

Lesson IX.

ELIJAH MEETS AHAB IN NABOTH'S
VINEYARD

February 26, 1911

1 Kings 21 : 11-20. Study 1 Kings, ch. 21—Memory Verses, 17-19.

Golden Text—Take heed, and beware of covetousness.—Luke 12 : 15.

11 And the men of his city, *even* the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jez'ebel had sent unto them, *and* as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent unto them.

12 They proclaimed a fast, and set Na'both on high among the people.

13 And there came in two men, children of Be'lial, and sat before him : and the men of Be'lial witnessed against him, *even* against Na'both, in the presence of the people, saying, Na'both did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.

14 Then they sent to Jez'ebel, saying, Na'both is stoned, and is dead.

15 And it came to pass, when Jez'ebel heard that Na'both was stoned, and was dead, that Jez'ebel said to A'hab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Na'both the Jez'reelite, which he refused to give thee for money : for Na'both is not alive, but dead.

16 And it came to pass, when A'hab heard that Na'both was dead, that A'hab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Na'both the

Jez'reelite, to take possession of it.

17 And the word of the Lord came to Eli'jah the Tish'bite, saying,

18 Arise, go down to meet A'hab king of Is'rael, which is in Samar'ia : behold, *he is* in the vineyard of Na'both, whither he is gone down to possess it.

19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession ? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the Lord, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Na'both shall dogs lick thy blood, *even* thine.

20 And A'hab said to Eli'jah, 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Near Ahab's palace in Jezreel was a beautiful vineyard belonging to a man named Naboth. Ahab wished very much to buy this vineyard, that he might make a garden of it ; but Naboth refused to sell it. Then Ahab went home angry and displeased, and would neither eat nor drink. But Jezebel, his wife, said to him, " Are you king of Is'rael, and do you allow yourself to be treated so ? Rise up and eat and let your heart be merry, and I will see that you get the vineyard."

So the cruel queen wrote letters to the rulers of Jezreel, and commanded them to find two wicked men who would lie against Naboth and say that they had heard him speak evil of God and the king. The rulers did as Jezebel commanded, and when the wicked

men told this falsehood in the presence of the people, they took Naboth out of the city and stoned him till he died.

The rulers sent and told Jezebel that Naboth was dead ; and when she heard this she went into the room where Ahab lay and said, " Arise, and take the vineyard you have set your heart on, for Naboth is dead." So Ahab arose quickly, and went down to the vineyard to take possession of it. And the Lord commanded Elijah to go down and meet him there, and say to him, " Hast thou killed Naboth and taken his vineyard ? I tell thee that in the very place where his blood was shed, thy blood shall be shed also, and thy body lie unburied." So Elijah went to meet Ahab, and when Ahab saw him coming, he cried out, " Hast thou found me,