

Sovereignty.

b. God commands, vv. 18, 19. The verbs are patent when studying the will of God: arise, go, meet, speak! Elijah is quick to respond--hallelujah!

c. God judges.

1) Ahab vv. 19-22. Three sins are listed which Ahab committed: provoked God to anger made Israel to sin, and sold himself to work evil! He will have his blood licked by the dogs for all this!

2) Seed vv. 21, 22. Here the iniquities of Ahab are visited upon his children. 2 Kings 9 and 10 tell the fateful story.

3) Jezebel vv. 23, 24. The story is told in 2 Kings 9. God's judgment was sure.

NOTE: Ahab accused Elijah of finding him (v. 20) and Elijah confessed that he had. Preachers of righteousness are always considered "enemies," but it is God who finds out the sinner! If only more were found out in order that their sinful hearts might be cleansed! Nowhere is the truth taught with greater clarity than here that God hates sin and will punish it. For a season it may appear that He has overlooked it, but in the end He will show Himself as the righteous God.

d. God's graces. vv. 27-29. Here are precious words indeed. God is infinitely full of grace and these texts prove it. The verbs given show that Ahab was truly repentant (rent, put sackcloth, fasted, lay in sackcloth, went softly). God saw Ahab's bended knee (so the Hebrew) and gave him a promise (v. 29). That's grace!

CONCLUSION Wickedness always has its reward from a righteous God. Yet, there is grace for the one who will humble himself before God and take the place of a needy sinner! This is the Word of the Lord (v. 28). Oh, heed His admonition and turn to Him now (John 3:36).

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDIES ON ELIJAH

"Sold to Work Evil"

1 Kings 21:1-29

Introduction

1. Elijah was employed of God to call his successor Elisha. It was about this very time that a terrible war broke out between Syria and Israel. By God's help, the Syrians were routed and compelled to terms of peace (1 Kings 20).

2. It was after these international disturbances that Elijah re-appears on the scene. Now he comes again as an ambassador of God to Ahab the king. This time he was sent to reprove the king for wickedness.

3. To get the picture clearly in mind and to learn the lesson that selling oneself to do wickedness never issues in prosperity, consider the persons featured in the incident recorded:-

1. AHAB

Here is a man who had a selfish demand. This is the very crux of the whole matter.

a. His possession. v. 1. Ahab had a fine garden all his own. It was nigh his palace. Being a king, he obviously had great wealth.

b. His petition. v. 2. He proposed to Naboth of Jezreel that he sell his vineyard which was near the palace. Ahab hoped to enlarge his possessions. He was entirely business-like in his attempt. But Naboth refused.

c. His prostration. v. 4. The word "heavy" is the Hebrew term which means "sullen, sad, or angry." Ahab's countenance showed his inward feelings. "Displeased" comes from a root which means to "breathe or blow" and suggests that Ahab was storming. He was really angry! The result of this aggressive attitude is described in three phases: 1) he lay down. 2) he turned his face. 3) he refused to eat. Like a child who couldn't get his own way he decided to give his wife and family the silent treatment! And he was the mighty king