

**BOOK OF 1 KINGS**  
**AHAB SECURES NABOTH'S VINEYARD**  
**1 KINGS 21:4-16**

**Introduction**

Last time we saw Ahab acting like a spoiled brat when he didn't get his way! Naboth, his neighbor, had a vineyard that Ahab wanted, but Naboth would not sell it to him for any price!

**We said that Ahab's behavior in our text here points to a major flaw in his character! Anyone that has an attitude that pouts and manipulates until they get their way, has a major character flaw that needs to be repented of and forsaken!**

**Ahab has what I call the “spoiled brat syndrome” that needs to be seen for what it is! It is SIN! The LORD can give victory over that sin to those that know Him and want the victory!**

**AHAB'S COVETOUSNESS (i.e. his LACK OF CONTENTMENT of what he had) led to what we see happening here! Ahab was not content even with all he had as king! We see his response to Naboth's refusal to deal with him. He was “heavy and displeased” (i.e. sad and mad) and so he lay down on his bed and refused to eat! He was pouting like a child!**

**Naboth, on the other hand, had learned to be content with what he had and was not willing to compromise God's Word to get more!**

Tonight we will see how this “spoiled brat syndrome” of Ahab's—this *covetousness* and *lack of contentment*—led to conspiracy, forgery, lying, and murder.

**May the LORD help us to understand how covetousness and discontentment are great sins and what they can lead to if they are not put out of one's life!**

**So, let's move further into this story tonight:**

**Let's begin by reading verses 4-7!**

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- I. WE SEE JEZEBEL'S CONVERSATION WITH AHAB! (Vs 5-7)**  
**It is easy to see who is calling the shots in this relationship!**  
It certainly wasn't Ahab!

**We have seen previously how Jezebel was not good for Ahab or the nation of Israel! (1 Kings 16:30-33)**

**Jezebel's wickedness only served to enhance and multiply Ahab's own wickedness! How sad that she was in such a powerful and influential position in Israel!**

*Proverbs 18:3 – “When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt [i.e. disrespect], and with ignominy [i.e. disgrace] reproach.”*

**Jezebel had a contempt and hatred of the LORD God and the Prophets of the LORD God and she had a love for everything that went against the LORD God (especially Baal worship)!**

*Proverbs 29:2 – “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”*

**With this wicked duo ruling Israel, there is little wonder that the nation had strayed so far away from the LORD!**

**This relationship between these two should be a caution to those who are looking to marry! Be very careful how you choose a mate! A mate can have and usually does have a great effect on one's life! That can be to the positive! But can also be to the negative!**

**Anyway, Jezebel went to check on her husband! I guess word got around in the palace of Ahab's sad state of affairs! In *verse 5*, she questioned him about the source of his depression and why he wasn't eating.**

When Ahab explained his whiny sad tale of not getting his way with Naboth there in *verse 6*, Jezebel basically lit into him here in *verse 7*!

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*“Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel...”* She is mocking him for being king and allowing one of his subjects to get the best of him!

Then she tells him to get out of the bed...eat something...and get happy and that she would get him the vineyard of Naboth!

She was going to show Ahab that she was a bigger man than he was! She didn't say how she was going to do it, but Ahab had to know that it wasn't going to end well for Naboth!

**II. WE SEE JEZEBEL'S EVIL CONSPIRACY AGAINST NABOTH! (Vs 8-10)**

Jezebel's name, before she ruined it, meant *“chaste, free from carnal connection,”* but she was one of the most licentious women ever known being all about Baal and the worship of Baal which was known for its association with immorality! No name could have been more inappropriate!

She was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians, who was both king and priest of Baal worshipers. So she wasn't even an Israelite!

Ahab sinned against the LORD in taking as wife the daughter of a man whose name, Ethbaal, meant, “A Man of Baal.”

**Accordingly, Jezebel had nothing but contempt for Naboth and the LORD!**

**In fact, if Jezebel had detected at all that Naboth's adherence to the Word of God was the reason for his not selling his vineyard to Ahab, it would have only multiplied her contempt for both Naboth and the LORD!**

Nevertheless, we see that poor Naboth was set up by Jezebel here! He was framed for a fall! We see that forgery, perjury, conspiracy, and murder was the plan of the day! She had no scruples!

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Wicked Jezebel set this up to make it look like Ahab was the one calling for this to happen! (Vs 8) What a piece of work she was!

