

The Kings of Israel

Jezebel – 1 Kings 21:1 – 29



Sermon Discussion Guide

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New Life
Christian Church
4701 E CR 462
Wildwood, FL 34785
nlchristian.org

STUDY NOTES

Jezebel (1 Kings 21:7). Jezebel has stood throughout history on the notoriety of her evil. Here, she treated Ahab much as the mother of a spoiled child, making evil plans to give him whatever he wanted.

Fasting (1 Kings 21:9). This gave the impression of a sacred event. Jezebel had the power to command anyone to help her frame Naboth.

Two scoundrels (21:10). In order to frame Naboth, the law required two witnesses.

Cursed both God and the king (21:10). Mosaic Law did prescribe death as a punishment for cursing God, but not cursing the king.

Jezebel's story is found in 1 and 2 Kings. She was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of Tyre/Sidon and priest of the cult of Baal, a cruel, sensuous, and revolting false god whose worship involved sexual degradation and lewdness. Ahab, king of Israel, married Jezebel and led the nation into Baal worship ([1 Kings 16:31](#)). Ahab and Jezebel's reign over Israel is one of the saddest chapters in the history of God's people. Due to the evil displayed in Jezebel's actions, people today who display the same type of evil are said to have a "Jezebel spirit." The scripture you are about to read puts on full display the "spirit of Jezebel."

Read 1 Kings 21:1 – 29.

1. Ahab tries to buy a vineyard from Naboth, who has received it as an inheritance. When Naboth refuses he is killed in a plot by Jezebel; and so, God announces judgment on both Ahab and Jezebel?
2. What does Ahab's reaction reveal about him? About Jezebel?
3. What does the reaction of the elder and nobles reveal about them?
4. Describe a time in your life when you really wanted something but did not get it. What was your reaction?
5. Have you ever been the recipient of ill will? How did you react?
6. In what ways do we need to restrain and discipline our desires even if they are, on the surface, "good"?

STUDY NOTES

7. How did Jezebel respond when she learned of Naboth's death?
How did Ahab react to the news?
8. What was God's reaction to Naboth's death? Why was His response different to Ahab than to Jezebel?
9. How do you respond to God when you are confronted with your sin?
10. Matt shared a warning against having a spirit of Jezebel. Based on this chapter how would you in your own words describe a "spirit of Jezebel"?
11. How can you turn an unfulfilled desire into an occasion for humility before God rather than a cause of bitterness?
12. What is God calling you to do in this story: Stop sulking? Do your own "dirty work"? Humble yourself to receive God's direction and discipline? Other?
13. Matt shared three additional actions needed to confront a national or global "spirit of Jezebel." What can you do to improve, if any, in the above three actions?
 - Prayer
 - Boldness in what we believe
 - Exercise power to vote