

4/31/11

Ahab, All Is Not Enough
1Kings 21:1-29

Ahab as just returned from the battle against the king of Syria, Ben-Hadad, sullen and displeased having heard judgment pronounced over him by the prophet of God, because he disobeyed God and spared the king of Syria.

Ahab was an evil man, who respected no one, cared for no one and used everyone for his purposes, pleasure and promotion of evil!

His name is synonymous with evil and though he has been confronted by God through the prophet Elijah many times regarding his evil, it did not deter him from continuing to do evil.

The account before us records the murder of Naboth in order to possess his vineyard by Ahab and Jezebel, which developed in three movements:
1Kings 21:1-29

- I.** The intimidating proposal of Ahab to buy the vineyard. vs. 1-4
- II.** The brazen evil plot of Jezebel to obtain the vineyard. vs. 5-16
- III.** The prophetic judgment over Ahab and Jezebel for their evil to obtain the vineyard. vs. 17-29

I. The intimidating proposal of Ahab to buy the vineyard. vs. 1-4

A. The particular time and situation is stated.
vs. 1

- 1.** The time was when Ahab had returned from the battle against Ben-Hadad, the king of Syria, indicated by the phrase, “And it came to pass after these things.”

vs. 1a

- a.** This points to the previous chapter, God had commanded Ahab to kill the King of Syria, but spared him. vs. 33
- b.** He also made a treaty with Ben-Hadad and set up a market-place in Syria. vs. 34
- c.** God sent a prophet to pronounce judgment over his life and the people by the authority of heaven, “Thus says the LORD”. vs. 42

- d.** Ahab returned to his house in Samaria sullen and displeased. vs. 43

1) The word sullen “car” stubborn and resentful.

2) The word displeased “za’eph”, means angry and raging.

- 2.** The situation at hand was that Naboth had a vineyard in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. vs. 1b-c

- a. The name of Naboth “Nabowth” means fruits and is identified with his home-town, “the Jezreelite”.
 - b. The city of Jezreel was 25 miles away from Samaria, at the based of Mount Gilboa, on the eastern side of the valley called Jezreel.
 - c. The vineyard of Naboth was close to the royal palace of Ahab.
 - * The place Ahab had fled to, after Elijah he killed the prophets of Baal and called for rain. 1Kings 18
- B.** The prompt order was presented to Naboth by Ahab himself. vs. 2
- 1. This was not a friendly business offer, but a command by Ahab to Naboth, “Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, “Give me your vineyard”. vs. 2a-c
 - a. The word give “nathan” is an imperative, demanding the vineyard.
 - b. Remember Ahab has returned resentful and angry from the battle against Ben-Hadad.
 - c. He is evil, as it is and he just does not have anything to do and wants to intimidate and impose his will on Naboth.
 - 2. The intent of Ahab for the vineyard was stated, “that I may have it for a vegetable

garden, because it is near, next to my house.” vs. 2d-f

- a. Ahab had all that he wanted and more, but he wanted one more vineyard, just because of it’s convenience of location, next to his house.
 - b. Ahab had no regards for the family value of possessing it for generation after generation, he only cared about his next project!
3. The conditions were stated also by Ahab. vs. 2g-j
- a. He was willing to swap vineyards, “and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it.” vs. 2g
 - 1) Notice, Ahab was not concerned with losing a better quality vineyard.
 - 2) Ahab had so much, he valued nothing, he just wanted it!
 - b. He was willing to pay financially, “Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money.” vs. 2h-j
 - 1) The offer was not wrong or evil, in itself, it was a fair offer!
 - 2) The problem was in his bully tactics, being the King and Naboth a common Israelite.

- C.** The prompt response of Naboth to Ahab was to refuse the command slash offer. vs. 3
- 1.** Naboth expressed the evil of such a consideration by the witness of God, “But Naboth said to Ahab, “The LORD forbid.” vs. 3a-b
 - a.** The word LORD is Yahweh, the personal name of God, whom Naboth had made a covenant with.
 - b.** The very God who defeated the 400 prophets of Baal and declared judgment over the house of Ahab.
 - 2.** Naboth expressed the personal evil he would be committing in accepting such a proposal, “That I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you.” vs. 3b
 - a.** Naboth had the right of refusal, according to the Law. Lev. 25:23-28 Num. 36:7
 - b.** Naboth was very courageous, for he was not ignorant to the evil of Ahab and Jezebel.
- D.** The pouting anger of Ahab over Naboth’s refusal of sale. vs. 4
- 1.** Ahab returned to his house in Samaria, but not very happy, So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased, due to the words of Naboth. vs. 4a-c
 - a.** He went home sullen “car”, stubborn and resentful. vs. 4a

