

/Let us begin with the twelfth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Today we will begin with 1 Kings chapter 21. / In 21:1-2, / Ahab asks Naboth to give him the vineyard.

/Jezreel was the place where the palace of Ahab was located, and it was near the vineyard of Naboth. / This is why Ahab asked Naboth for his vineyard. / He said, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is closer my palace."

/Ahab did not ask for it for free, but he said that he would give Naboth a better vineyard, and he would pay whatever Naboth asked for. / However, it is likely that Ahab planned to forcefully take the vineyard even though he said he would pay him.

/In verse 4, when Naboth said that he would not give him the vineyard, Ahab was sullen and angry, and this showed that he was wicked in heart.

/In verses 3-4, Naboth refuses the king's request, and the king becomes sullen. / Eventually, Naboth was killed and lost his vineyard because he refused the king. / Here it tells us the reason why Naboth couldn't give the king his vineyard.

/First, he was trying to keep God's word, which forbid him from giving the inheritance of his ancestors to another tribe. / The LORD forbid him from giving the inheritance to another tribe.

/This is why King Ahab was wrong in trying to take away the inheritance of Naboth, and it also went against the Bible. / Even though the king had a great inheritance, he was so greedy that he wanted to take away the vineyard of his citizen.

/This was the violation of the tenth commandment, which tells us not to covet our neighbor's house. / Second, Naboth knew God's will concerning him.

/Naboth was using his conscience of faith and trying to keep God's will with his life. / We should not compromise our faith for materials. / We must keep our faith even at the loss of our materials.

/King Ahab failed to fill his unrighteous greed, so he became sullen and did not eat. / He was the highest person in the country and had a substantial amount of wealth, and yet, he was not content with it and suffered because of his greed.

/There is no end to human greed. / At first, a person wishes for a little amount of money, and then he would gradually wish for more.

/Unless we learn to be content, we will not be satisfied no matter how much we own. / When we serve God and live in the truth by entering the spiritual world, we then can enjoy true satisfaction.

/In verses 5-10, / Jezebel comes up with an evil plot to kill Naboth. / Ahab's wife Jezebel entered and asked why the king was not eating. / The king replied, "Because Naboth refused to give me his vineyard."

/Ahab left out the part where Naboth said, "The LORD forbid it," and he made it seem as if Naboth simply refused him. / One change in a sentence changes the entire meaning.

/Naboth made the Bible the standard and spoke with faith through God's will, and Ahab said that Naboth refused him without a good reason. / To this Jezebel said, "Is this how you act as king over Israel?"

/First, Jezebel asked why he, the king of Israel, was sullen and refuses to eat over such a small incident. / Second, he had authority over all Israel, and so why couldn't he take the vineyard?

/She encouraged him to exercise his kingship, but at the same time, she sarcastically rebuked him for his weakness. / Based on what she said, she was a vile and evil woman.

/Jezebel came up with a cunning plot to take away Naboth's vineyard and sent letters to the nobles and elders. / To seal the authority of the letter, she placed the king's seal on them. / She also proclaimed a day of fasting. / She used a religious ritual in her evil scheme.

/She asked for two scoundrels to make them legal witnesses. / God gave a good law, but Jezebel abused it to kill a person and fill her greed.

/She covered God's glory, harmed the people and the king, and brought destruction to the country. / Jezebel did not resort to assassination, but rather, used the Bible to legally kill Naboth.

/In verses 11-16, / Naboth dies and Ahab gets the vineyard. / After the nobles and elders received Jezebel's letter, they appointed two scoundrels as witnesses. / They testified that Naboth had

cursed God and the king, and all the people of the city stoned him to death.

/2 Kings 9:26 / tells us that not only did Naboth die, but his sons were killed as well. / This was so that there would be no one to inherit the vineyard, and Ahab could then take the vineyard.

/Jezebel was wicked for plotting this, but the nobles and elders who helped were wicked too. / They committed the sin of killing the righteous just to save themselves.

/We must not be afraid to lose our positions, statuses, and lives for doing what is right. / The nobles and elders committed murder like Jezebel.

/They reported to her that Naboth was dead. / Hearing this, she told the king to take the vineyard because Naboth was dead.

/Ahab went down to the vineyard to take it. / Because Ahab did evil, he would later die in battle, and Jezebel would die a pitiable death as well. / God's judgment surely comes.

/In verses 17-26, / Elijah rebukes Ahab and curses him. / When Ahab sent scoundrels and killed Naboth, and when he came to the vineyard, God sent Elijah to proclaim God's judgment on Ahab.

/Murder is a great sin, and stealing is also a great sin. / Ejliah declared that Ahab would die in battle and that dogs would lick his blood.

/Naboth died in Jezreel and Ahab would die in Samaria. / "Your blood" also signifies the blood of Ahab's sons.

/Ahab's son Jehoram died in the hands of Jehu, and his body was thrown onto Naboth's vineyard in Jezreel. / This would fulfill the prophecy. / Ahab called Elijah, "My enemy!"

/Ahab would have been blessed if he respected and welcomed the man of God, but rather, Ahab thought of Elijah as his enemy. King Ahab had no choice but to be cursed.

