

vineyard, vs. 17-20. What took Elijah down there? What painful message had he to deliver? God knew all about the whole business. God held Ahab responsible for what had been done. We are responsible for a good deal more than we think. One may try to wash his hands of the guilt of permitting evil to be done, but he cannot succeed any better than Pilate did.

Trace back the crime of Jezebel, in which her wicked husband shared, to the covetousness in Ahab's heart. Emphasize the danger of cherishing evil desires.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

Question briefly on the unprinted portion of the Lesson (vs. 1-11), bringing out Ahab's desire to purchase a vineyard belonging to Naboth, near the royal palace in Jezreel, his second capital about twenty miles from Samaria; Naboth's refusal to sell his property; the king's disappointment, shown by taking to his bed and refusing to eat or drink; and Jezebel's plan to get the vineyard. The teaching of the printed portion may be gathered about the three names of Jezebel, Ahab and Elijah.

I. JEZEBEL, vs. 11-15. "The elders and nobles of the city",—who these were, what instructions Jezebel had sent them in the king's name, the purpose of proclaiming a fast, the character of the witnesses against Naboth, and the charges which they made against him, the manner in which he was put to death, the sending of the news to Jezebel, and the announcement of the wicked Jezebel

to Ahab,—all these points should be questioned out, it being made clear that the moving spirit in bringing about Naboth's death was the cruel and unscrupulous queen.

II. AHAB, v. 16. "Ahab heard that Naboth was dead." Did he ask how this had been brought about? Did he care, so long as he got the vineyard? Was he not just as guilty as Jezebel of the crime of having Naboth murdered? These are some questions for class discussion. There will be a question about Ahab's going "down" to Jezreel, the explanation being that Jezreel was about 1,000 feet lower than Samaria. The information in the Geography Lesson (QUARTERLIES) about vineyards may be brought out and perhaps supplemented by the teacher. Emphasize Ahab's indifference as to the means used so long as his desire was gratified.

III. ELIJAH, vs. 17-20. By whom the prophet was sent,—the Lord, who had been looking down all the while on Ahab's and Jezebel's wickedness; where he met the king,—at the very gate of his ill-gotten vineyard; his charging Ahab with the death of Naboth; the terrible doom announced by Elijah; Ahab's regarding the prophet as his enemy; and Elijah's fearless pressing home on the royal sinner his great crime, these are the points to be questioned out.

In closing, follow back the crime of Ahab and Jezebel to the covetousness of the king's heart. Lay stress on the dreadful consequences that flow from this heart sin, and the importance of checking all wrong desires before they ripen into evil deeds.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

[SEE SKETCH MAP, LESSON VI.]

Find on the special map, page 72, the number 9 on Mount Gilboa. If you stand at the spot marked 9, looking north over the space included between the two lines that spread from it, you see directly before you part of the rocky hillside of Jezreel, where in Elijah's time King Ahab had a summer palace. It is only about twenty miles from Samaria, but this height is in a location where cooler breezes reach it in midsummer. Down at the foot of the hill, straight ahead, you see farmers' fields divided into long strips by ditches for irrigating the soil. At the farther

side of the fields you see the land sloping upward again till it forms a high ridge or mass of ground and rock, without much sign of vegetation. That is the Hill of Moreh, or as some call it, Little Hermon. In the time of Ahab and Elijah the vineyard which the king coveted was on the ground which you now see divided by the irrigation ditches.

To see for yourself from Ahab's palace hill the ground of Naboth's vineyard use the stereograph entitled, Gideon's Battlefield and the Hill of Moreh, North from Jezreel.