

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 • Read 1Kings 21:17–29

Questions from the Scripture text: What came to whom in v17? Whom was he to meet in what city (v18)? What specific place? Why is he there? What is Elijah to do there (v19)? How is he to introduce his question? What question? How is he to introduce his announcement? What announcement? How does Ahab address Elijah (v20)? What does he ask? Why does Elijah say he has found him? What three things will the Lord do to him in v21? Like he has done to whom (v22)? Whom has Ahab provoked? What has he made Israel to do? About whom else does Elijah speak (v23)? What will happen to her where? What will Ahab's household get instead of burials (v24)? In what was Ahab peerless (v25)? How did he get this way? What, specifically, did he do (v26)? Like whom? And what had LORD done to them? How does Ahab respond (v27)? Now what comes to Elijah in v28? What does He tell Elijah to behold (v29)? What will the LORD do as a result?

To how wicked a man can the Lord show mercy, and how? 1Kings 21:17–29 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these thirteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **as great as Ahab's sin and guilt wrath are, God's mercy is even greater and comes via His Word.**

Based upon Elijah's convicting him of murder and theft (v19a) and sentencing him to death for it (v19b), Ahab calls Elijah his enemy. Here, he makes two mistakes. First, it is the LORD of Whom Ahab has made an enemy. "Thus says the LORD" ... "thus says the LORD" ... it is the LORD Who is Ahab's enemy! Second, this confronting is not an act of enmity to Ahab. In fact, through this confrontation, the Lord gives Ahab the repentance that makes him the only one from his household who is going to escape.

The wickedness of Ahab puts him on a sort of Mount Rushmore of evil. Jeroboam son of Nebat (v22a, cf. 14:7–16), Baasha son of Ahijah (v22b, cf. 16:1–4), the Amorites (v26, cf. Gen 15:16, Lev 18:24–30), and now Ahab. Indeed, v25 implies that he was the worst. This is a warning about marrying poorly. Wicked wives turned Solomon's heart (11:1–13). The sinful influence of his wife was one reason Satan left her with Job (cf. Job 2:9). Now v25 of our text tells us that Ahab reached the pinnacle of wickedness by his wife's stirring him up.

But behold the greatness of God's grace! The response in v27 is profoundly different from the one in 10:43. Now the Word of the LORD comes to Elijah again, but this time it's for Elijah! The command in v29 is to "see." It's not even the common word for 'behold' but an actual command to "see." What is he to see? That the word of the Lord on his own lips was used to produce humility in Ahab, rather than to harden him in his rebellion.

The great grace in this passage is not so much the postponement of the calamity in v29 as it is the repentance in v27. What an encouragement to the prophet who had been so discouraged not too long ago: the Word of the Lord in his mouth is so powerful an agent of such mercy that it produced repentance even in Ahab!

Of Whom does sin make you an enemy? How dangerous is marrying poorly? To Whom can God give repentance? What is His appointed way of doing that?

Sample prayer: Lord, how dreadful a thing sin is, in that it is enmity toward You! But, how great is Your mercy toward us that You grant repentance through Your Word. Forgive us for taking too lightly both the badness of sin and the goodness of Your Word and Your mercy. Use that Word to humble us before You, and for the sake of Christ's righteousness and sacrifice, spare us from the wrath that we had deserved!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH32B "How Blessed Is He Whose Trespass"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

First Kings 21, verses 17 through 29. These are God's words and the Word of Yahweh came to Elijah.

The tissue fight saying her eyes go down to meet Ahab. King of Israel, who lives in Samaria? There he is. And the vineyard of Naboth where he is going down to take possession of it. You. So speak to him saying thus says Yahweh have you murdered and also taken possession and you shall speak to him saying thus says he offer and the place where dogs lick to the blood of Naboth dogs.

Shall lick your blood even yours. So we have said to Elijah, Have you found me my enemy? The answer. I have found you because you have sold yourself to do evil in the side of Yahweh. Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity and we'll cut off from a head every male in Israel.

Both bombed and free. I will make your house like the house of Jerubbellum. The son of Niebet. I like the house of ashes. Another Asia because of the provocation with, which you have provoked me to anger, and made Israel sin and concerning Jezebel Yahwe. Also spoke saying the dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

The dog shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field. But there was not no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of Yahweh because Jezebel his wife, stirred him up and he behaved very abominably and following idols.