God's Word says in *Proverbs 3:29*—*“Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.”*

Jesus said later that to love your neighbor as yourself was the second greatest commandment just behind the first commandment which is Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength ! (Referring to the Old Testament Law given to Moses and Israel!)

These commandments meant nothing to the heathen Jezebel! She could not have cared any less than she did about what Jehovah and His followers would have to say about what she was doing!

**III. WE SEE JEZEBEL'S PLAN AGAINST NABOTH CARRIED OUT! (Vs 11-13)**

**Naboth was falsely accused by two men** who are described as *“sons of Belial”* in one verse and *“children of Belial”* in another. That phrase means they were **worthless, wicked men!** No doubt, they were paid handsomely for their lies!

**So, Naboth was accused of blasphemy, which was a stoning offense. We find out later that Naboth's sons were stoned too! They were the rightful heirs so they had to die too!**

*2 Kings 9:26*—*“Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the Lord; and I will requite thee in this plat, [i.e. portion] saith the Lord. Now therefore take and cast him into the plat of ground, according to the word of the Lord.”*

Oh what a tangled web we see here! One might ask the question, ***“Where is God in all of this?”*** **Why didn't the Lord intervene on Naboth's behalf who suffered here for doing the right thing?**

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We need to realize again that **nothing happens unless God permits it to happen**. In God's wisdom, Naboth was allowed to die, just like the Christians in Rome were in the days of the Caesars!

**Whenever God's children suffer for righteousness sake, God will reward them.** God has preserved the truth of Naboth's character for over 3000 years here in the pages of Scripture!

**Naboth is a type or picture of the Lord Jesus Christ here.**

1. **Each was tempted to disobey God and part with an inheritance.** *Matthew 4:9 – “And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”*
2. **Both refused the voice of the tempter.**
3. **Both were falsely accused by false witnesses put forth by those who sought their deaths.**
4. **Both were charged with blasphemy of God and the king.**  
*Matthew 26:65 – “Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.”*  
  
*Luke 23:1-2 – “And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.”*
5. **Both were put to death by violent hands.**  
*Acts 2:23—“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”*

So in these five ways we see Naboth as a type of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Ahab's covetousness and discontentment robbed Naboth and his family of what was rightfully theirs!  
And we are going to see that Ahab and Jezebel were on the LORD's list of retribution which is never a good place to be!

Listen, when we allow ourselves to be discontented and covetous, it can take us where we never intended or expected it to!

**IV. WE SEE AHAB TAKE POSSESSION OF NABOTH'S VINEYARD! (Vs 14-16)**

Jezebel heard that her evil deed had been carried out! And so **she told Ahab to go get his vineyard, because Naboth was dead!**

Talk about your cold-blooded psychopaths! Jezebel was exactly that!

Now get this, since Naboth was accused of being a traitor and killed. His sons were also killed to prevent any appeals to property rights. So, the land became the property of the throne...it became Ahab's!  
**Ahab gained the land, but he did it by the treachery of Jezebel!**

**This was an unjust gain that the Bible warns us about.** Money or gain that is acquired by corruption, cheating, deception, or treachery has a stigma attached to it and contains a burden, not a blessing.

*Proverbs 21:6 – “The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.”*

In other words, it's a vanity, i.e. a fleeting fantasy. Dreams will not be satisfied. The replay of how they got their gain will be on their mind!

*Proverbs 22:16—He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches... shall surely come to want.*

This unjust gain leads to loss, emptiness, and want! When all is said and done, it will not satisfy!

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*Jeremiah 17:11 – “As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.”*

**Every time Ahab walked next door to his new vineyard, do you think that possibly his mind would ever think about Naboth and what Jezebel had done to secure Naboth's vineyard for himself?**

Maybe not, but Ahab would have had to be as heartless and as much of a psychopath as Jezebel for it not to bother him at all! And personally, I don't really see that here or he would have taken things into his own hands in the first place!

**One who is on the receiving end of an unjust gain will not get to fully enjoy that unjust gain and will be a fool in the end.**

This was the case with Ahab. Oh Ahab got his vineyard alright, but he was not really able to enjoy it as we will see, Lord willing, next week!

We're going to see the LORD send the Prophet Elijah to pay Ahab another visit! Can you imagine the look on Ahab's face when Elijah showed up? Elijah is NOT the one Ahab wanted to see!