- b.** He went home displeased “za’eph” angry and raging. vs. 4a
 - c.** The very same words to indicate his displeasure when he returned from the battle under the judgment of God, but this time it was due to the words of Naboth, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” vs. 4b-c
- 2.** Ahab went home and pouted like a little boy. vs. 4d-e
 - a.** He laid down on his bed, incensed and furious over Naboth’s denial. vs. 4d
 - b.** He turned away his face, probably to the wall. vs. 4e
 - c.** He would eat no food, being so insulted worked up. vs. 4f

Illustration

The Democrat President, Franklin Roosevelt, introduced the Social Security (FICA) Program. He promised:

- 1.** That participation in the Program would be completely voluntary.
- 2.** That the participants would only have to pay 1% of the first \$1,400 of their annual incomes into the Program,
- 3.** That the money the participants elected to put into the Program would be deductible from their income for tax purposes each year,

4. That the money the participants put into the Independent 'Trust Fund' rather than into the General Operating Fund, and therefore, would only be used to fund the Social Security Retirement Program, and no other government program.

5. That the annuity payments to the retirees would never be taxed as income.

* Those who have paid into FICA for years and are now receiving a Social Security check every month --and then finding that we are getting taxed on 85% of the money we paid to the federal government to 'put away and penalized if you have other income!

Application

1. The sin of abusive power by those who occupy the public trust is not ignored by God.

a. Corrupt Public School Education

Administrators, who rob us our tax money and rob our children of an education.

b. The city officials and mayors that serve themselves and attempt to destroy all who would stop them.

c. The state governors, senator, representative, who make sweet deals with enrich themselves.

d. The Presidents, Vice Presidents, Dictators, who have not the people and their nation at heart.

* "Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore

the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God." Eccl. 8:11-13

e. The common person in society, who has no ethics or morals is out for self.

* "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." Heb. 4:12-13

2. The sin of covetousness is destructive.

a. It is the tenth Commandment, "You shall not **covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not **covet** your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's." Ex. 20:17

* Covetousness is the desire longing for to have what is not yours and forbidden and it is a horrible and destructive sin!

- b. The record of the sin of covetousness is abundant for our warning and learning.
 - 1) Korah and Dathan attempted to usurp the leadership and priesthood from Moses and Aaron. Num. 16
 - 2) Achan took of the accused thing. Josh. 7
 - 3) David took Uriah's wife, Bathsheba and murdered Uriah. 2Sam. 11
 - 4) Amnon raped his sister Tamar. 2Sam. 13
- b. How many Christians have fallen prey to the covetousness, to their own regret and ruin!
 - 1) Paul told the Colossians, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness**, which is idolatry." Col 3:5
 - 2) Let your conduct be without **covetousness**; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Heb. 13:5

The intimidating proposal of Ahab to buy the vineyard was refused by Naboth!

II. The brazen evil plot of Jezebel to obtain the vineyard. vs. 5-16

- A. Jezebel inquired from Ahab the reason for his gloom condition. vs. 5-6

1. Jezebel came into the bedchamber where Ahab was pouting. vs. 5
 - a. She approached Ahab, "But Jezebel his wife came to him." vs. 5a
 - b. She inquired over his depressed condition, "and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" vs. 5b-c
 2. Ahab related his encounter with Naboth, regarding the vineyard. vs. 6
 - a. He told her of his proposal, "said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.'" vs. 5a-g
 - b. He told her also his answer, "And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" vs. 5h-i
- B.** Jezebel humiliated Ahab and had a plan to take possession of the vineyard. vs. 7-10
1. Jezebel mocked and ridiculed Ahab over his refusal to exercise his kingly authority, "Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel!" vs. 7a-b
 - a. She probably looked at Ahab with a condescending look, without doubt, staring him down.

- b. She was saying, “You are the King and you are not acting like it!”
 - * She always provoked him towards evil, “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.” 1Kings 21:25
- 2. Jezebel in affect declared she would obtain the vineyard for him. vs. 7c-f
 - a. She told him quit pouting and not to concern himself about the matter, “Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful.” vs. 7c-e
 - b. She declared to Ahab with all certainty and authority, “I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.” vs. 7f
- 3. Jezebel made plans to confiscate the vineyard of Naboth. vs. 8-10
 - a. She sent a letter off in the name of Ahab, bearing his seal on it to the elders and nobles at the city of Jezreel, where Naboth lived. vs. 8
 - b. The letter commanded them to proclaim a fast, giving to Naboth the place of honor. vs. 9
 - c. They were to also seat two scoundrels before him to charge him with speaking blasphemous of God and Ahab the King. vs. 10a-e

