

Setting

Locate the following places on the Bible map:

- Jezreel
- Samaria

Key Terms and People

Naboth: Jezreelite who owned a vineyard near King Ahab’s property.

Ahab: Seventh king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Jezebel: Wife of King Ahab and daughter of Ethbaal, king of Sidon.

Elijah: Prophet of God from Tishbe. His name means “My God is Yahweh.”

Story Moments

Ahab and Naboth

21:1–3. What does Naboth have that Ahab wants? Why does he want it? _____

What does Ahab offer Naboth? _____

How does Naboth reply to Ahab’s offer? _____

21:4–6. Describe Ahab’s reaction to Naboth’s answer: _____

How does Jezebel describe Ahab’s attitude? _____

21:7. What is Jezebel’s solution to Ahab’s disappointment? _____

21:8–14. What plan does Jezebel propose for securing Naboth’s vineyard for Ahab?

Note: By writing letters in his name, Jezebel was acting on Ahab’s behalf.

- Proclaim a _____
- Find two _____¹
to serve as witnesses²



- Accuse Naboth of _____
- Take Naboth out and _____ him

21:15–16. What does Jezebel encourage Ahab to do now that Naboth is dead? _____

How does Ahab respond to Jezebel’s instructions? _____

Elijah Visits Ahab

21:17–19. Who does God call to confront Ahab about his treachery? _____

Where does he find King Ahab? _____

What judgment does the LORD pronounce on Ahab? _____

¹ “Scoundrel” in Hebrew is *Belial*, or “son of wickedness.” This word is used in Nahum 1:11 as a “wicked” counselor and in 2 Corinthians 6:15 as a name for Satan.

² On the Old Testament law requirements for witnesses, see Deuteronomy 19:15.

21:20–24. What name does Ahab call Elijah? “O my _____.”

What accusation does Elijah bring against Ahab? “You have _____.”

Elijah says that Ahab’s house will be like the house of _____. Is this good news or bad news (see 1 Kings 15:29–30)?

What does Elijah prophesy about Jezebel? _____

Note: the dogs eating Jezebel means that her body would be left in the elements and not given a proper burial. The same disgraceful fate was given to the family of Jeroboam (1 Kings 14:11) and Baasha (1 Kings 16:4).

Ahab’s Repentance

21:25–26. How does the narrator describe Ahab’s choices? _____

What influence did Jezebel have on Ahab’s behavior? _____

21:27–29. How does Ahab respond to the word of the LORD from Elijah? _____

Why does the Lord show mercy to Ahab? _____

How does the Lord show mercy to Ahab? _____

Ask Yourself

When he does not get his way, King Ahab throws a temper tantrum, pouting and feeling sorry for himself. How do I react when I do not get my own way? How can I submit to God’s ways for my life instead of insisting on my own way? How can I demonstrate that submission?

Is Ahab less responsible for his sin because he has others sin on his behalf? Can you think of any other biblical characters who commit similar sins?

Ahab is especially wicked because his wife “[stirs] him up” (21:25) to do evil. How does her influence reveal the importance of avoiding evil friends and partnering with those who love God? See Proverbs 1:15–16; 4:14–15; 2 Corinthians 6:14.

God shows mercy to Ahab and allows him to live. Mercy is often defined as “not getting what I deserve.” What are specific ways God has shown me mercy?

Cross References

Deuteronomy 19:15

One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

1 Kings 15:29–30

²⁹And it was so, when he became king, *that* he killed all the house of Jeroboam. He did not leave to Jeroboam anyone that breathed, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite, ³⁰because of the sins of Jeroboam, which he had sinned and by which he had made Israel sin, because of his provocation with which he had provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger.

Proverbs 1:15–16

¹⁵ My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path;

¹⁶ For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood.

Proverbs 4:14-15

¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil.

¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?