

- Recap of last week: God sends a drought on the land, and used ravens to feed the prophet Elijah. (1 Kings 17:1-6) When the brook he is drinking from dries up, God sends Elijah to a widow who had very little food left but God continuously replenishes her supplies. (1 Kings 17:1-6) The widow's son dies while Elijah is there but he prays to God and her son is raised again. (1 Kings 17:17-24) God performs another miracle on Mount Carmel, and when the prophets pleading with the god Baal to do that too it doesn't happen. (1 Kings 18:16-38) The evil queen Jezebel sends word to Elijah that she will have him killed so he flees and God appoints Elisha to take his place. (1 Kings 19)
- A guy named Naboth had a vineyard that happened to be close to the palace of Ahab (remember this is in the Northern Kingdom of Israel). Ahab wanted the land to plant a vegetable garden there so he asks Naboth for it and promises to pay for it or give him an even better vineyard. Naboth refuses because it was handed down from his ancestors so Ahab sulks. (1 Kings 21:1-4)
- The evil queen Jezebel asks Ahab why he is sulking and he tells her. Jezebel plots to get Naboth's vineyard by setting him up – she writes a letter in the name of the king, hosts a feast, seats two men next to Naboth, has them falsely accuse him of blasphemy against God and the King, has him stoned to death, and then tells Ahab to take his vineyard. (1 Kings 21:5-16)
- God sends Elijah to talk with Ahab and he tells him his punishment. He will have all the men (both slaves and free) who serve Ahab destroyed. Elijah tells him dogs will eat those who die in the city (including his wife Jezebel) and birds will eat those who die in the country. (1 Kings 21:17-24)
- God knows our sin even when it is not a public sin or a sin of omission (not doing something we know we should be doing) and we will be punished for it anyway. (Numbers 32:23) (James 4:17)
- Ahab was the worst king yet, and was urged on by his evil wife Jezebel. (1 Kings 21:25-26)
- Ahab actually hears Elijah's words and acts humbly, so God says the punishment will happen to his sons and not to him. (1 Kings 21:27-28)
- A guy named Jehoshaphat was the King of Judah. He was Asa's son who succeeded him and was a pretty good king. He builds up the army and the navy, fortifies cities, consults God, receives gifts, appoints judges and sent teachers throughout the land. He was thirty-five when he became King in the south (he became King in the fourth year of King Ahab's reign in the north. He reigned 25 years before he died. But despite all this, he left the altars to other gods in place and people continued to be allowed to worship there. Toward the end of his life he also made an alliance with an evil king in the north and was punished for it by losing of his navy. (1 Kings 22:41-50) (2 Chronicles 17) (2 Chronicles 19) (2 Chronicles 20:31-35)
- Jehoshaphat goes "down" (even though he is going north it was way down in elevation so instead of saying "up" like we would the Bible often refers to it as "down"), goes to see King Ahab who asks him to fight together with him against the Aramites to retake a city from them called Ramoth-Gilead. Jehoshaphat agrees to do that, but asks him to consult God first. (1 Kings 22:1-5) (2 Chronicles 18:1-4)
- Ahab calls a bunch of prophets who say he will be victorious. Jehoshaphat asks if there is not a prophet of God they can consult. Ahab says he thinks there is one left (remember Jezebel had them all killed) so he calls a prophet of God named Micaiah before him. Micaiah says the God has told him that all the other prophets would say he would win so he would follow their

counsel but God really has told him he would not succeed. Ahab does not like that so he has Micaiah imprisoned (I Kings 22:6-28) (2 Chronicles 18:5-27)

- It takes courage to say and do the right things especially in the face of our enemies. We may suffer for it, but God will know and reward us. (Matthew 5:1-12)
- Ahab goes to fight anyway, and is killed in the battle by a seemingly random arrow. The Aramites pursue Jehoshaphat but breakoff their pursuit when they see he isn't the king of Israel. (I Kings 22:29-40) (2 Chronicles 18:28-34)
- As it turns out, the decision to ally himself with Ahab obviously costs Jehoshaphat too, since they lost the battle.
- We need to choose our friends wisely. (I Corinthians 15:33)
- Three different groups, the Moabites, Ammonites, and men from Mount Seir rose up to invade the Southern Kingdom. Jehoshaphat calls upon God for help, and God tells them through a prophet that they won't even have to fight. They follow God's instruction and go out to a high place where they watch the armies actually turn on each other, and fight and destroy each other. (2 Chronicles 20:1-29)

Questions

1. Who was Naboth?
2. Why did Ahab want Naboth's vineyard?
3. What two things did Ahab propose to give Naboth in exchange for his vineyard?
4. Why wouldn't Naboth give up his vineyard to Ahab?
5. What did Ahab do when Naboth told him that he would give up his vineyard?
6. How does Jezebel get the vineyard of Naboth for Ahab?
7. Who knows our sin even if it is not public?
8. What is a sin of omission?
9. Was Ahab a good or bad king?
10. Who influenced Ahab to act the way he did?
11. What is Ahab's reaction to Elijah's message from God?
12. What does God do because of Ahab's reaction?
13. Who was Jehoshaphat and how old was he when he died?
14. Name a few of the good things Jehoshaphat did?
15. What did Jehoshaphat leave in place that he should not have?
16. What does Ahab ask Jehoshaphat for?
17. What is Jehoshaphat's response to Ahab?
18. Who is Micaiah, why is he the only one left, and what does he tell Ahab?
19. Where is the reward of those who face evil courageously?
20. Why didn't the Aramites pursue Jehoshaphat?
21. Why wasn't the decision to ally himself with Ahab not a good one for Jehoshaphat?
22. How did God help the southern kingdom led by Jehoshaphat defeat the invading armies of the Moabites and Ammonites?