- * The word scoundrels “b@liya’al”, means sons of Beliel, dishonest, worthless men.
 - d. Then they were to take him out and stone him to death. vs. 10f-h
 - * The stoning was as prescribed by the Law. Lev. 24:13-16
- C. Jezebel’s evil plan was carried out. vs. 11-13
- 1. The men, elders and nobles of the city carried out every detail of the letter sent by Jezebel. vs. 11
 - a. The men were evil going along with the plan.
 - b. The elders and nobles were corrupt leaders to for doing the evil of the King and Queen.
 - 2. The plan was implemented and Naboth was stoned to death. vs. 12-13
 - a. The fast was proclaimed and Naboth was seated with high honors among the people. vs. 12
 - b. The two scoundrels witnesses against Naboth that he blasphemed and took him out and stoned him , so he died. vs. 13
 - * All as the law required. Deut. 17:6-7
 - 3. The elders sent notice to Jezebel, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead.” vs. 14

- a. They never even questioned that it was wrong.
- b. They simply went along with the evil of those in authority over them.

D. Jezebel handed over to Ahab the vineyard of Naboth. vs. 15-16

1. Jezebel hearing the news about Naboth's death, told Ahab to go possess it. vs. 15
 - a. She rubs it in the face of Ahab again, "Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money." vs. 15a-f
* The implication is that the children of Naboth were also put to death and recorded so, there being no heirs left. 2Kings 9:26
 - b. She showed him the Kingly authority he should of exercised, "For Naboth is not alive, but dead." vs. 15g
* We can understand from the human perspective, why Elijah ran for his life!
2. Ahab hearing, arose and took possession of the vineyard of Naboth. vs. 16
 - a. He was not bothered by the murder of Naboth and his family, "So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead." vs. 16a

- b. He simply claimed his prize, "that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." vs. 16b

Illustration

Nothing has changed when it comes to those in authority to rule. Democrat President Lyndon Johnson **and the Democratically-controlled House and Senate** took Social Security from the Independent 'Trust Fund' and put it in to the General Fund so that Congress could spend it, contradicting Franklin Roosevelt's promise!
* Then Democrat Vice President of the U.S. Al Gore cast the breaking deciding vote, as the President of the Senate, to eliminated the income tax deduction for Social Security, FICA, withholding?

Application

1. The greatest increase in criminal behavior is among women. Article Oct. 22, 2009, James Slack
 - a. Violent crime committed by women has soared since Labour came to power.
 - b. The number of women found guilty of murder, vicious assault and other attacks has risen by 81 per cent since 1998.
 - c. The massive increase, revealed in the Government's own data, means that women are now being convicted at the rate of more than 200 every week.

- d.** Murders have more than doubled, life-threatening woundings are up by a fifth and common assault has soared by 151 per cent.
- e.** Police are warning that the rise is a legacy of the 'ladette' culture, which they say has fuelled an unprecedented escalation in the severity of female crime.
- f.** They blame increasing levels of drunkenness brought about by 24-hour licensing and cultural pressure for women to behave more like men.
- g.** Women are fast becoming as likely as men to be caught up in alcohol-fuelled violence in bars and town centers.
- h.** Dr. David Green, director of the Civitas think-tank, said: 'The idea of a violent woman really was something of an oddity 15 or 20 years ago.'
- i.** 'But there has been a trend among a distinct minority of young females to become more like men, and the role models they have chosen to emulate are the worst men, rather than the best.'
- j.** Add to that the drinking, and that adds up to more violence.'
- k.** Concerned Women for America's executive vice president, Wendy Wright, believes a link exists between the higher rate of women criminals and what she calls the feminist agenda, a movement away from traditional roles and relationships for women toward an

emphasis on so-called female independence and empowerment. Oct. 27, 2005

* "It's the breaking away from traditional values -- the kind of lifestyle that has been proven through centuries to work best," Wright contends. "By throwing that away, what we're seeing is an increase in violence, an increase in the number of women who are pushed into activities that they may not have been otherwise. The disheartening trend toward female criminal behavior is directly related to the promotion of "radical individualism," a concept that she asserts has been pushed by extreme feminists for decades and that "particularly targets women and says women should not be dependent on others."

