

## **What's the Big Idea? Sin and The Devolution of Culture, Part 2**

**1 Kings 21: 1-16**

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### **Introduction:**

#### **Seven steps toward cultural decline:**

- 1. Removal of religious narrative from people's lives**
- 2. Elimination of traditional gender roles through feminism, gender equality, political correctness, cultural Marxism and socialism**
- 3. Delay or abstaining from family formation by women to pursue careerist lifestyles**
- 4. Decreasing birth rate among native population**

**7. Natives becoming marginalized in their own country**

**Which, by the way, this was Edward Gibbons conclusion of The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire.**

**This seems to be going on around us:**

**We [Christians] must face the reality that we may be on the losing side of the culture war. While this certainly does not mean we should stop legal or political efforts completely, it does mean that we should begin thinking about what it looks like to be the church in a post culture war era. We need to be prepared to defend the protection of religious liberty as we move into the future.**

**Ed Stetser**

**Christ against Culture –**

**Christ of Culture -**

**Christ above Culture -**

**Christ and Culture in tension –**

**Christ Transforming Culture –**

#### **I. Ahab's Childish Deportment**

- a. 35 after Jereboam Ahab reigned over Israel (as opposed to Judah)**
- b. Ahab a Jew who married outside of race and religion – Jezebel**
- c. Ahab helped Jezebel import and promote her idolatry**
- d. Ahab also persecuted the prophets of God**
- e. Naboth, a neighbor, owned a vineyard next door to the summer palace**
- f. Ahab wanted the vineyard to make it into a vegetable garden**
- g. God would not permit the sale**
- h. Ahab went home and sulked**

#### **II. Jezebel's Sinister Plan**

- a. Boost Ahabs spirits**
- b. Deal with the issue**
  - i. Puts a hit on Naboth and his sons**
  - ii. Told Ahab to man up**

#### **III. Take Away**

- a. Importance of good leaders**
- b. The Silence of the Righteous**
- c. The Impotence of Things to make us happy**

## **Other Relevant Quotes and Scriptures Sin and the Devolution of Culture, Part 2**

**1 Kings 21: 25, 26 - 25 (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord like Ahab, whom Jezebel his wife incited. 26 He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the Lord cast out before the people of Israel.)**

**1 Kings 21: 3 - But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."**

**Numbers 36: 7 - The inheritance of the people of Israel shall not be transferred from one tribe to another, for every one of the people of Israel shall hold on to the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.**

**Leviticus 25: 23 - "The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine.**

**1 Kings 21: 1-4 - Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." 4 And Ahab went into his house vexed and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and would eat no food.**

**1 Kings 21: 5-16 - But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, "Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?" 6 And he said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" 7 And Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."**

**8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. 9 And she wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. 10 And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed[a] God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death." 11 And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, 12 they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. 13 And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones. 14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead."**

**15 As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead." 16 And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.**

**Ephesians 2: 12 - remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.**

**Ephesians 2: 8, 9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**