

Lesson I.

ELIJAH IN NABOTH'S VINEYARD

October 3, 1915

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

Golden Text—Be sure your sin will find you out.—Numbers 32 : 23.

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'hah, 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'hah heard that Na'both was dead, that A'hah 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'hah 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'hah 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

King Ahab was talking to Naboth, who lived in a city where King Ahab had a beautiful summer palace. Now Naboth had a vineyard which the king wanted for himself.

"Sell me thy vineyard," said the king to Naboth. "It is near my palace, and I want to make it into a garden. I will give thee another vineyard, or I will pay thee money for it."

Naboth loved his vineyard. "I cannot sell thee the land of my fathers," he answered.

King Ahab went away to his palace with his heart full of anger. He knew he was doing wickedly. His conscience told him that he ought to have left Naboth to enjoy his vineyard and its fruits. The vineyard belonged to Naboth, and Naboth surely had a right to keep it if he wished. Not even the

king had the right to take it away from him against his will.

Yet King Ahab grew more and more angry. He lay down and turned his face to the wall and would not even eat. He wanted the vineyard. He wanted it so much that he was breaking God's Commandment, "Thou shalt not covet...any thing that is thy neighbour's."

By and by Queen Jezebel came to him and asked : "Why dost thou not eat ? Why art thou so sad ?"

When King Ahab had told her the story she said : "Eat and be merry. I will get Naboth's vineyard for thee."

Then the queen wrote letters to some of the chief men in the city where Naboth lived. This is what she wrote : "Set Naboth before

* The Scripture Memory Passages of the Supplemental Leaflets are recommended as a substitute for those here given Sabbath by Sabbath. Their recitation leads to the obtaining of a beautiful Certificate or Diploma.