some very accurate political predictions for The Post, as well as some very bad ones.

According to the stars, it's all over but the shouting. Taft and Sherman will be elected, Democracy will be crushingly defeated and would do better to stay out of the game and cache their roll. It'll be Taft and Sherman for four years, then a one-term recrudescence of Rooseveltism, and after that Taft will sit in the howdah again. Moreover, say the stars, Mr. Taft will survive the enervating, flesh-destroying rigors of political chieftancy in the White House and keep out of heaven till he's seventy-odd."

Taft lived to be 72, but the math on his White House career was a bit off.

Should There Be Prophets In The White House?

It's not like we haven't seen spirituality be a part of the highest office in the land before, even if was of the offbeat variety. And there are quite a few modern day prophets that are highly accurate now. A few come to mind like Amanda Grace and Robin Bullock and let's not forget the former truck driver Timothy Dixon. The list could go on and on and having such a team counseling the White House would not only be possible but, in my opinion a good thing. Am I suggesting that they be on a \$3,000 retainer like Joan Quigley was for the Reagans? No, working out the details isn't my point, but just listening to what God is telling them via an online gathering or just having someone on the staff aggregating the various words they get from God and seeing if they relate to decisions that need to be made wouldn't be that odd considering what we now know about history. If Nixon consulted with a psychic and Reagan had an astrologer influencing his wife and I haven't even broached Hilary Clinton talking with dead people like Eleanor Roosevelt or Ghandi, why would having some of these prophetic voices helping counsel our next president be seen as verboten? Yes, there is always the chance that such influence could be considered weird and inappropriate, however seeking God's help while in the most influential position in the world isn't wrong in any sense of the word help. Washington prayed to God. Lincoln prayed to God. Their record as leaders turned out pretty well I'd say. If President Trump had prophetic voices on his religious counsel this time around I'd certainly be behind that. And in retrospect, it would be an upgrade to past White House advisors. A huge upgrade.