

Week 8 Elijah the Prophet.

Wednesday Bible Study

Naboth's Vineyard 1 Kings 21

1. Ahab: the bored covetous king.. 1 Kings 21:1-4

This story is similar to the story of David and Bathsheba. (2 Sam 11). A king who looks out over the area around his palace and sees someone or something that he wants. In David's case it was another man's wife— in Ahab's case it is another man's land and vineyard.

Coveting is a sin that can run in the background of a life, rooted in pride and accompanied by envy, lust and jealousy. A sin if uncorrected, when opportunity arises, can result in his day, Ahab continued to have no regard for the law of God it is not his joy, unlike David (Psalm 119:97). He only sees himself— and what he desires. Deut.17:14-20. Interestingly, however, he doesn't break God's law. He just acts like a baby so his wife will do the evil for him.



2. Naboth: the faithful Israelite. 1 Kings 21:1-4

Naboth does not want to sell his land— It is linked to his ancestors and their inheritance from the Lord in the promised land. Numbers 36:7-9 (Naboth was from the Tribe of Issachar, Ahab more than likely was of the tribe of Manasseh.)

3. Jezebel, the agent of the enemy of Israel. 1 Kings 21:5-16

The Phoenician Kings were despots. To Jezebel it was ridiculous that Ahab would deprive himself of anything he wanted and act in such a way. She is really running the kingdom. Without her influence Ahab may have been better than he was. Where she was from, the kings just took from their people. So she actually moves as if she were the king (with Ahab's consent) and sets about a conspiracy to have Naboth falsely accused. She even veils it in piety (calling a fast) and uses the Israelite law to get it done. (Deut. 19:15). It is a story as old as human history itself. Jealousy, envy, covetousness leads to a murder. (James 4:2-4).

4. God, The witness and Judge of all things. 1 Kings 21: 17-28

Though the conspiracy was done behind closed doors, God is watching and he will repay. These reads once again like the story of David and Bathsheba. In that account Nathan is confronting David. (2 Samuel 12) In this incident, Ahab is confronted by Elijah. In both cases, their sons will suffer the consequences for the sins of their fathers. Ahab will be spared somewhat however Dogs will lick his blood. (1 Kings 22:37-38) Ahab sold himself spiritually to enjoy sin for a season. (contrast with Moses: Heb. 11: 24,25)

Jezebel was prophesied to be killed and eaten by Dogs. Which did happen. She was unable to be properly buried. 2 Kings 9:30-37. Psalm 37:7-13 is a fitting passage to end this weeks study.