

Naboth's Vineyard & Lying Lips

Foundation

Bible passage: 1 Kings 21, Prov 12.22

Naboth's Vineyard

This is another example of people giving false witness. Ahab was King of Israel in the days when the tribes had been divided into two separate kingdoms. Next to his palace in Samaria was a vineyard belonging to Naboth. Ahab wanted the vineyard and was willing to pay for it, but Naboth was not willing to sell. So, Ahab became sulky, hardly befitting a king, but not untypical.

When Ahab's wife, Jezebel, found out she was disgusted that the King was prepared to be thwarted in this way. So, she proposed to get the vineyard for Ahab. Without asking what she proposed to do the King agreed. The plan involved writing to the leaders of Jezreel who were to engineer a situation in which two "worthless men" would accuse Naboth of cursing God. The plan was carried through and Naboth was dragged out of the city and killed. Ahab then cheerfully took possession of the vineyard. But neither he nor Jezebel had reckoned with the fact that God knew what they had done.

"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD"

The two "worthless men" had actually done the lying, but the leaders of the city were guilty of not standing against such injustice, the Queen was guilty of engineering it, and the King for



failing to uphold justice in his kingdom or respect the decision of Naboth not to sell.

The Lord sent Elijah the prophet to Ahab. When Ahab was confronted, he repented of his sin and was shown mercy. This is important because we see many times in the Bible how God does show mercy; He wants people to repent and it is through Jesus that we can be forgiven. Sadly, Ahab's repentance did not last and eventually his family would no longer reign over Israel and were destroyed.

The King and Queen eventually met a bloodthirsty end in fulfilment with the word of God. The Queen's body was eaten by dogs (2 Kings 9.32-37) whilst dogs licked up the King's blood in Naboth's vineyard (1 Kings 22.38).

Lying Lips

Proverbs 12.22 says *"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight."* This again is a strong condemnation like what we have seen before and show how serious this matter is to God. Incidents such as Jezebel and Ananias and Sapphira remind us that this is serious and though God, in mercy, does often delay judgement, He will judge.



Various lies were told to bring about Naboth's death but God was not fooled those guilty were eventually judged.