



# Lesson 120

## Naboth's Vineyard

### Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Text:</b> 1 Kings 21:1-29</li> <li>• <b>Setting:</b> circa 872 B.C., at Ahab's palace in Jezreel</li> <li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, Naboth, Ahab, Jezebel, and Elijah</li> <li>• <b>Plot:</b> Ahab covets Naboth's vineyard, and Jezebel conspires his murder so Ahab can have it.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> "The LORD _____ it me"</li> <li>• <b>Climax:</b> 1 Kings 21:20 <i>And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord.</i></li> </ul> |
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### Covetousness

1. (1 Ki. 21:1-3) Next to Ahab's palace in Jezreel was a vineyard owned by a Jezreelite named Naboth.
  - (a) Ahab wanted to buy or trade for Naboth's vineyard but Naboth refused, saying, "*The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the \_\_\_\_\_ of my fathers unto thee.*"
  - (b) Naboth's refusal was not merely sentimental stubbornness but obedience to God's Word. The Law of Moses prohibited the Hebrews from permanently selling their \_\_\_\_\_ lands. (Lev. 25:23-28; Num. 36:7-9).
2. (1 Ki. 21:4) Ahab \_\_\_\_\_ over Naboth's refusal. Considering that Ahab lacked initiative, we are not surprised that a grown man like him would pout so that others would notice his sadness and decide to do something to gratify a royal brat.

### Conspiracy

3. (1 Ki. 21:5-7) Jezebel found the moping monarch sulking on his bed and rebuked the king for failing to use his powers to get whatever he wanted. "*Dost thou now \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of Israel?*" she said mockingly. And then she promised that she would do what Ahab could not: "*I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.*"
  - (a) (1 Ki. 21:8-10) The wicked queen wrote letters to her lackeys in political office and instructed them to initiate a fast which would signify some secret sin has corrupted the city, then Naboth was to be charged with \_\_\_\_\_ by two false witnesses. Afterwards, Naboth was to be taken outside the city and stoned to death.
  - (b) (1 Ki. 21:11-16) The evil plan was executed flawlessly, and when word reached Jezebel that the dastardly deed had been done, she informed her husband that the vineyard that he so desperately wanted was his for the taking.

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## Condemnation

4. (1 Ki. 21:17-26) The word of the LORD came to Elijah and informed him of Ahab's wickedness. The LORD told Elijah to proclaim judgment against Ahab's house:
- (a) As the \_\_\_\_\_ licked Naboth's blood, so they will also one day lick up Ahab's blood.
  - (b) Every \_\_\_\_\_ heir of Ahab's house will be killed.
  - (c) The wicked Jezebel will be slain and eaten by \_\_\_\_\_.
5. (1 Ki. 21:27:29) Elijah's message smote Ahab fiercely, and the sinful king repented to a certain degree. The LORD had mercy on the repentant Ahab and delayed the finality of the judgment until his \_\_\_\_\_ reign.

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## Application

6. Naboth was a man of great faith and an example to all followers of God's Word – he obeyed the LORD in the face of temptation to disobey and either gain material wealth or to suffer severe affliction. In this, Naboth foreshadowed the Savior's complete commitment to do the will of the Father. Remember that Jesus was offered the kingdoms of this world to disobey God (Matt. 4:8-9), and later \_\_\_\_\_ for continuing in His perfect obedience.
7. How many of the 10 commandments were broken in this story? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Though we are not under the Levitical restraints of land ownership, we should emulate Naboth by considering that all we have ultimately belongs to the LORD.

*Leviticus 25:23 The land shall not be sold for ever:  
for the land is \_\_\_\_\_; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.*

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key:** Key word(s): "forbid" • 1. a) inheritance; b) inherited • 2. pouted • 3. govern; a) blasphemy • 4. a) dogs; b) male • 6. murdered • 7. murder, bearing false-witness, coveting, taking God's name in vain... • Lev. 25:35 "mine"

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**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.