/He considered Elijah the true prophet his enemy, and this meant that he stood against God. / He

should not have acted against his conscience, but Ahab went against his conscience.

/We must follow after righteousness, the truth, and our conscience of faith. / Elijah prophesied that the house of Ahab, slave or free, would die. / God said that he would wipe out the house of Ahab and Jezebel as he did with Jeroboam and Baasha.

/Their sin was causing all of Israel to worship idols. / It was said that dogs would devour Jezebel by the walls of Jezreel. / This prophecy was later fulfilled when Jezebel was later thrown outside the palace and died.

/Jezebel convinced Ahab to make the Israelites make Baal and Asherah poles and worship them. / God despises idolatry. / Ahab committed the despicable sin of causing his people to worship idols.

/In verses 27-29, / Ahab humbles himself. / Ahab did the following after he heard Elijah's words. / First, he tore his clothes. / Second, he put on a sackcloth. / Third, he fasted. / Fourth, he lay in his sackcloth. / Fifth, he went around meekly.

/It seems like Ahab humbled himself and repented after he accepted the words of Elijah as God's word. / It is important for us to repent and stand upright after hearing rebukes of servants of God.

/The LORD saw that Ahab humbled himself before God, and God said that he would not bring disaster in the days of Ahab. / Instead, there would be disaster in the days of Ahab's son.

/God is God who postpones or takes away disaster to those who repent. / This is the reason why the disaster was postponed to the days of Ahab's son.

/Ahab repented but failed to order the Israelites to remove all idols in the land, and hence, idolatry increased in the days of his son.

/In 22:1-4, / Ahab and Jehoshaphat form an alliance and plan to attack Aram. / After Israel won the battle against Aram, there was no war between them for three years.

/During that time, Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went down to Samaria to visit Ahab the king of Israel. / Both were already in-laws with each other. / Ramoth Gilead actually belonged to Israel.

/It was located across the Jordan River and was a City of Refuge, but it taken by Aram. / Ben-Hadad king of Aram promised to return the land to King Ahab after he lost the battle of Aphek, and yet, he did not return the land even after three years has passed.

/Thus, Ahab was determined to get it back even if they had to fight for it. / At that time, the king of Judah came down to Samaria, and so Ahab requested that Jehoshaphat king of Judah join him in battle.

/To this Jehoshaphat replied, “I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses.” / This meant that he was willing to fight with him because he was of the same people as Ahab and also had the same idea.

/Jehoshaphat served God faithfully, and Ahab was an evil king who betrayed God and worshipped idols. / It was wrong for Jehoshaphat to go down and form an alliance with Ahab.

/King Ahab attempted to use Jehoshaphat’s power to take the Ramoth Gilead. / Ahab once won a battle against Aram on a hill and another on a plain field.

/God’s word was with him at that time, and he won because he obeyed the command to go fight. / However, this time, God did not tell him to fight, but he tried to take Ramoth Gilead.

/They were both going to war with greed. / In actuality, God gave Ahab the chance to take Ramoth Gilead in the past, but he lost the opportunity.

/In verses 5-23, / the two kings ask the prophets. / Jehoshaphat suggested that Ahab ask the prophets first whether it was God’s will for them to go to battle or not. / The four hundred prophets told the king, “The Lord will give it into the king’s hand.”

/These four hundred prophets wanted to please the king and they wanted power. / They were false prophets who were secularized. / In any time period, there are true prophets / and secularized prophets who only seek to please wicked kings and do whatever the king tells them to do.

/Ahab became confident and courageous because the four hundred prophets told him that he would win in battle.

/Jehoshaphat had faith, and he did not listen to the words of the four hundred prophets. / He asked Ahab if there was a prophet of the LORD. / Then Ahab replied that there was, and his name was Micaiah son of Imlah.

/Ahab said that Micaiah never prophesied anything good about him, but always bad. / The king of Israel only liked those who spoke well of him, and he did not like those who rebuked him with the truth.

/We can see that Micaiah rebuked King Ahab several times for his wrongdoings. / King Ahab sometimes listened to the rebuke of the prophet and repented. / Normally, he hated the prophet's rebuke.

/Those who hate to hear rebukes will be destroyed in the end. / However, Jehoshaphat said, "Don't say that." / He said it mildly. / He should have spoken in stronger voice, "Be careful of what you are saying."

/The king of Israel called one of his officials to call for Micaiah. / On the way to the palace, the official told Micaiah, "Look, the other prophets without exception are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably."

/Micaiah replied that he was a God's servant and would tell the king what God told him. / He said that as God's servant, he could not speak sweet words to the king.

/True prophets speaks God's word whether the king likes it or not. / God's word said that the king would die when he went to battle. / There are people even today who say that their prayer will heal all illnesses and grant all wishes, and when all that does not happen, they said, "It is because you do not have faith."

/They say that things can happen when it is not going to happen, and they deceive others. / Micaiah told the king, "Attack and be victorious for the LORD will give it into the king's hand."

