

# Judgment on the House of Ahab

*Quote: "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of Yahweh, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom Yahweh cast out before the children of Israel."*

1 Kings 21:25, 26

## Bible Marking

## Naboth is Slain by Jezebel ( 1 Kings 21:1-14)

1 Kings 21:1 - **"Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard"** - "Naboth" means 'height', and "Jezreelite" means 'God sows'. Vineyard = symbol of the ecclesia - [Isa 5:1-2](#); [Matt 21:33](#). It's only purpose is to bring forth fruit. Next door to the house of Ahab, God had sown a man who had developed a little ecclesial family that brought forth fruit to Him in righteousness.

1 Kings 21:2 - **"Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs"** - The only previous use of 'garden of herbs' is in reference to the land of Egypt ([Deut 11:10](#)). In type Ahab desired to take control of the fruitful vineyard (the ecclesia) and make it like the land of Egypt. Ahab however had forgotten that the land was not Naboth's to sell, or swap, because it was really Yahweh's ([Lev 25:23](#)).

1 King 21:4 - **"And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased"** - NASB has "sullen and vexed". Same words used of Ahab in [Ch 20:43](#). On both occasions he had been confronted by Divine principles, instead of submitting to the divine laws, he became angry and frustrated, and refused to be reprov'd ([Prov 9:7-9](#)). **"And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread."** - ie. he sulked like a spoilt child.

1 Kings 21:6 - **"he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard."** - This is not what Naboth said. Ahab is not prepared to admit to Jezebel that Yahweh's law had affected him.

1 Kings 21:7 - **"Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel?"** - Jezebel did not understand that a king is required to be obedient to divine requirements.

1 Kings 21:8 - **"So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal,"** - Despite Ahab's seal, the nobles knew who to report to when Naboth was dead ([v14](#)).

**"the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth."** - Christ suffered similarly - those who acknowledged his righteousness also sought to kill him for envy ([Zech. 13:6](#); [John 11:47-53](#)). These men were to pay a heavy price for their murderous cooperation with Jezebel ([2 Kings 10:1,11](#)).

1 Kings 21:9 - **"Proclaim a fast"** - Fasts = occasions of national introspection and repentance ([Joel 1:14](#); [1 Sam. 7:6](#)). This was therefore hypocrisy.

1 Kings 21:10 - **"And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him"** - Jezebel was shrewd enough to conform to the requirements of the Law to give a veneer of legality to her treachery ([Num. 35:30](#); [Deut. 17:6](#)).

**"Thou didst blaspheme God and the king"** - See [Exod 22:28](#); [Lev 24:16](#); [Deut 13:9-10](#). Similar charges were later to be also falsely leveled at Christ ([John 19:1-12](#)).

1 Kings 21: 13 - **"and stoned him with stones, that he died"** - They also slew at the same time Naboth's sons ([2 Kings 9:26](#)) in order to prevent them taking the inheritance ([Deut. 25:5](#)).

## Bible Marking

## Confrontation With Elijah - The House of Ahab Doomed (1 Kings 21:15-24)

1 Kings 21:15 - **"arise, take possession"** - cp [v18](#) - at about the same time, Yahweh instructed Elijah to arise to condemn Ahab.

1 Kings 21:19 - **"In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine."** - Dogs did in fact lick Ahab's blood (1 Kings 22:38). This prophecy was fulfilled in further detail on the death of Jehoram, Ahab's son (2 Kings 9:25-26). The judgment is transferred to his son because of Ahab's repentance (v29).

1 Kings 21:20 - **"thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD."** - Jezebel, the instigator of much of the evil, had "stirred up" Ahab to become a slave to wickedness (v25; see also Rom 6:16-17).

1 Kings 21:22 - **"like the house of Jeroboam"** - Cp 1 Kings 15:27-30; 16:10-13 (Baasha's house included his friends). A house represents all in it. Any of Ahab's family could escape the judgments by dissociating with Ahab and all that he stood for.

1 Kings 21:23 - **"the dogs shall eat Jezebel"** - Dogs were an abomination in Israel (Deut. 23:18; Isa. 66:3). They symbolised cruel and vicious men (Psa. 22:16-20; 59:6,14,15). Considered the lowest form of animal life (1 Sam. 24:14; 2 Sam. 3:8; 9:8; 16:9; Rev. 22:15) with despicable habits (Prov. 26:11), they were an extremely appropriate symbol for Jezebel. She was to suffer an even worse fate than Naboth (cp v19).

1 Kings 21:24 - see ch 14:11 (mgn).

#### **Jehu's Eradication Of All The Family Of Ahab**

1. 2 Kings 9:26 - He slew Jehoram the son of Ahab, and cast him in Naboth's field, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Elijah (1 Kg 21:29).
2. 2 Kings 9:27 - He ordered the slaying of Ahaziah, King of Judah, the son of Athaliah who was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.
3. 2 Kings 9:30-37 - He slew Jezebel in Jezreel and trod her under foot.
4. 2 Kings 10:1-10 - He terrified the men of Samaria, killing 70 of the sons of Ahab.
5. 2 Kings 10:12-14 - He killed 42 princes of the court of Ahaziah, King of Judah, all relatives of Ahab through Athaliah who had married the King of Judah.
6. 2 Kings 10:17 - He slew all those in Samaria connected with Ahab.
7. 2 Kings 10:18-28 - He completely wiped out the worshippers of Baal in Israel.

Mark at the top or bottom of 2 Kg 9

### **Bible Marking**

### **Ahab Repents (1 Kings 21:25-29)**

1 Kings 21:25 - **"whom Jezebel his wife stirred up"** - Ahab's great problem was his weakness, especially in the face of Jezebel his wife.

1 Kings 21:26 - **"as did the Amorites"** - The Amorites were destroyed when their iniquity was full (Gen 15:16). Now Ahab has made Israel like them. He has returned Judah to the ways of the Caananites whom their fathers had destroyed under Joshua.

1 Kings 21:27 - **"he rent his clothes"** - figuratively revealed that his feelings were uncovered.  
**"put sackcloth upon his flesh"** - Reprs mourning.

**"fasted"** - ie. afflicted himself.

**"lay in sackcloth"** - Thus publicly revealing his repentance.

**"went softly"** - Moffat has: "bore himself submissively", RSV has "dejectedly". He went about in a way that showed he was genuinely sorry for what he had done.

1 Kings 21:29 - **"Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me?"** - Ahab's wickedness was in the sight of Yahweh (v25), now he humbled himself and Yahweh saw also (Psa 139). It shows Yahweh to be a merciful God who is not a respecter of persons.

**"but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house."** - This message was publicly proclaimed in the hearing of Ahab's captains Jehu and Bidkar (2 Kg 9:25-26).

### **References:**

- Story of the Bible Vol 3 p 263-289
- Theological Word book of the Old Testament (TWOT)
- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
- The Kings of Israel and Judah (J Cowie) - Chapter on Ahab.