



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE I KINGS 21:17-29 ELIJAH REBUKES KING AHAB— June 27, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 21:1-16 Naboth, an Israelite vineyard owner from Jezreel had a vineyard that was adjacent to the royal property of king Ahab's palace (*his resort palace*). The king wanted to make a vegetable garden and offered to trade the vineyard or purchase the vineyard from him. But Naboth replied *"The Lord forbid it me that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee."* The land had been in his family for generations. Ahab came into his house sulking and angry; heavy-hearted and displeased that Naboth would speak to him in that manner over this, to where the king refused to eat and went to bed with his face to the wall. When his wife Jezebel came to him asking why his spirit was so sad, that he didn't eat any bread, and he told her what Naboth had said. She asked him *"don't you govern the kingdom of Israel? Well then arise, eat and be merry, and I'll take care of this; I'll give you the vineyard of Naboth."* So Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab's name; sealed it with the king's seal and sent them to elders and the nobles that were in his city, where Naboth dwelt. She said in the letters: *"Proclaim a fast and set Naboth on high among the people"* meaning at the head, in the place of honor. *"And set two worthless men to testify falsely against him in a case of blaspheming God and the king."* The sons of Belial were selected. Then they were to carry him out and stone him to death. The elders and the nobles did as Jezebel instructed in the letters sent out to them. They proclaimed a fast; set him high among the people and brought the two men (scoundrels) of Belial before them as false witnesses against Naboth in the presence of the people saying he had blasphemed against God and the king. Then they took him outside the city gate and commenced to stone him until he died. Punishment was always done outside the city gate (Leviticus 24:14). In **Acts 7:58** Stephen was taken out of the city and stoned to death. In **Hebrews 13:12-13** Jesus suffered, bled, and died outside the city gate. They gave the news to Jezebel that Naboth had been stoned and is dead. She arose and went to her husband the king, telling Ahab: *"Arise take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite who had refused to accept your money, for he is not alive, but dead."* Ahab heard this, and went down to take possession of Naboth the Jezreelite's vineyard.

LESSON:

I. A HEAVY ASSIGNMENT I KINGS 21:17-19

21:17 And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,— While jezebel was instructing Ahab to claim Naboth's vineyard, a word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite.

Elijah was one of the greatest prophets. He had run into King Ahab and Queen Jezebel before in order to save Israel from Baal worship (**chapter 16**). Ahab had led the entire nation into sin. Therefore, in **chapter 17** Elijah goes to them and predicted that there will be no dew or rain for several years, except at the release of his word. Then in the third year God send Elijah back to the king and queen to say that God will send rain upon the earth (**chapter 18**). And now on Mt. Carmel (**1Kgs.18:19**) Elijah challenges them, for they had refused to obey the Lord. All the people gathered. It was Elijah against all the prophets of Baal and prophets of Asherah. He asked the people: *"How long will they waver between two opinions? If God be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow him."* Then Elijah said, *"The God that answers by fire, let Him be God."* Elijah succeeded and discredited the prophets of Baal and of Asherah. Following that victory Elijah fled the scene for his life because Jezebel had threatened to kill him.

21:18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it. God instructed Elijah to arise and go down to meet Ahab of Israel that's in Samaria who is now in the vineyard of Naboth trying to possess it. I know Elijah's mind went back to the former times he had to deal with King Ahab and Jezebel. *"Arise"*, get up and go quickly was



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the command. Anything we're doing for God or with Christ by His Spirit is something we can't continue to pass over, even when it's a heavy assignment. Remember in school, when you had to study for a test? Just like that, it takes a made-up mind to take action, and an obedient spirit to know His voice and presence will never fail you when you come up against challenges. They are brought up before you because they are necessary.

21:19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. The Lord's words to Elijah will pronounce severe judgment upon Ahab: *"This is the message from the Lord. You have murdered a man and taken his property. Tell him that the Lord says to him, In the place where the dogs licked Naboth's blood, they will lick your blood."* "In the place where dogs licked the blood" meant that punishment was always done outside the city gate (Leviticus 24:14). On account of Jezebel's and Ahab's sin, Naboth's blood was shed outside the gate of Jezreel, and the pool of Samaria. Proverbs 6:17 says, *"A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood"* are the things that the Lord hate. But Ahab would not die in Naboth's vineyard at Jezreel, but in the same place as Naboth, outside the gate by the pool of Samaria (**1Kgs.22:38**). And this prophecy would not happen right away. Sometimes our deserved punishment doesn't come right away. It comes later.

II. A DEVASTATING REBUKE I KINGS 21:20-24

21:20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord. After Elijah receives this prophecy from the Lord, he goes down to meet King Ahab, and Ahab sees Elijah and says, *"Have you found me Oh my enemy?"* as if to say, *"you got me"*, but he didn't repent even perceiving of his guilt. Evil had just taken over. He had once called Elijah *"trouble"* (**1Kgs.18:17**). So, Elijah answered him and said, *"I have found thee."* And because Ahab had sold himself to work evil in the sight of the Lord, he was on the wrong side—an enemy of God.

