

# **The Stolen Vineyard**

## **1 Kings 21**

### **Introduction**

The Tourist and the King of Jordan (He is not my king).

Reading about these Kings, we see the good, the bad and the ugly with these Kings of Israel and Judah.

They make us long for the one true King Jesus to come and reign in his rightful place.

Ahab reigned as King 22 years and historically he is remembered for many military conquests and infrastructure projects in Israel.

He is described in 1 Kings 16:33 “And Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the Kings of Israel that were before him.”

He is remembered in the Bible narrative for 2 realities (Jezebel and Naboth’s Vineyard)

Jezebel, Ahab’s wife, was the Zidonian princess and a fiercely wicked woman.

In chapters 18 and 19, she seeks to kill all the prophets of God and specifically threatens Elijah in chapter 19.

In Chapter 20, Ahab goes to war against Syria and defeats them victoriously. Nevertheless, Ahab instead of destroying Benhadad is enters a covenant of peace with him which angers God and his prophets.

In Chapter 21, we see an event that changed many lives involved.

### **Verses 1-4 The Pity Party**

1. Why was Ahab so angry?
2. He saw a vineyard at the base of his palace wall in Jezreel.
3. He wanted this vineyard and inquired of its owner
4. Naboth owned the vineyard.
5. He did not want to sell it for sentimental reasons
6. He did not want to sell it for lawful reasons.
7. God divided and gave out the land in the law
8. It was God’s land and Naboth’s family had owned it for generations.
9. Leviticus 25:10 You could not sell the inherited land to another.
10. He was told no and pouted in his bed and stopped eating.

## **Verses 5-16 The Evil Plan**

1. You are the King.
2. Arise and eat (verse 7).
3. She sent out letters forging Ahab's name.
4. Declare a fast because this is serious.
5. Two sons of Belial to set at his side.
6. Accused Naboth of Blasphemy and they stoned him.
7. She arranged the murder of an innocent man for the price of a vineyard.
8. Arise and take possession of the vineyard verse 15.

## **Verses 17-26 The Just Prophecy**

1. God spoke to Elijah.
2. Arise and go down and meet Ahab in Naboth's vineyard.
3. The dogs will lick up your blood where Naboth's blood was licked.
4. Verse 20 You have found me my enemy.
5. Sometimes wicked see the people of God as an interruption of their evil deeds.
6. What is it like to see God as your enemy and God's man as your enemy?
7. I am here because you have sold yourself to work in in the sight of the Lord.
8. I am cutting off your generations like Jeroboam.
9. Jezebel will die and the dogs will eat her carcass at the wall of Jezreel.
10. His wife stirred up the evil.
11. Sometimes evil is stirred up by and subtle and evil person in the background.
12. A just punishment is coming.

## **Verses 27-29 The Repentant Profession**

1. Ahab rent his clothes and put ashes on his head.
2. He fasted and sought repentance.
3. God came to Elijah.
4. Ahab has humbled himself before God.
5. God showed mercy to a repentant heart.
6. God will show mercy to one that seeks repentance.

## **Conclusion**

1. Evil is always at work.
2. People seek to play God at the expense of the innocent.
3. However, God is God and justly punish the wicked.
4. However, God will show mercy to a humble heart.

## **Challenge**

1. Do not fret over the evil in the world God will deal justly with evil.
2. Do not play God over the lives of others.
3. If you need repentance, you can find it if you seek God humbly.