

SOUR GRAPES FOR AHAB. 1 KN. 21:17-29. 5/14/23. #58.

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17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who *lives* in Samaria. There *he is*, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. "You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?"' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours."'"

18 So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord: "Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. "I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin." And concerning Jezebel the Lord also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field."

19 But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel. So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning. And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house."

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1. The Grapes of Wrath

- a. Ahab was enjoying the vineyard he stole from Naboth after Ahab's wife engineered his death
 - a1. Ahab seemed to be a simple man, who, like Bathsheba, was easily swayed
 - a2. Jezebel had complete control over him
- b. God tells Elijah to meet Ahab in Naboth's vineyard
 - a1. Elijah is given a message to deliver
 - a2. El. has recovered from his fear of Jezebel
- c. When Ahab sees Elijah, he calls him "his enemy"
 - a1. Akin to calling God his enemy
 - a2. Ahab opposed righteousness, obeying God's Law, serving God, & justice
- d. A selfish king is an evil king
- e. Elijah informs Ahab of his punishment:
 - a1. Ahab had already been told that his life would be forfeited in the place of Ben H.
 - a2. All of Ahab's male relatives would die
 - a3. Where the dogs licked Naboth's blood, they would lick Ahab's blood
 - a4. The dogs would lick Jezebel's blood by the wall to the palace

2. One flesh for better or worse

- a. God stated that Ahab's fate will be like that of both Jeroboam & Baasha, who had stirred God to wrath
 - a1. Ahab had not learned from these examples
 - a2. The same sins reap the same judgment
 - a3. Biblical examples are to instruct us
- b. God mentions that Jezebel had stirred up Ahab to do evil (killing the prophets, idol worship...)
 - a1. Ahab was responsible to rule for God to do what is right
 - a2. By choosing Jezebel as a wife he chose an ungodly partner with a dominating personality
 - a3. Ahab was still responsible to run his home
- c. Men who chose their life partners unwisely paid the price for it: Solomon, Herod, Potiphar, Hosea
- d. Godly women enhance their husbands: Ruth, Esther, Priscilla, Elizabeth...

3. Mercy to the humbled

- a. Unlike the sulking Ahab did after told that his life would be taken in the place of Ben Hadad's & when Naboth refused to sell him his land, Ahab humbled himself before the Lord
 - a1. This was not true repentance (fear)
 - a2. After the fear wears off, Ahab sins
- b. God responded with grace at this show of remorse & humility
 - a1. God tells Elijah that because Ahab showed some humility He would delay implementing his judgment during Ahab's son's rule
 - a2. God shows mercy even at the slightest sign of humility so as to encourage true repentance (Rom. 2)
- c. Ahab is given the opportunity to repent, but unlike David, he does not take it
 - a1. Often God sends warnings before judgment
 - a2. Saul, Solomon, Balaam = given warnings
- d. Ahab also had prior examples from prior men
- e. Prior history & experience are sufficient cautions