21:21 Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,— The Lord began to bring a devastating punishment upon king Ahab and his family. He said *"Look...."*

- *I will bring disaster; evil upon you.*
- *I will sweep you away altogether; your descendants (posterity), and*
- *I will cut off from you Ahab every male child (that pee against the wall) in your family, both young and old.*
- *I will cut off from you Ahab even those that are shut up (captive) and left (free) in Israel."*

21:22 And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin. Well, what happened to the house of Jeroboam? Jeroboam had prophesied to lead the people as king of Israel, but later he made two young calves out of gold. He told the people in Israel, that *"these are your gods that brought you out of Egypt"* (**1 Kgs.12:28**) and the people offered sacrifices (**1 Kgs.12:33**). This was against God's law. Jeroboam did not obey the second commandment when he did this. He also acted as a priest himself. When Jeroboam did these things, he was rebelling against God. He chose his own false gods, and he taught the people in Israel to serve them (**1 Kgs.12:33**), thereby disobeying God, judgment and disaster was to come upon the house of Jeroboam for he had provoked the Lord to anger in **chapter 14:9**. In **1Kgs.14:10-11** *"I will kill all the male descendants of your family. I will do this whether they are slaves or free men. I will burn all the family of Jeroboam as you burn rubbish. Dogs will eat those who die in the city. Vultures (birds that eat dead animals) will eat those who die in the country. The Lord has spoken."*

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And in 1 Kgs.14:12 Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife that her child would die because of sin. All the house of Jeroboam were destroyed.

What happened to the house of Baasha? Baasha was an evil king of Israel, son of Ahijah, and great grandson of Solomon. Baasha killed Jeroboam's entire family. None of them remained alive. (1 Kgs.15:29). He did not learn any lessons from king Jeroboam for he followed in the same footsteps of idolatry, leading Israel to sin. And their sins made God very angry. The same exact prophecy came to king Baasha through the prophet Jehu. In other words, they would suffer the same punishment as Jeroboam's family suffered. As soon as Zimri became king, he killed all the members of Baasha's family (1 Kgs.16:11-12).

Therefore, in this lesson, Elijah continues the judgment upon King Ahab for he had *provoked the Lord to anger and made Israel sin*. Ahab's family will become like the house of Jeroboam, son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha, son of Ahijah.

21:23 And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

Elijah continued to speak but now referencing about Jezebel— *"The dogs shall eat (meaning tear Jezebel's body apart) outside the city wall of Jezreel."*

21:24 Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat. Those members of Ahab's family who die in the city shall be eaten by the dogs. And those that die in the field shall be eaten by the fowls in the air.

III. A MIXED ASSESSMENT I KINGS 21:25-29

21:25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. This verse says that there was none like Ahab who would sell himself to work evil; wickedness in the sight of the Lord. And his wife Jezebel had instigated and stirred him up to do such.

21:26 And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel. The worshiping of idols was very abominable unto the Lord in the same way as the Amorites did. These are the people that the Lord chased out of the land to make room for the people of Israel.

21:27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. Ahab heard these prophecies and tore his clothing, put on rags, fasted, slept in sackcloth, and went about in deep humility. He sincerely repented.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON: [VERSES 28-29](#)

And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, because he humbleth himself before me I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house. God's Word had to come again, and because Ahab really heard the Lord this time, God says because he humbled himself before me, I'm not going to bring the evil upon him in his days, but upon his son's days—upon his house. God would bring this sentence upon Ahab's family after his death.

Yes, Ahab did evil, but then he put on the gesture of repentance. God did not bring punishment or evil in his days because he humbled himself by fasting and putting on sackcloth in a manner of being very sad in front of everyone. Because of that, God's assessment of evil was brought forth upon his house in the days of his son. The delay was after his father had died.

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While Jezebel was instructing Ahab to claim Naboth's vineyard, a word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite. God instructed Elijah to arise and go down to meet Ahab of Israel that's in Samaria who is now in the vineyard of Naboth trying to possess it. The Lord's words to Elijah will pronounce severe judgment upon Ahab: *"This is the message from the *Lord. You have murdered a man and taken his property."* Tell him that the Lord says to him, *"In the place where the dogs licked Naboth's blood, they will lick your blood."* (21:17-19).

¹Elijah went to meet Ahab again. This time he came to tell Ahab that God would punish him. Ahab considered Elijah as his enemy. Because Ahab had sold himself to work evil in the sight of the Lord, he was on the wrong side—an enemy of God. "Look, I will bring disaster; evil upon you. I will sweep you away altogether; your descendants (posterity), and I will cut off from Ahab every male child (that pee against the wall) in your family, both young and old, and even those that are shut up (captive) and left (free) in Israel. Elijah told Ahab that all his family would die. They would not continue as kings. Their deaths would be awful and they would not even have proper graves. *"Ahab's family will become like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. This is because they have provoked the Lord to anger and made Israel sin."* *"The dogs shall eat (meaning tear Jezebel's body apart) by the wall of Jezreel."* Those members of Ahab's family who die in the city shall be eaten by the dogs. And those that die in the field shall be eaten by the fowls in the air (21:20-24).

There was none like Ahab who would sell himself to work evil; wickedness in the sight of the Lord. And his wife Jezebel had instigated and stirred him up to do such. The worshiping of idols was very abominable unto the Lord in the same way as the Amorites did. These are the people that the Lord chased out of the land to make room for the people of Israel. Ahab heard these prophecies and tore his clothing, put on rags, fasted, slept in sackcloth, and went about in deep humility of repentance (21:25-27).

¹¹ <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/1kings-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