- 2.** The treachery that we witness on a daily basis in our American society is shocking.
 - a.** Women kill their babies in the womb for the sake of not having their immoral life-styles interrupted.
 - b.** There is no civility and kindness by the majority of our society towards other, but rather a self-assertive, brazen arrogant hostile attitude, if a person does not get their way or is confronted for their actions.
 - c.** Integrity, honesty and trust. are virtues of the past and view as weakness in a person.

- d. The level of corruption by those in authority and the common person today, is the result of waste, fraud and theft is out of control.
* “There is a **way** that seems **right** to a man,
But its end is the **way** of death.” Prov. 16:25

3. Think about the big economic collapses at the end of 2008.

- a. No one from the mortgage companies went to jail.
- b. No one in the banking industry went to jail.
- c. No one in government went to jail.
- d. But all American who owned a home or retirement lost a great portion of their life work and savings.
* “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil **continually**.” Gen. 6:5

The brazen evil plot of Jezebel to obtain the vineyard was executed!

III. The prophetic judgment over Ahab and Jezebel for their evil to obtain the vineyard. vs. 17-29

- A. God spoke to Elijah to go confront Ahab. vs. 17-19
1. The authority is from the King over all Kings. vs. 17

- a. Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying.” vs. 17a-b
 - 1) Just as God had spoken to Elijah to go to Samaria to declare judgment to Ahab the first time. 1Kings 17:1
 - 2) Last time we saw Elijah was when he called Elisha to succeed him. 1Kings 19:19-21
- b. Yahweh was about to speak from heaven.
 - 1) The One who sees all things.
 - 2) The One who knows all things.
 - 3) The One who judges all things.
 - 4) The One who never abuses His authority and should be feared, but is not!
2. The revelation regarded the evil of Ahab. vs. 18
 - a. God commanded Elijah, “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria.” vs. 18a-c
 - 1) Just as He had declared to him at Cherth, “**Arise**, go to Zarephath.” 1Kings 17:9
 - 2) Just as He had declared to him at Zarephath, “And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.” 1Kings 18:1

- 3) Samaria was the capital of Ahab, Elijah was probably in Carmel.
 - b. God revealed to Elijah the whereabouts of Ahab, at Jezreel taking possession of the vineyard of Naboth. vs. 18d-f
 - 1) God had observed everything.
 - 2) God would bring justice.
 - 3. The proclamation was to be the charges of murder and the consequences. vs. 19
 - a. Elijah was to preface his message as from God, “You shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD.’” vs. 19a-c
 - b. The charge was in a rhetorical question, “Have you murdered and also taken possession?”” vs. 19d
 - * The only answer possible is yes, seeking confession!
 - c. The verdict was to follow, knowing there would be not true repentance, “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.”” vs. 19e-j
- B. Elijah confronted Ahab with his crime and judgment. vs. 20-26**
- 1. Ahab tried to intimidate Elijah. vs. 20

- a. Perhaps Ahab thought he would be able to put fear in Elijah, as Jezebel had after he had executed the 400 prophets of Baal, “So Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?”” vs. 20a-c
 - b. Elijah was neither intimidated nor fearful and charged Ahab with his sin witnessed by God, “And he answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD.”” vs. 20d-f
2. Elijah prophesied the destruction of Ahab’s posterity. vs. 21
- a. The prophet proclaimed it in the first person, as if God was speaking directly to Ahab, ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on you.’” vs. 21a-b
 - 1) He was the one responsible for the evil of Jezebel.
 - 2) He did not object or stop her.
 - b. The prophet proclaimed his house would have no heir, “I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free.” vs. 21c-e
 - 1) No heir to his throne.
 - 2) Not even a servant, as Gehazi.
3. Elijah proclaimed to Ahab a vivid picture of the certainty of the judgment by the two past kings of Israel. vs. 22

- a. The first, “I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat.” vs. 22a
 - b. The second, “and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.” vs. 22b
 - c. The reason, “because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.” vs. 22c-d
 - 1) Ahab had introduced the worship of Baal, through his marriage to Jezebel.
 - 2) God would bring this judgment to pass through Hazael, Jehu and Elisha. 1Kings 19:17
4. Elijah proclaimed the judgment of Jezebel. vs. 23
- a. Her death would be gruesome, “And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’”
 - b. The fulfillment was through Jehu, as he order the eunuchs to thrown down from a window and she hit the wall and the dogs ate her. 2Kings 9:30-37
 - 1) Jehu went in to eat and drink and when he came out to bury her, all that was left was her head, her feet and the palms of her hands.