According to all that the Amorites had done, whom y'all had cast out before the children of Israel. So it was when I had heard these words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body and fasted and lay in sackcloth and went about morning. When the Word of Yahweh came to Eli to the Tishbite saying, see how Ahab has humbled himself before me because he is humbled himself before me.

I will not bring the calamity in his days. And the days of his son, I will bring the calamity on his house So far, the reading of God's inspired and, and they're

important.

So Ahab being willing, to take the vineyard of Naboth that his wife, Jezebel knew exactly how to get and make it look all correct. According to scripture in the minutes of the city council of Jezreel, here's willingness to take it and his willingness to permit his wife to do.

What? He knew his wife would do and that is commit murder. That was the last straw. The word of Yahweh comes to Elijah and a larger goes. And he speaks he says thus says Yahweh Have you murdered and also taken possession. Thus says y'all and the place where dogs lick the blood of Naboth dogs shall lick your blood even yours.

So he comes the command of the Lord and he confronts ahead but sin so Abs says to Elijah. Have you found me on my enemy? Now this is still to this day. A common response of those who receive the confrontation about their sin, correction for their sin, from those whom.

The Lord has sent Often parents will correct their children for their sin and the child. Even if he doesn't say it with, his mouth will feel in his heart. You hate me or there will be rebellious or resistant in their heart. This happens also in churches with pastors and the congregation or elders on the congregation.

This happens when and try to do Matthew 18. When someone has sinned against you, you go just you and your brother, you tell them his fault, sometimes you don't recover your brother. Sometimes he says have you found me? Oh, you my enemy as Ahab, says to Elijah or words that mean because somewhere effect, sometimes that happens when someone has caught up and I said You're following the opening of Galatians that when your brother is caught up in a sin, let those who are spiritual restored him and The answer to the idea that the person who confronts you with your sin, as your enemy is the rest of verse 20.

I have found you because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of Yahweh. If you're so worried about enemies, then you should hate sin because by sinning, you make yourself an enemy of the Lord. And not only had Ahab made himself an enemy of the Lord.

He had put himself on the Mount Rushmore of enemies of the Lord. When when Elijah says, I'll take away your posterity and we'll cut off from Ahab every mail in Israel. But bonding free whoever dies in the city, the dog's still eat, whoever dies in the field, the birds will eat.

We've heard this twice before and Elijah mentions, those things or Yahweh by the voice of Elijah Jerobaum. The son of Niebet, you don't want to be in the same category as Jerome, the Son of Nebat. And yet we are and chapter 14.

You the hydra says to Mrs. Jurabaum, it would come in disguise because her son was sick. If you remember. Now, the passage that says Yahweh, go out of Israel, because I exalted you among the people maybe ruler over my people, Israel, toward the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you.

You have not been as my serving, David, who kept my commandments, and who followed me with all his art to do, only what is right in my eyes. But you have done more evil than all, who are before you, you have gone to make yourself other Gods, molded images to provoke me to end, anger and have cast me behind your back.

Therefore behold I will bring disaster on the house Jerobaum. I will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel. Both bombed and free. I will take away the remnant of the House of Jeroboam as one takes away, refuse until it is all gone. The dogs shall eat. Whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field for y'all by has spoken.

And then he says, not only like Jeroboam son of Nebat, but like the house of Basha son of adhesion or Asia. He a couple chapters later than chapter 16.

The word of Yahweh Andrew Jews. Son of Hanani against Basha saying and as much as I lifted you out of the dust and made you ruler over my people, you have walked in the way of care about an admitted, my people Israel sin to provoke me to anger with their sins.

Surely, I will take away the posterity of Basha and the posterity of his house and I will make your house like the house of Gerald on the Son of me. Back, the dogs shall eat. Whoever belongs to Basha and dies in the city and the birds of the air shall eat, whoever dies in the fields and you don't have the same formula.

But you have with Jeroboam and Basha. You also have the Amorites verse 26. He says he behaved very abominably in following idols. According to all that the Amorites have done. You remember the Amorites were the special representatives of all the Canaanites when God was promising? The land to Abraham way back in Genesis 15, he told him that he hadn't yet permitted, the Amorites to fill up their sin.

The sin of the Amorites is not yet complete. And yet what has happened to them? By this time, obviously the Lord has cast them out of the land with the great slaughter and he has judged them. So, there's Jeroboam the son of an event and Basha son of Ahija and the Amorites.

