



1

1 Kings 20-22

- The failures of King Ahab and the opposition of God's word

2

¹ Now it came about after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money." ³ But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." ⁴ So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.

3

⁵ But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?" ⁶ So he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you a vineyard in its place.' But he said, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" ⁷ Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

4

⁸ So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city. ⁹ Now she wrote in the letters, saying, "Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people; ¹⁰ and seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him, saying, 'You cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."

5

¹¹ So the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent *word* to them, just as it was written in the letters which she had sent them. ¹² They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people. ¹³ Then the two worthless men came in and sat before him; and the worthless men testified against him, even against Naboth, before the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. ¹⁴ Then they sent *word* to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

6

¹⁵ When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." ¹⁶ When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.
(1 Kings 21:1-16)

7

Abuse & Injustice

1. Naboth: covenant-faithful
 - he values the land as an inheritance from Yahweh in accord with His covenant

8

²³ The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me. ²⁴ Thus for every piece of your property, you are to provide for the redemption of the land. (Lev. 25:23-24)

⁷ Thus no inheritance of the sons of Israel shall be transferred from tribe to tribe, for the sons of Israel shall each hold to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers. (Numbers 36:7)

9

Abuse & Injustice

2. Ahab: covenant-despising
 - the Lord's covenant inhibits his self-serving desires, leaving him angry and depressed

10

¹ What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? ² You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. (James 4:1-2)

11

Abuse & Injustice

3. Jezebel: covenant-ignoring
 - she epitomizes rule by expediency under the pretense of religion and law; leads to injustice and oppression

12

Abuse & Injustice

➤ Principle:

The righteous will suffer injustice, often by government authorities

13

¹⁷ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ¹⁸ "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth where he has gone down to take possession of it. ¹⁹ You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "Have you murdered and also taken possession?"' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours."' ²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found *you*, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD."

14

²¹ Behold, I will bring evil upon you, and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, both bond and free in Israel; ²² and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked *Me* to anger, and *because* you have made Israel sin. ²³ Of Jezebel also has the LORD spoken, saying, 'The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.' ²⁴ The one belonging to Ahab, who dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and the one who dies in the field the birds of heaven will eat."

15

²⁵ Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife incited him. ²⁶ He acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the sons of Israel.

(1 Kings 21:17-26)

16

Divine Justice

➤ God will bring ultimate justice

- Nothing is hidden from the Lord and none are exempt from His judgment
- God will intervene to bring justice to His afflicted people

17

⁶ For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and *to give* relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

(2 Thessalonians 1:6-8)

18

Divine Justice

- God will bring ultimate justice in Christ
 - both in His death and resurrection, and at His second coming
 - God offers a “just mercy” to all who trust in Christ alone

19

²⁷ It came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently. ²⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹ “Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, *but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son’s days.*”

(1 Kings 21:27-29)

20