

## 1 Kings Chapter 21 Verses 17-29 Bible Study

**1Ki 21:17 ¶ "And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 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. 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. 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. 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, 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. 23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. 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."**

God sends Elijah to meet Ahab in his stolen vineyard, which he is gone down to take possession of what is not rightfully his. Tell Ahab that God knows what you have done to kill, by false accusation, and take possession of what is not yours. **"Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine."** We see this fulfilled in **1Ki 22:34-38; 34 "And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel (Ahab) between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. 35 And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot. 36 And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. 37 So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria. 38 And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake."** Therefore, we understand that this is where they stoned Naboth and his sons.

Notice, Ahab says that Elijah is his enemy, therefore, God is Ahab's enemy, because Elijah is just doing the commandment of God. We are told of this in the New Testament in **Ga 4:16 "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"** Many people will call you their enemy when you tell them the truth. The warning to us is from the word of God: **Nu 32:23 "and be sure your sin will find you out."** You cannot hide sin from God. God knows the thoughts and intents of your heart.

Notice, Ahab is charged with the guilt of all that has transpired, even though Ahab did not personally commit the sins, he is charged with guilt because he goes to take possession. We understand that Ahab knew what was going on, because Jezebel sealed the letters with the king's seal, which was a ring that he wore on his finger. The reason Ahab knew was Ahab had to take it off and give it to Jezebel for her to use it.

**"23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel."** This was fulfilled in **2Ki 9:31-37; 31 "And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? 32 And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. 33 And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. 34 And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. 35 And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. 36 Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37 And the carcass of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel."**

Notice how far these sins will reach. They will bring evil upon Ahab. They will take away his posterity. They will make the house of Ahab cease to exist. They will make Jezebel, his wife whom he obeyed, to be eaten by dogs by the wall of Jezreel. The dogs shall eat those of Ahab who die in the city, and the fowls shall eat those who die outside the city. None of those who die for this sin of Jezebel and Ahab shall be buried. They shall all be devoured by animals, for that is the kind of life they lived.

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. 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. 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. 28 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? 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."

The bible tells us that there was none like Ahab, who listened to the instructions of his wife, who did more wickedness and lived more abominably. Remember how sin entered the world in the beginning? Eve. Being beguiled by the serpent, the devil, ate the forbidden fruit and she gave to her husband, the first man Adam, and he did eat. The only indication that the word of God had any impact in Ahab's life is that upon hearing the sentence pronounced upon him and his family, his heart was humbled before God, and he wept and fasted. God sees this and tells Elijah: because Ahab has humbled himself before me, I will not bring this to pass in his life, but in the life of his son who shall follow him as king.

This is the only indication we get from scripture, which gives us any inclination to believe that Ahab may have been a child of God. However, we point out: the word of God does not say that Ahab repented of his sin, he is humbled because of the harsh judicial judgment pronounced upon him and his family. We are not told that Ahab prayed to God for forgiveness. We are not told that Ahab renounced his life of idolatry, and evil. We are told in scripture in *Lu 13:1-5; 1 ¶ "There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* There is no mention of repentance in Ahab's life.

It appears that Naboth, and all the males of the family of Naboth, were stoned to death, from the scripture in *2Ki 9:24-26; 24 "And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot. 25 Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain, Take up, and cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the LORD laid this burden upon him; 26 Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the LORD; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the LORD. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the LORD."* This is Jehoram, Ahab's son, who is cast into the plat of land stolen by Ahab, which fulfills God's word. How? Remember Ahab humbled himself after hearing his punishment, and God told him he would bring it to fruition through his son, which we see fulfilled in these verses.

Notice also in the reference verse that not only did they kill Ahab, but they also killed his sons so that none could dispute the king's title to the stolen land. This is a warning to us that the devil does not only want to destroy us, but he wants to devour our families also. This should behoove us to cling more closely to God and godliness.

This scene is a reminder to us of the warning given in scripture in *Heb 3:12-19; 12 "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; 15 While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."*

We learn from this chapter the Naboth was a true man of God who stood firm in the faith. For standing firm in the truth and the word of God, Naboth was killed by false accusation. The same is true in the life of a child of God. We are to be sure we are standing firm in the word of God, though satanic men may falsely accuse us, and

may take our natural life, they shall reap their reward as we see in this chapter. We are even told in **Mt 10:27-28; 27 "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops. 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."** Certainly, this is a picture of what happened in Naboth's life. May God help us to never lose sight of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and turn to idolatry, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ! Amen!