

THE TESTAMENT TIMES
THE BROOKLYN
BERNACLE
BIBLE STUDIES

A KING SOLD HIMSELF
 1 Kings 21—February 26
 "Take heed and beware of covetousness— which is idolatry."—Leviticus 19:15; Col. 3:5.

King Ahab said, "They have sold themselves to work evil in the sight of the Lord." The effects of the drought gradually disappeared, but its salutary lesson remained with the King and with the people to a considerable extent. The true God had some recognition. Baal's influence was considerably broken. Queen Jezebel evidently relented concerning her threat against Elijah. He returned and founded various Schools of the Prophets in Israel, himself being the master-spirit amongst them.

Our present lesson shows the meanness of covetousness and the awful power of a wicked woman. Ahab had two fine palaces; one of them, at Jezreel, was an "ivory" palace, but even its possession did not make the King happy. He desired to attach to it a fine vineyard owned by Naboth. He sent Naboth word of his desire to purchase with money or to trade for it another vineyard, Naboth, asserting his rights, declined to sell for any price.



As a result the King was disappointed, heart-sick, and pouty. He had allowed covetousness to grow in his heart. He wanted that vineyard. He was King, so it was very disrespectful of Naboth to refuse to take a good, liberal price for it. Naboth declared as his objection that the Lord's regulations forbade that he should sell his family inheritance. Apparently it was a hopeless case and Ahab, solemn and sour, lay abed, refusing food.

Covetousness in Action

Then entered Jezebel the Queen, inquiring the cause of his sorrow. Hearing it she answered, "Will I give it to you. Forthwith she wrote letters to the chief men of the city, signing the letters with her husband's seal. With brutal frankness the letters told the select men of the city what was desired of them.

(1) They were to make a mockery of religion by keeping a fast.

(2) They were to act hypocritically to their neighbor Naboth by giving him the most prominent place of honor at the fast.

(3) They were to provide two worthless scoundrels (presumably by bribery) who, at the appropriate time in the fast would take their places near Naboth and then, with feigned religious fervor, protest against him and denounce him as a blasphemer of God and the King, corroborating each other with sworn testimony that they had heard the blasphemy with their own ears.

(4) The penalty of blasphemy was recognized to be that of stoning and the decree was to be carried out and Naboth thus to be gotten rid of.

If we are inclined to feel or speak strongly of the wicked course of Jezebel, as we should, let us not forget that somewhat similar practices prevail in our day. True, no one today could be stoned to death at the suggestion of a Queen in civilized lands. Nevertheless, people have been heard to express the wish that they had lived in former times, so as to have had an opportunity for stoning those whom they disliked. But take a case in point: Suppose a man conducting a successful business. Suppose covetous neighbors set up a competing business, as they would have a full right to do. But suppose, then, that one or the other, coveting the whole trade, were to attempt sharp practices in business, selling commodities at below cost, interfering with the other's credit at the bank, or slandering the other, would not this be covetousness in action—covetousness of the same kind which King Ahab entertained? And would it not be reprehensible in God's sight? And dare any who respect the Lord, so thoroughly neglect the Golden Rule of his Word?

Another illustration: A storekeeper doing a good business was offered a certain commodity at a less price than he had been paying under a three-years' contract. He accepted. The party who had been selling him this commodity in the past was angry, covetous of the trade. He set up a competing business and sold goods at a loss, as he could afford to do, being wealthy, until the first storekeeper failed for lack of business. Then the new store was closed down, because it had effected its work as a business assassin. It had killed Naboth. Indeed, covetousness and Jezebel methods, adapted to present-day conditions, prevail much more generally than the majority of people suppose and chiefly amongst the very rich, who have enough and to spare, but who covet their neighbors' stocks and bonds, gold and silver, etc. If God denounced Ahab as having sold himself to iniquity, what would the Lord's verdict be on some of the customs of our day, which has so much greater degree of light and knowledge than Ahab possessed?

"That Woman Jezebel"

As per instructions, word was at once sent, which came to the hands of Jezebel, saying that Naboth was dead, as per the King's wishes. The Queen then said to her sullen lord, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth: it is dead.

The King seems to have had no qualms of conscience, but to have been in some respects as bad as the Queen, but with less courage. At all events he proceeded to take possession of the vineyard—as though he did not recognize that there is a God of Justice to whom he must ultimately account. Then Elijah, under Divine direction, went forth to meet the King and, by the Lord's command, said, "Hast thou killed and also taken possession? In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood." And this prophecy was fulfilled to the letter very shortly after. Note, however, the King's attitude and how inclined he was, as before, to ignore the Lord and to think merely of the Prophet. Ahab accosted Elijah, saying, "Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?" He received the answer, "I have found thee because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord." Covetousness is one of the most crying evils of our day. It is causing more heartaches and trouble of every kind, perhaps, than any other sin. "In palaces are hearts that ask, In discontent and weary task, Why life is such a woe, And all good things denied: And hearts in poorest huts admire How Love has in their aid Love that not ever seems to tire— Such rich provision made."

STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, READ!

\$10,000 STOCK OF GOODS

The entire stock of H. D. Reddick, of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Hats, Notions, Hardware, Harness, Crockery and Glassware is being sacrificed at prices at and below cost.

When we say below cost it is a fact, and any "Doubting Thomas" will be convinced that we are selling everything at a sacrifice by giving us a call. Below are a few of the many bargains that we are offering, and as this stock of goods must be cleared out within the next few weeks this is your opportunity to see us.

Just at this time we are offering:

One hundred pairs of Shoes, worth anywhere from \$1.00 to \$2.50, at 50c	One hundred pairs of Shoes, worth anywhere from \$2.50 to \$4.00, at \$1.50
One hundred pairs of Shoes, worth anywhere from \$2.00 to \$3.00, at \$1.00	One hundred pairs of Shoes, worth anywhere from \$3.00 to \$4.00, at 2.00

The entire stock of shoes, which are new, clean and up-to-date as far as style is concerned, are going at prices far below what they are worth. Nor do we confine sacrifice sales to shoes alone, for each and every article of merchandise of every kind and description in the entire building is being sold at corresponding prices. If you are alive to opportunities and if you are capable of appreciating what we are offering you will follow the rush to H. D. Reddick's old stand and get your choice of these bargains before it is too late.

Remember that this stock of goods must be closed out within the next week or ten days, and now is your opportunity.

Nesmith News.

Nesmith, February 20:— Miss Edith Graham, who has been teaching near Greelyville, is at home.

Miss Myrtle Nesmith, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs Clyde Ellerbe, in Florence, returned home last week.

Mrs V W Graham entertained delightfully on Friday evening, complimentary to her sister, Miss Maude Chandler of Benson. Those present were: Misses Emily Brockington, Carrie McElveen, Evelyn Graham, Bessie Williams, Anna Bell, Maude Chandler, Myrtle Nesmith and Effie Brockington; Dr Pratt, Messrs Johnson, Marlow, Eaddy, James, Brockington and Dukes.

Miss Mattie Graham, who has been teaching at Harpers, returned to her home last week.

Miss Maude Chandler is visiting

her sister, Mrs V W Graham. Mr T C Duke of Benson spent the week-end with friends in this vicinity. SUBSCRIBER.

A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Liniment and bound on to the affected parts is superior to any plaster. When troubled with lame back or pains in the side or chest give it a trial and you are certain to be more than pleased with the quick relief which it affords. Sold by all dealers.

The Value of Politeness.

Smartness is not always smart; indeed, smartness is not smart half the time. An act which half the people will say is smart will disgust the other half. But politeness is always politeness. Even honesty is not always accepted as honesty, and fairness is not always accepted as fairness, but— politeness always makes a favorable impression.— Atchison Globe.

Thunder and Rain.
 The downpour of rain that sometimes follows a flash of lightning is usually supposed to be due to the coalescence of fine drops on losing their electrical charge, but Mr. Laine, a Finnish observer, concludes that the thunder jars the drops together. Near Vasa a heavy thunderstorm came up from the east late one afternoon, and, as the sun was unclouded, a brilliant double rainbow appeared in the east for half an hour, arching from horizon to horizon. At each roll of thunder the rainbows seemed to be much shaken, the edges being displaced and the colors blurred. This could not be due to the lightning, and it seemed that the same cause might enlarge the raindrops and disturb the rainbows.

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 stops the cough and heals lungs

Have You a Cold?
 About one in every ten you pass has. The lucky nine have probably taken our **White Pine and Tar Syrup** and been cured. Now we are after that one person that's hacking away and cure him also. Are you the one? If so, then you want the cure for sale by **The New Haselden Drug Company** Greelyville, S. C.

Sore Throat and Chest
 I am so enthusiastic concerning the virtues of **HUNT'S LIGHTNING OIL** that I always keep a bottle of it in the house, and to my particular friends I give a bottle unless they live so near that I can pour out from my own supply to tide them over any trouble. I use this liniment for colds, rubbing it on my throat and chest as a counter irritant. *** I won't say any more but you see how enthusiastic I am. Mrs. Ida B. Judd, 1 West 87th Street, New York City. Sold by: **W. V. BROCKINGTON, Kingstree, S. C. BLAKELY & McCULLOUGH, Lanes, S. C.**