

Getting to Know God

A Just and Merciful God

1 Kings 21

Psalm 89:10

Righteousness and
justice are the
foundation of your
throne; steadfast love
and faithfulness go
before you.

J. Vernon

“This is God’s universe
and God does things
His way. You may have
a better way, but you
don’t have a universe.”

1 Kings 21:1-2

Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. Ahab said to Naboth, “Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth.”

1 Kings 21:3

But Naboth replied,
“The Lord forbid that I
should give you the
inheritance of my
ancestors.”

1 Kings 21:4-5

Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my ancestors.”

He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

His wife Jezebel
came in and asked
him, “Why are you so
sullen? Why won’t
you eat?”

1 Kings 21:7

Jezebel his wife said,
“Is this how you act as
king over Israel? Get up
and eat! Cheer up. I’ll
get you the vineyard of
Naboth the Jezreelite.”

1 Kings 21:17-24

“Go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in

Naboth's vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it.”

Say to him, “This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and seized his property?” Then say to him, “This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood - yes yours!”

Ahab said to Elijah,
“So you have found
me my enemy!”

**“I have found you,” he answered,
“because you have sold yourself to do evil
in the eyes of the Lord.**

**He says, “I am going to bring disaster on
you. I will wipe out your descendants and
cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel-
slave or free. I will make your house like
that of Jeroboam son of Neat and that of
Basha son of Ajijah because you have
aroused my anger and caused Israel to
sin.”**

And also concerning Jezebel
the Lord says, “Dogs will
devour Jezebel by the wall
of Jezreel.

Dogs will eat those
belonging to Ahab who die
in the city and the birds will
feed on those who will die in
the country.”

When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

The word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite; "Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

Psalm 86:15

But you, O Lord are a
God merciful and
gracious, slow to
anger and abounding
in steadfast love and
faithfulness.

2 Kings 9:33-37

They threw her down,
and some of her blood
spattered the wall and
the horses as they
trampled her under
foot.

Jehu went in and ate and drank. “Take care of that cursed woman,” he said, “and bury her for she was a king’s daughter.”

But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands.

They went back and told Jehu who said, “This is the word of the Lord that He spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite; ‘On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel’s flesh.’

Jezebel’s body will be like dung on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no one will be able to say, “This is Jezebel.”

1. God doesn't let evil
go unchecked
forever.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear
before the judgement seat
of Christ, so that each of
us may receive what is
due us for the things done
while in the body, whether
good or bad.

**2. There is always an
opportunity for
repentance and hope
for forgiveness.**

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and just
and will forgive us our
sins and cleanse us
from all
unrighteousness.

**3. God's ways are
better than our ways.**

Isaiah 55:8-9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Jeremiah 7:10

“I, the Lord, search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”

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