And now Ahab gets to be the fourth great figure of those who sold themselves to sin and yet almost like the mighty men, right? The is one of the 30 but not one of the three and this one attained to the three. This one was the greatest of the three.

Wow. Ahab had made himself the greatest of the four but there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness, kind of y'all. Now, two things I want you to see here. The danger of a wife who provokes, her husband to sin and the mercy of, with even the greatest of sinners.

Because in verse 25, it says the way that Ahab came to be number one on the Mount Rushmore of sin. And in the land, there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness and the side of Yahweh because Jezebel is white, stirred him up and remember the wife of Herod.

Do you remember how even godly jobs wife was? The only earthly treasure spared to him by the devil that she might be easily used as a weapon against him. And we don't know, even that she was an unbeliever, but that's she talked. As one of the foolish women speak Job said, and he actually got to be the mother of the children that Job gave that the Lord gave job at the end.

So but Remember she said, why don't you just curse God and die? It's very important. My daughter's that you build up a confidence in the Lord, a trust in him. So you can be a cheerful encourager and reminder of your husband's of the goodness of the Lord. And the EB very committed to obedience to the Lord.

And your husband obey. The Lord wife in a very powerful instrument, It was not good, even for holy Adam to be alone. The Lord. The Lord created him needing that helper to help even holy and to follow the Lord. But a wife can also be a very powerful influence for evil.

Many a man has had his heart turned away. Remember, especially Solomon. Sadly, a few chapters earlier in this book. So that's a greatness of the danger or the harm of a sinful wife or a wicked life. But there's also the greatness of God's grace for this one, who was the chief of the four, even The Lord gave repentance using mommy's Bible like this, you can't find mine and she has a note about how Ahabs disposition was to be Sullen and displeased.

Rebellious is the idea of the word behind Sullen, but that's not how I responds this time. He doesn't respond according to his nature. From where do you think comes this humility? This humbling himself before God when he hears the judgment of God because last time he heard judgment of God at the end of chapter 20.

Thus says, you only because you have let slip out of your hand Amana with my appointed to other destruction. Therefore your life shall go for his life and your people for his people. The last time he heard of word of judgment, the king of Israel went to his house Sullen rebellious, and displeased this time.

So it was when they have heard those words verse 27, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body and fasted and lay in cyclot. Do you see how there is no one so hard that God cannot or would not grant unto them? Humility and repentance. It's true that that God isn't required to and that we never know that we are sending against God, whether we are hardening ourselves, permanently Grace is grace because it is free.

And so, you should not take this as a way to allow yourself in your head to say, oh well, it's okay for me to send some more now. After all of God was able to give Ahab repentance of the Lord does harden him, he will. And yet, if you find hard and you wish that you could repent and you're not finding the ability to repent.

Or if you have a loved one, who is hardened unrepentant? You may yet cry out to God's while there is life. There is hope, Though. They'd be a sinful as I have. They may yet be humbled like Ahab and the Lord tells us that it was true. Humility. See how Ahab has humbled himself before me because he has humbled himself.

Before me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. The mercy of God wasn't in the delay of the penalty. So much. That is merciful of God to delay the penalty. But I think there's a much greater display of the mercy of God just in the fact that I have was granted to repent.

And so let us cry out for that. Mercy, for whatever we are sitting and for those and we love, That's right.

My father in heaven. We pray that you make us to help sin so that we would not make ourselves enemies of you to pray that you would help. Our and daughters to grow in grace that they should you answer our prayers and give them. Godly husbands would be a help and not a hurt to their godly husbands, that they would not provoke or be occasions for reinforce understand and their husband's Pray for our sons that you would grow them in grace and make them to walk in the fear of the Lord, that you would give them godly wife a woman who fears the Lord.

Here's value is better than rubies. And who is to be praised that they might reinforce to help one another and walking with you and Lord, we pray that you would keep us soft-hearted towards you. But that if ever we our back sliding, or need to be corrected that you would make us to respond by humbling ourselves before you not even before men so much.

But that you would you would make us to humble ourselves before you you'd give us that repentance. That was such a mercy to Ahab. At the end of this chapter, we do pray Lord for our dear ones and we love, some of them are very hard against you that you would even yet know, make them to receive a word of correction and the humble before you for, we ask it in Jesus name.

Amen.