### 1 Kings

## Chapter 21

1Then there came the matter of the vineyard of NabOth the JezreElite.  
  
His vineyard was located near the threshing floor of King Ahab of Samaria [the northern 10-tribe Kingdom of Israel]. 2And Ahab had spoken to NabOth and asked him to trade vineyards with him, because [NabOth’s vineyard] was close to his palace, and he wanted it as a vegetable garden.  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘I’ll give you another very-good vineyard for it; or if you prefer, we can discuss terms and I’ll buy if from you, because I need it for a vegetable garden.’  
  
3But NabOth replied:  
  
 ‘No, I could never give it to you, because this is the inheritance that my God gave to my ancestors.’  
  
4Well, this matter bothered Ahab so much that he just went to bed, covered his face, and refused to eat.  
  
5So his wife JezeBel went to him and asked:  
  
 ‘Why is your spirit so disturbed, and why are you refusing to eat?’  
  
6And he said:  
  
 ‘I spoke to NabOth (the JezreElite) and asked him to sell me his vineyard… I offered to trade him another good one for it, but he said that he doesn’t want to give me the inheritance of his ancestors.’  
  
7Then his wife JezeBel said:  
  
 ‘Aren’t you the king of IsraEl?!  
  
 ‘Get up, eat, and start acting like yourself!  
  
 ‘I’ll give you the vineyard of NabOth the JezreElite!’  
  
8So she wrote a letter and [forged] Ahab’s name to it, put his seal on it, and then she sent it to the elders and free men who lived near NabOth.  
  
9In it, she wrote:  
  
 ‘I want you to declare a fast, and I want NabOth to be in charge over the people!’  
  
10Then she assigned two sons of convicted criminals to work with him, who were to accuse him of blaspheming God and the king, and then take him out to be stoned to death.  
  
11And that’s what happened.  
  
The men who lived in his city (the elders and free men to whom JezeBel sent the letter) 12called for a fast, and they appointed NabOth to be in charge... 13Then the two men who were sons of convicts and who sat right across from him, accused him of blaspheming God and the king, and they led him out of the city to be stoned to death.  
  
14So they sent a message to JezeBel that said:  
  
 ‘NabOth has been stoned and now he’s dead.’  
  
15Then when JezeBel got the message, she said to Ahab:  
  
 ‘Now, get up and take the vineyard that NabOth (the JezreElite) refused to sell you, because NabOth is dead!’  
  
16So when Ahab heard that NabOth had died, he went and claimed the field as his own inheritance.  
  
  
17Thereafter, the Lord spoke to EliJah (the Tishbite) and said:  
  
 ‘Get up and go to Samaria to meet with King Ahab of IsraEl.  
  
 18{Look!} You’ll find him in the vineyard of NabOth, where he’s gone to claim it as his own inheritance!  
  
 19‘Speak to him and tell him that Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘Because you had to murder someone to inherit this field; everywhere that the pigs and dogs licked the blood of NabOth, they’ll also lick up your blood, and whores will bathe in your blood!’  
  
20So EliJah went to [King] Ahab, and Ahab said to him:  
  
 ‘O my enemy, I see that you’ve found me!’  
  
21And EliJah replied:  
  
 ‘Yes, I’ve found you, because you’ve acted foolishly and sold yourself into wickedness before Jehovah, making him angry!  
  
 [‘For he says:]  
  
 ‘{Look!} Bad things, I’m bringing upon you.  
 To come after you, I’ll start a fire!  
  
 ‘Those of Ahab urinating against a wall,  
 I shall destroy completely.  
  
 ‘[Even] the one who is [by illness] constrained,  
 [Even] the very last one remaining in [all] Israel!  
  
 22‘I’ll make your house like that of JeroBoam son of NaBat,  
 And as that of BaAsha, son of AhiJah.  
  
 ‘Since you provoked Me to anger  
 And led IsraEl into sin!’  
  
 23‘And about JezeBel, Jehovah says this:  
  
 ‘The dogs shall devour her  
 Next to JezreEl’s city walls.’  
  
 24‘Anyone of Ahab who dies in the city  
 The dogs shall eat.  
  
 ‘And anyone who dies in the field  
 The birds of the skies shall eat!’  
  
25Yes, Ahab acted very foolishly when he sold himself into these wicked deeds before Jehovah through the perversions of his woman, JezeBel. 26All of his actions were disgusting… He even started doing the disgusting things that Amorites did, those whom Jehovah drove away from before the sons of IsraEl.  
  
27Well, after [EliJah] said these things, Ahab became very repentant before Jehovah... He started crying and ripping his clothes; then he tied sackcloth around his body and fasted, and he kept on wearing the sackcloth from the day that NabOth the JezreElite was killed.  
  
28So Jehovah spoke to EliJah (the Tishbite) and said:  
  
 29‘I see that Ahab is repentant; therefore, I’m not going to bring the evil upon him during his lifetime... However, I will bring it during his son’s time, and upon his house.’