

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

Trace the events since last Lesson. The setting of this Lesson is very important. Bring out how Ahab's tyranny and oppression find their source in Jezebel, whose idea of the supremacy of the king over his subjects was foreign to the democratic ideals of Israel (see v. 7). Emphasize Ahab's ambition to extend his palace grounds, and his wish to secure Naboth's field for a kitchen garden. Present for discussion Naboth's determination to retain his field as his by right of inheritance, a very precious sentiment in the eyes of a Hebrew. See Naboth's reply in v. 3. It was God's plan that owners of property should retain it and sell only in extreme cases, and only until the year of jubilee, Lev. 25 : 28. Point out how Ahab's reply and conduct show childishness, selfishness and wounded pride. The following outline may then be followed :

1. *The plan to obtain possession of the vineyard.* Trace the sympathy of Jezebel with her husband in the wrong, making clear her false idea of kingship and her devilish plan. Have the class consider the forgery (v. 8), the false accusation (v. 10), the darkness of the plot, its religious cloak, the pretence that there was some crime worthy of death (see Lev. 24 : 15, 16), the murder of Naboth under the name of justice and the slaying of his sons (2 Kgs. 9 : 26) to blot out the family name.

2. *The unlawful seizure,* vs. 15, 16. Observe it was ostentatiously made (2 Kgs. 9:25), the king riding down to the vineyard, accompanied by Jehu, then an officer in Israel's army. Humanly speaking, Ahab had succeeded with the sanction of law, and had his way.

3. *The sudden appearance of Elijah,* as the champion of the oppressed and advocate of the freedom of the people. Bring out how he charges Ahab with murder, robbery and injustice, and announces the judgment of God and retribution against Ahab and his house. Emphasize the courage of Elijah as an encouragement to the discouraged.

This Lesson is a warning against the sin of covetousness. Bring out that the moving

power was Jezebel, a warning against a woman urging her husband to do wrong. The class should study what covetousness leads people to do. It is first a spirit, then a policy, then a method.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

Elijah has recovered from his spell of depression, and is himself again. In our Lesson to-day a painful incident brings him once more into conflict with Ahab. Get some one to tell the story of Ahab's effort to get possession of Naboth's vineyard. Who was Naboth? He was a sturdy, independent man who knew his rights, and knowing, dared maintain them. The homestead with all its sacred associations was worth too much to him to be sold even to a king. The Mosaic law forbade a sale of this kind, Lev. 25 : 23-28. We can all sympathize with Naboth, for we feel that the old home is worth more to us than to anybody else. There is something in every nook which no stranger can ever find. Vs. 1-3.

Ahab acted like a spoiled child over his disappointment, v. 4. How little it takes sometimes to put us out of sorts! What was Jezebel's plan of getting possession of the vineyard? (Vs. 5-10.)

1. *Jezebel's plan carried out,* vs. 11-14. How could she get the leading men of Naboth's city to do this? Naboth must have been a man greatly respected in his native city, yet perhaps not greatly respected by the creatures and tools of Jezebel. Discuss the fearful degradation of Israel as illustrated by this awful tragedy. Direct attention to the terse, business-like way in which they announced the murder of Naboth, v. 14.

2. *Jezebel carries the news to Ahab,* vs. 15, 16. Let the conversation bring out the following points : (a) The queen does not tell everything, but it must have been easy for the king to supply what was lacking. In some cases it is only necessary to know a little to know everything. (b) The king asks no questions. Sometimes it is better not to know how people come into possession of their property. (c) The king was not long in getting out of bed when he heard that the vineyard was his. He must have a look at it.

3. *Ahab has an unwelcome visitor at the*