- 2) Her evil mind, her hands that did evil and her feet that walked in evil!
5. Elijah proclaimed the similar destiny over the house of Ahab. vs. 24
- a. Devoured by dogs, “The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city.” vs. 24a
 - b. Desecrated by not being buried, exposed to the elements, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field.” vs. 24b
6. The summary statement about Ahab. vs. 25-26
- a. The incomparable evil of Ahab by his own choosing before God, “But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD.” vs. 25a
 - b. The evil of Ahab was greater by the influence of Jezebel, “because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. vs. 25b
 - c. The life of Ahab was grossly indecent in his idolatrous worship, “And he behaved very abominably in following idols. vs. 26a
 - d. The practice was like the Amorites, whom the LORD expelled from the land, “according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD

had cast out before the children of Israel. vs. 26b-c

C. Ahab expressed regret with insincere repentance. vs. 27-29

1. The response of Ahab after hearing his judgment was to demonstrate an outward regret of sorrow and lamentation. vs. 27
 - a. Ahab showed grief and afflicted himself, “So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body.” vs. 27a-c
 - b. Ahab denied himself nourishment and festiveness, “and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning.” vs. 27d-e
 - * But this is not describing a repentance from sin, to salvation, but only of the consequences!
2. The revelation of God to Elijah regarding his expression of grief. vs. 28-29
 - a. Yahweh spoke directly to Elijah, “And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, “See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me?”” vs. 28-29a
 - 1) The reference to being humbled before God meant that Ahab was subdued, brought down and abased.

- 2) He did not become humble before God to have a change of life!
- b. Yahweh would allow Ahab to live out his life and bring the judgment on the reign of his son, “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.” vs. 29b-c
 - 1) There was nothing but the mercies of God, there is no unfairness on the part of God, for God still judged the house of Ahab.
 - 2) God knew the son of Ahab would be just as bad as his father, so the judgment that fell on him was not unjust, but deserving.

Illustration

The corruption of rulers and politicians only increases through time.

* You would think that matters could not get worse with Social Security, but never underestimate political rulers that have no conscience. Social Security payments began to be paid to immigrants that moved into the U.S. when they turned 65 years of age, though they never paid a dime into the program! This happened under Democrat President Jimmy Carter.

* To top it off, from our hard-earned taxes that we pay, CONGRESS GIVES THEMSELVES 100%

RETIREMENT FOR ONLY SERVING ONE TERM!!!

* Thomas Jefferson said, “A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.”---- 2011

Application

1. Confronting someone who is in sin is not easy, but it is our loving responsibility.

- a. When someone has something against us, we, the innocent party is to go and confront the person, then by two, then by three, in hope of reconciling the relationship, lastly before the church. Matt. 18:15-17
- b. James says, “When a brother or sister wonders from the truth and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins. Ja. 5:19-20
- c. When there is repentance in confrontation, their sin is not to be made public and held against them, “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a **multitude** of sins.” 1Pet. 4:8
- d. Only when a person is not repentant after the many attempts of Matthew 18, their sin is to be made known and the person handed over to Satan and ex-communicated in hope of their repentance.

* Paul regarding the young man who was sleeping with his step-mother unrepentant declare, “In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” 1Cor. 5:4-5

2. We have confronted a few people through the years, as evidence of our love for God and them.
 - a. Some have repented and we rejoiced with them, as God used them in ministry.
 - b. Others have merely given us a piece of their mind they really couldn’t afford to lose, being arrogant and pridefully carnal and continued in their sin.
 - c. Still others after a time repented and were restored to walked with God again.
 - d. Some turned before many severe consequences, while others have had to live with great consequences.
 - e. But all who repent and trust the Lord, His grace is sufficient for their lives!

* “And He said to me, “My **grace** is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” 2Cor. 12:9

- 3.** And when God is merciful to a sinner or a sinning brother or sister, don't get mad, but rejoice over God's goodness and mercy extended to them.
- a.** The mercies of God is tender. Ps. 25:6
 - b.** The mercies of God is great. Is. 54:7
 - c.** The mercies of God is sure. Is. 55:3
 - d.** The mercies of God is abundant. 1Pet. 1:3
 - e.** The mercies of God are new every morning. Lam. 3:22, 23
 - f.** James says, "For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment." Ja. 2:13

The prophetic judgment over Ahab and Jezebel for their evil to obtain the vineyard God judged!

Conclusion

The account before us records the murder of Naboth in order to possess his vineyard by Ahab and Jezebel, which developed in three movements:

- I.** The intimidating proposal of Ahab to buy the vineyard was refused by Naboth!
- II.** The brazen evil plot of Jezebel to obtain the vineyard was executed!
- III.** The prophetic judgment over Ahab and Jezebel for their evil to obtain the vineyard God judged!