

A Portrait of EVIL ~ 1 Kings 20- 21

→Scripture Reading - 1 Kings 19, 20, 21

INTRODUCTION

1 Kings 19:12–13 (NLT) ¹² ... And after the fire there was the sound of a Gentle Whisper. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And a voice said, "What are you doing HERE, Elijah?"

¹⁵ Then the LORD told him, "Go BACK the same way you came... (NLT)

¹⁸ Yet I will preserve 7,000 others in Israel who have NEVER bowed down to Baal... (NLT)

An UN-NAMED Prophet Confronts Ahab ~ 1 Kings 20:1-42

1 Kings 20:13 (NLT) Then a certain prophet came to see King Ahab of Israel and told him, "This is what the LORD says: Do you see all these enemy forces? Today I will hand them all over to you. Then you will know that I AM the LORD."

²² Afterward the prophet said to King Ahab, "Get ready for another attack. Begin making plans now, for the king of Aram will come back next spring." (NLT)

²³ After their DEFEAT, Ben-hadad's officers said to him, "The Israelite gods are gods of the hills; that is why they won. But we can beat them easily on the plains. (NLT)

1 Kings 20:26–27 (NLT) ²⁶ The following spring he called up the Aramean army and marched out against Israel, this time at Aphek. ²⁷ Israel then mustered its army, set up supply lines, and marched out for battle. But the Israelite army looked like two little flocks of goats in comparison to the vast Aramean forces that filled the countryside!

^{20:28} Then the man of God went to the king of Israel and said, "This is what the LORD says: The Arameans have said, 'The LORD is a god of the hills and not of the plains.' So I will defeat this vast army for you. Then you will KNOW that I am the LORD. (NLT)

IMPLICATION

Hebrews 11:36-39 (NIV) ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. ³⁷ They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated - ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. ³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.

Hebrews 6:10 (NLT) For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for Him and how you have shown your love to HIM by caring for other believers, as you still do.

So send I you to labor unrewarded, To serve unpaid, unloved, unsought, unknown,
To bear rebuke, to suffer scorn and scoffing So send I you, to toil for Me alone.

So send I you to loneliness and longing, With heart a-hungering for the loved and known,
Forsaking home and kindred, friend and dear one So send I you, to know My love alone.

So send I you- by grace made strong to triumph O'er hosts of hell, o'er darkness, death and sin,
My Name to bear and in that Name to conquer - So send I you, My victory to win.

So send I you- My strength to know in weakness, My joy in grief, My perfect peace in pain,
To prove My power, My grace, My promised presence - So send I you, eternal fruit to gain.

So send I you- to bear My cross with patience, And then one day with joy to lay it down,
To hear My voice, **Well done, My faithful servant**- Come share My throne, My kingdom and My crown!

I WANT IT NOW!!! ~ 1 Kings 21

¹ Now there was a man named Naboth, from Jezreel, who owned a vineyard in Jezreel beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. ² One day Ahab said to Naboth, "Since your vineyard is so convenient to my palace, I would like to buy it to use as a vegetable garden. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or if you prefer, I will pay you for it." ³ But Naboth replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance that was passed down by my ancestors."

⁴ So Ahab went home angry and sullen because of Naboth's answer. The king went to bed with his face to the wall and refused to eat!
⁵ "What's the matter?" his wife Jezebel asked him. "What's made you so upset that you're not eating?" ⁶ "I asked Naboth to sell me his vineyard or trade it, but he refused!" Ahab told her. ⁷ "Are you the king of Israel or not?" Jezebel demanded. "Get up and eat something, and don't worry about it. I'll get you Naboth's vineyard!" (NLT)

¹¹ So the elders and other town leaders followed the instructions Jezebel had written in the letters. ¹² They called for a fast and put Naboth at a prominent place before the people. ¹³ Then the two scoundrels came and sat down across from him. And they accused Naboth before all the people, saying, He cursed God and the king. So he was dragged outside the town and stoned to death. (NLT)

To make Seizure of the Vineyard LEGAL...

- Corrupt Judges made FALSE accusations
- Naboth had to DIE
- His sons also had to DIE

¹⁵ When Jezebel heard the news, she said to Ahab, "You know the vineyard Naboth wouldn't sell you? Well, you can have it now! He's dead!" ¹⁶ So Ahab immediately went down to the vineyard of Naboth to claim it. (NLT)

²⁰ "So, my enemy, you have found me!" Ahab exclaimed to Elijah. "Yes," Elijah answered, "I have come because you have sold yourself to what is evil in the LORD's sight. ²¹ So now the LORD says, 'I will bring disaster on you and consume you. I will DESTROY every one of your male descendants, slave and free alike, anywhere in Israel! ²² I am going to DESTROY your family as I did the family of Jeroboam... and the family of Baasha..., for you have made me very angry and have led Israel into sin.' ²³ "And regarding Jezebel, the LORD says, 'Dogs will eat Jezebel's body at the plot of land in Jezreel.' ²⁴ "The members of Ahab's family who die in the city will be eaten by dogs, and those who die in the field will be eaten by vultures." ²⁵ (No one else so completely sold himself to what was EVIL in the LORD's sight as Ahab did under the influence of his wife Jezebel. ²⁶ His worst outrage was worshiping idols just as the Amorites had done - the people whom the LORD had driven out from the land ahead of the Israelites.) (NLT)

An innocent man and his sons lay dead; a Evil king and queen had made a mockery of justice; responsible citizens had engaged in this great Evil. And God had not intervened to prevent this from taking place. EVIL appeared to have won to have spoken the last word. But although God's judgment is NOT always IMMEDIATE, it is ALWAYS CERTAIN. HOTC

^{21:27} But when Ahab heard this message, he tore his clothing, dressed in burlap, and fasted. He even slept in burlap and went about in deep mourning. ²⁸ Then another message from the LORD came to Elijah: ²⁹ "Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has done this, I will not do what I promised during his lifetime. It will happen to his sons; I will destroy his dynasty." (NLT)

IMPLICATION

^{18:39} ...when all the people saw it, they fell face down on the ground and cried out, "The LORD - HE is God! Yes, the LORD is God!"

^{20:13} ... Today I will hand them all over to you. Then you will KNOW that I AM the LORD."

^{20:28} ... I will defeat this vast army for you. Then you will KNOW that I am the LORD.

^{21:27} But when Ahab heard this message, he tore his clothing, dressed in burlap, and fasted. He even slept in burlap and went about in deep mourning. (NLT)

Isaiah 45:5-6 (NIV) ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is NO OTHER; apart from ME there is no God... ⁶ ...know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is NO OTHER.

TAKE AWAY ??

Psalm 73:1-28 (NLT) ¹ Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. ² But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. ³ For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. ⁴ They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. ⁵ They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. ⁶ They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty.

¹⁶ So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! ¹⁷ Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked.

The best of life on Earth is a glimpse of Heaven; the worst of life is a glimpse of Hell. For Christians, this present life is the closest they will come to Hell. For unbelievers, it is the closest they will come to Heaven. RAIcorn

²¹ Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. ²² I was so foolish and ignorant - I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. ²³ Yet I still belong to YOU; You hold my right hand. ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel... ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire YOU more than anything on earth. ²⁶ My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; He is mine forever.