

Elijah - Learning to Stand Tall for God

I Kings 21:1-29



4/16/2023 AM

Introduction:

Trusting in the Word of God (I Kings 17:1-24)
Fearing the Lord God (I Kings 18:1-19)
Fighting the Battles of God (I Kings 18:20-46)
Listening for the Voice of God (I Kings 19:1-18)
Identifying the Call of God (I Kings 19:19-21)
Learning to Stand Tall for God (I Kings 21:1-29)
Learning to Resist the Devil (II Kings 1:1-18)
Passing the Mantle (II Kings 2:1-14)

I. KING AHAB THROWS A TEMPER TANTRUM (vs. 1-7)

A. He makes a royal proposal. (vs. 1-3)

“it came about after these things...”

“Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria”

“Give me your vineyard...”

“The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.”

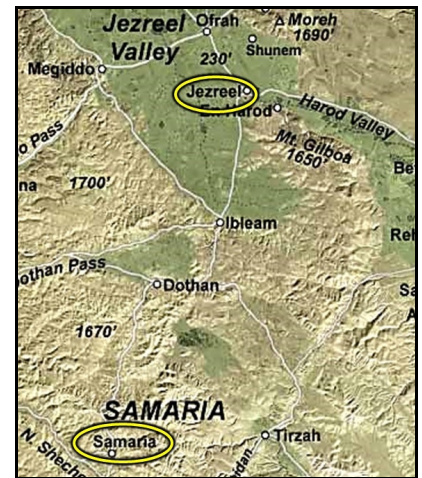
B. He goes into a royal pout. (vs. 4-7)

So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed...”

“he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food”

Jezebel: “How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?”

“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.”



II. QUEEN JEZEBEL TAKES CHARGE (vs. 8-16)

A. She hatches a plot. (vs. 8-10)

So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name...”

“Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth...and let them testify against him, saying, ‘You cursed God and the king.’”

“Then take him out and stone him to death.”

B. She pulls it off. (vs. 11-14)

“So the men of his city...did as Jezebel had sent word to them...”

“They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth...and the worthless men testified against him”

“ ‘Naboth cursed God and the king.’ So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.”

“Then they sent word to Jezebel, saying, ‘Naboth has been stoned and is dead.’ ”

C. She's ready for the next step. (vs. 15-16)

"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."

"When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it."

III. ENTER ELIJAH, THE PROPHET OF GOD (vs. 17-29)

A. He speaks in the name of the LORD. (vs. 17-19)

"Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite..."Go down to meet Ahab..."

"Thus says the LORD, 'Have you murdered and also taken possession?' "

"In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours."

B. He stands tall in the name of LORD. (vs. 20-26)

Ahab: "Have you found me, O my enemy?"

Elijah: "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD."

"Behold, I will bring evil upon you..."

"Of Jezebel also has the LORD spoken, saying, 'The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.' "

"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."

"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."

"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."

C. He is called upon to administer God's grace. (vs. 27-29)

"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."

"Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, '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."

Conclusion:

Food for Thought:

- 1) What sins was King Ahab guilty of? Explain.
- 2) Was Naboth right in refusing Ahab's reasonable offer for his land? Why or why not?
- 3) What does it mean to "sell yourself to do evil"?
- 4) What does the Bible say about humbling yourself? Was Ahab's reaction genuine?