

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #24 | Ahab & Jezebel Murder Naboth for his Vineyard

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1 Kings 21:1-4

1 And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

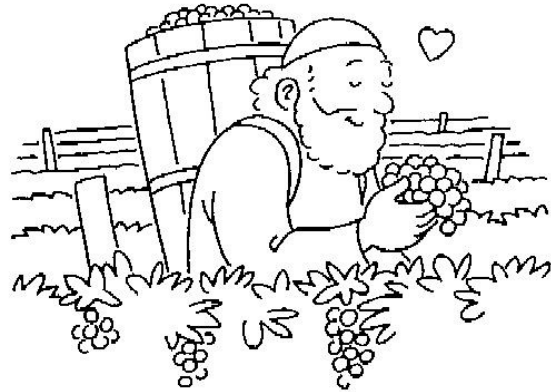
2 And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

3 And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.

4 And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.

1. Although Ahab was dealing fairly, Naboth did not sell the vineyard to Ahab because:

- Naboth was selfish
- Ahab's offer of money was too little
- Israelites were not to sell away their inheritance



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2. What does Leviticus 25:23-24 teach us?

23 The land shall not be _____ for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.

24 And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land.

Only in the case of extreme poverty could a man sell his possession. But if the next of kin comes along to buy the land back, the land must be returned back to the original family for a redemption price. If not, the land must be returned at the jubilee year, which is the 50th year. This tells us that Jewish land had a maximum lease of __ years. It is clear that Naboth was doing right by refusing to sell his land to Ahab.

3. What did Ahab do immediately after Naboth rejected his offer? (tick all those which are correct)

- Ahab killed Naboth
- Ahab complained to Jezebel
- Ahab laid down on his bed
- Ahab refused to eat

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1 Kings 21:7-14

7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.

9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:

10 And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die....

13 And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.

4. What happened after Ahab sulked on his bed? Arrange the order of events by putting the numbers 1 to 5 in the boxes below. The first has been done for you.

(1 -> 3)	Events
	Jezebel challenged and insulted Ahab's position as King. She said that she will show Ahab how to get the vineyard
	Jezebel also asked the nobles to find two men of belial to falsely witness against Naboth, that Naboth had blasphemed God and Ahab.
	The people were enraged. They carried Naboth out of the city and stoned him to death
	Jezebel forged Ahab's name and seal, and she sent a letter to the nobles to proclaim a fast
	The fast was proclaimed, and the two men of Belial lied.

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5. In the case of the letter, what was the seal synonymous with?

- The King's consent and agreement
- The King's protection and care

6. Jezebel "wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people". What does "set Naboth on high among the people" mean?

- Naboth was given a position of authority and leadership in his fast
- Naboth was given a high chair to sit on during the fast

7. Men of Belial are used to describe men who are liars, and have no shame about falsely swearing, to the turn the truth into a lie. Couldn't Naboth fight back? We know of a similar instance of a man who was stoned to death because of his unwillingness to depart from God's word. His name was S_____. Wicked people often take advantage of godly people. They abuse the non-retaliatory and non-violent behaviour of Christians.

Christians must remember the counsel in **Romans 12:19**

Dearly beloved, do not yourselves, but rather give vent unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

1 Kings 21:15-16

15 And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

16 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

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8. What is the proof that Ahab was guilty of Naboth's murder despite not being part of Jezebel's conspiracy?

9. A proof that Ahab was guilty of the Naboth's murder is Elijah's confrontation of Ahab and pronouncement of judgment against him in 1 Kings 21:19.

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.

What characteristics of God's judgment tells us that Ahab was guilty for murdering Naboth?

- God's judgment uses the singular you (thou), which singles out Ahab individually for his sin
- God's judgment affects Ahab as well as Jezebel

10. Based on 1 Kings 21:23, what grotesque judgment was Jezebel to receive?

11. "Ahab was a puppet in Jezebel's hands to do wickedly" Is this statement correct, based on 1 Kings 22:25? **Yes / No**

12. Memory Verse

Proverbs 22:28

Remove not the ancient _____,
which thy _____ have set.