/Micaiah answered just as the false prophets did because he knew that the king had made up his mind to go to battle. He answered the king sarcastically about the king's stubbornness and foolishness. / The king also knew that Micaiah was being sarcastic.

/Then the king said, “How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?” / Then the prophet Micaiah truthfully spoke to the king.

/First, all Israel was going to lose its master and be scattered like lost sheep without a shepherd. / This signified the death of Ahab. / Second, each would go back to its home peacefully.

/If the king listened and repented upon hearing this, he would have lived. / King Ahab knew that Micaiah would only speak words that are true, and yet, he did not want to listen to rebuke and thus, hated Micaiah.

/In verse 19, God said, who would go and entice Ahab to go to his death? / “A spirit” here refers to Satan. / There are times when Satan joins the conference of God.

/Because Ahab was greedy, he was easily fooled by the devil. / The lying spirit entered the 400 prophets and enticed the king in order for him to die in Ramoth Gilead. / God allowed this to happen.

/In verses 24-28, / the king persecutes and imprisons Micaiah. / The false prophet Zedekiah slapped Micaiah in rage and said, “Which way did the spirit from the LORD go when he went from me to speak to you?”

/He was enraged because he thought that the lying spirit was the spirit of the LORD. / There are three ways to discern spirits. / First, it must agree with God’s word. / Second, one must abandon greed, and receive God’s guidance.

/Third, the spirit should agree with the words of true prophets of God. / Micaiah replied, “You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room.”

/Zedekiah would find out on the day he would go to hide in an inner room after Israel’s defeat. / We can learn here that the truth does not lie in the majority.

/If one person speaks from the Bible, we must follow him. / King Ahab did not listen to Micaiah’s words and he ordered that the prophet be put in prison.

/He ordered that the prophet be given nothing but bread and water. / Micaiah said, “If you ever

return safely, the LORD has not spoken through me.”

/Micaiah again emphasized the death of the king and said that the people will see it.

/In verses 29-40, / Israel is defeated and Ahab dies. / The two kings did not listen to Micaiah’s words, but listened to the false prophets and went to battle in Ramoth Gilead.

/On the way to the battle, Ahab disguises himself and joins the crowd, while Jehoshaphat wears the royal robes. / The king of Aram commanded his thirty commanders to fight only with the king of Israel.

/He gave this order to get revenge for the shame and mockery he received from King Ahab in the battle in Aphek. / The commanders saw the royal robe Jehoshaphat was wearing and thought that he was the king of Israel. Then Jehoshaphat cried out.

/Seeing this, the commanders turned and stopped pursuing Jehoshaphat. / God helped him. / Jehoshaphat was right in asking to hear God’s word, but he was wrong in failing to listen to the prophet Micaiah and going to battle.

/We must always protect ourselves so that we do not become slaves of the devil. / King Ahab disguised himself and went to battle, and he was shot by a random bow between the sections of his armor. / The “sections of his armor” refer to the area where the armor and metal are connected.

/King Ahab was wounded and tried to leave the battle, but the fight was so great that he would not leave. He stayed in battle until evening and died. / Those who will die as punishment from God will meet death in random ways.

/However, Jehoshaphat who kept his faith, lived even in a temporarily dangerous situation because he cried out to God and God helped him. / The prophecy that dogs would lick the blood of Ahab was fulfilled.

/After the death of King Ahab, the Israelites were ordered to retreat. / This happened according to the prophet Micaiah’s prophecy. / King Ahab was buried in Samaria, / and dogs licked the blood of Ahab, when people washed the blood-stained chariot in a pool in Samaria.



/It was a pool where prostitutes washed themselves. / This showed that Ahab's death is a shameful death. / Among the things Ahab constructed, there was a palace he inlaid with ivory. / A bed that is made of ivory is considerably luxurious.

/Yet, how luxurious and extravagant was it to make a palace out of ivory? / Anyone who sins against God will not live in luxurious places and will be destroyed. / After Ahab's death, his son Ahaziah succeeded him as king.

/In verses 41-50, / Jehoshaphat's good reign is mentioned. / Jehoshaphat king of Judah was a good king. / He ruled over Jerusalem for twenty-five years.

/In 2 Chronicles 19:3-7, / Jehoshaphat got rid of the Asherah poles and led the people to seek God. / He went out among the people from Beersheba to the country of Ephraim and turned them back to the God of their ancestors.

/He appointed judges in the fortified cities and told them not to accept bribes, but judge with impartiality. / He told them, "Now let the fear of the LORD be on you. Judge carefully."

/He also said that the people would be well if they listened to the prophets. / However, it was wrong for the people to offer sacrifices in the high places. / After King Jehoshaphat died, his son Jehoram succeeded him as king of Judah.

/In verses 51-53, / Ahaziah's wicked reign is spoken of. / He was the son of Ahab and was a wicked king. He reigned for two years. / He followed the ways of his father Ahab and mother Jezebel, as well as Jeroboam son of Nebat.

/This means that he worshipped idols. / As a result, he received the judgment of God's wrath, and he was destroyed.

/With this we will conclude the twelfth lecture on 1 and 2 Kings. / Thank you.