

Study #11 Bible Reading: 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27-29

21:1 Naboth of Jezreel had a vineyard in Jezreel near the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 “Give me your vineyard,” Ahab told Naboth. “It will be my vegetable garden because it is near my house. I will give you a better vineyard for it, or if you like, I will give you the money for what it is worth.” 3 “The LORD forbid,” Naboth told Ahab, “that I should give you what I inherited from my fathers.”

4 So Ahab went home, annoyed and angry because Naboth in Jezreel had told him, “I will not give you what I inherited from my fathers,” and he laid down on the couch, turned his face away, and refused to eat. 5 His wife Jezebel came to him. “Why are you so upset,” she asked him, “and why don’t you eat?” 6 “I talked to Naboth in Jezreel,” he told her. “I said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard. I will pay for it, or if you like, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

7 “Don’t you govern Israel?” she asked him. “Get up, eat, and be cheerful. I will give you Naboth’s vineyard in Jezreel.” 8 So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and noblemen living with Naboth in his town. 9 In these letters she wrote: “Call a fast and have Naboth sit as the first among the people. 10 Have two worthless men sit opposite him and testify, ‘You cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.”

11 Then men in his town, the elders and noblemen living in his town, did what Jezebel wanted them to do as she had written in the letters she sent them. 12 They called a fast and had Naboth sit as the first among the people. 13 The two worthless men came in and sat opposite him, and these worthless men testified against Naboth before the people, “Naboth has cursed God and the king.” And they took him out of the town and stoned him to death. 14 Then they sent men to tell Jezebel, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead.”

15 When Jezebel heard Naboth had been stoned to death, she told Ahab, “Get up, take possession of Naboth’s vineyard in Jezreel that he refused to give you for money. He isn’t alive any more but dead.” 16 When he heard Naboth was dead, Ahab got up to go to Naboth’s vineyard in Jezreel to take possession of it.

17 Then the LORD spoke to Elijah from Tishbe: 18 “Get up and go to meet Ahab, king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. He has gone down to Naboth’s vineyard and is there to take possession of it. 19 Tell him the LORD asks this, ‘Have you murdered and also taken possession?’ And tell him the LORD says this, ‘At the place where the dogs licked Naboth’s blood, the dogs will also lick your blood.’”

27 When Ahab heard this, he tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his body, fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went around depressed. 28 Then the LORD spoke to Elijah from Tishbe. 29 “Do you see how Ahab is humbling himself before Me?” He asked. “Because he’s humbling himself before Me, I will not bring calamity on his family while he is living, but during his son’s life.”