

Turning the Hearts: Ahab

Reign: 22 years

I Kings 16:29-17:1, 18:17-46, 20:43-21:29

The Law of God is completely disregarded.

Ahab's Marriage Alliance

- Was the son of Omri
- Reigned in the new capital city: Samaria
- Was **worse** than all the kings before him
- Married Jezebel, princess of the Sidonians

Jezebel's Commitment to Baal Worship

- Temple of Baal in Samaria
 - Made Asherah images
- Hiel, the Bethelite, rebuilt Jericho

The political leadership cares only about their own comfort and desires.

Ahab gets victories over Aram (Syria).

- Ben-hadad and 32 kings besiege Samaria.
- A prophet tells Ahab that Yaweh will deliver the enemy into his hand: "so that you will know that I am the LORD."
- gods of the mountain/gods of the plains

Ahab gets Naboth's vineyard.

- Property belongs to Naboth's family.
- Jezebel gets false accusers and has Naboth stoned for "blasphemy."
- Ahab takes possession of the vineyard.

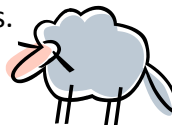
The people truly following Yaweh are targeted.

Jezebel intends to wipe out Yaweh worship.

- **Kills** the prophets.
- 100 prophets are **hidden** in caves by Obadiah.
- Levites in the cities either **move** south or keep silent.
- The prophet Micaiah is thrown into **prison**.
- 7,000 people who don't worship Baal **keep quiet**.

The general population goes along with what they are told.

They don't know the truth about Yaweh. (Who has taught them?!) It has been just over 60 years since Jeroboam set up the golden calves. They follow the priests at Bethel/Dan and 450 Baal prophets plus 400 Asherah prophets.



How is God going to get their attention and bring them back to Himself?

- Problems.
- Powerful displays.
- Person telling them the truth of where they are.

The Bottom Line

Ahab let Jezebel rule his country as long as he got what he wanted.