

Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 – First Baptist Church Buda
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study



“When God Says, ‘That’s Enough’”
1 Kings 21

While many people like to stick with the New Testament when it comes to reading the Bible, I must confess that the Old Testament has a special place in my heart. I love reading the testimonies of faith heroes like Abraham, Moses, David, Esther, Joseph and more. Their lives are so inspiring and if we're honest, filled with enough drama and conflict to keep me on the edge of my seat. One of my all-time favorite testimonies in the Bible is that of the Prophet Elijah, that we have been looking at the last few weeks as we began our study on his life.

This man was on fire for God. Literally at his request the Lord answered with a consuming fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:36-38). Elijah was sent on mission from God to turn the Israelites hearts back to their One True God. When we first read of Elijah, the Israelites have been worshipping both the God of their ancestors, who is the One True Living God, and the false God Baal. Enough was enough. God sent Elijah to confront their wavering faith and lead them to make a decision.

7 Things You May Not Know About Elijah in the Bible:

(1) God uses the **ordinary**, like Elijah, to do the **extraordinary** - James 5:17-18 reminded us that he was an ordinary man just like us. *“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.” - James 5:17-18 ESV* Elijah, a biblical prophet is one of the most interesting characters in the Bible. His life was colorful. God used him during a really important time in Israel’s history to oppose a wicked king and to bring revival to those people. Like many other characters in the Bible, Elijah’s life was not without its challenges. His life was filled with turmoil. There were times when he was decisive and valiant, but there were also times when he was fearful and uncertain. He also demonstrated victory and defeat, trailed by recovery. He recognized the power of God, but he also knew the pits of depression. His life was devoted to the work of restoring true worship In Israel. Ultimately, Elijah urged the people of ancient Israel to turn from sin and to return to the true God and his message is just as important for us today. Elijah’s admonition

that God's people faithfully serve Him with their whole heart is just as relevant now as it was during his time on earth.

- (2) **Elijah Was Chosen By God** - God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Similar to many of the prophets of the Bible, Elijah didn't seek to be one of God's messengers. Instead, God chose him directly for the position. When he was called, Elijah didn't hesitate to take on his mission, even though it appeared his life would be threatened by the wicked king. Elijah set out at once for the capital city of Samaria to deliver the announcement to King Ahab. Then God sent Elijah into hiding as the drought dried up the streams and withered the crops of the nation (1 Kings 17:7-15; 1 Kings 18:1). Elijah was chosen to confront the followers of Baal simply because he had a relationship with God. In addition to confronting the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, he also performed many miracles: providing an endless supply of flour for a widow and raising a young boy from the dead.
- (3) **We Don't Know a Lot About His Past** - Elijah's name means "my God is the Lord." He came from Tishbeh in Gilead, but little is known of his family or birth. While many prophets of the Bible are introduced with information about family lineage, this wasn't the case with Elijah. This shows that his selection by God was divine. He came out of nowhere to do the extraordinary at time when he was so desperately needed. Only God can do that. While we don't know a great deal about his life, we do know a lot about his nature and character. Elijah was attentive to God's voice and walking in obedience to His Word. Through this, Elijah found encouragement, reward and victory. Like any human, he struggled with his own frailties, but he was still used mightily by God. Our Heavenly Father uses us for those same purposes.
- (4) **Prayer Was His Key Strategy** - Elijah prayed to God vehemently. His prayers were bold and he called on God to do the miraculous. His requests weren't small – He prayed for a drought in the land, prayed to raise the widow's son from the dead and called down a fire from heaven to consume the offering on Mount Carmel. The Bible tells us, "At the usual time for offering the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet walked up to the altar and prayed, 'O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, prove today that you are God in Israel and that I am Your servant. Prove that I have done all that is at your command. Immediately the fire of the Lord flashed down from heaven and burned up the young bull, the wood, the stones and the dust. It even licked up all the water in the trench!'" (1 Kings 18:36,38). We see through Elijah's life that prayer is truly powerful. His life reminds us that if we trust in God through prayer, it will make a significant impact.
- (5) **He Suffered With Depression** - Depression is often triggered by life circumstances and can really pull you into the pit. There are numerous biblical references to depression. Scripture describes the struggles of people who suffered with depression even though they were faithful servants of God. These men did not suffer primarily because they were sinners. They suffered because they were human and were susceptible to severe pressures. Elijah grew depressed when he was rebuked while he was anticipating a moment of triumph. His lofty hopes were crushed; he became sick at heart. Up until this point, Elijah had been the epitome of spiritual courage. He now collapses, runs away when Israel most needs his leadership, possibly missing the chance for national repentance and turns suicidal. He suffered from spiritual depression – a specific kind of depression that is related to commitment to God. Elijah's depression, along with many other biblical characters, alerts us to the fact that being committed to God does not necessarily exempt us from being depressed.
- (6) **His Life Was Threatened** - When the false prophets of Baal were dead, Elijah's life was threatened by Jezebel, the wicked wife of King Ahab. As Israel's queen, she brought the worship of her god Baal, influencing King Ahab to worship Baal and set up idols in Israel (1 Kings 16:31; 1 Kings 21:25-26). God's prophets who bring messages of warning are often hated and accused of being the cause of such suffering. Jezebel and the false prophets of Baal

hated Elijah and they did everything in their power to catch him. In a moment of human weakness, Elijah was deeply discouraged. But it wasn't long before God reassured Elijah and sent him back to face King Ahab. Elijah was sent to deliver the message that Ahab and Jezebel would both die a humiliating death because of all the wicked deeds they refused to repent of (1 Kings 21:20-24).

- (7) **John the Baptist's Ministry Was Marked By 'The Spirit and Power of Elijah'** - We can learn about the message of the final Elijah by studying the mission of John the Baptist. Gabriel brought a message from God that a prophet was coming to announce that Jesus was the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. John the Baptist was the prophet, and Jesus declared that John was an Elijah-like figure, in addition to one who would come later (Matthew 11:14; Matthew 17:12). An angel declared of John's mission: "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him [Jesus] in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:16-17). Ultimately, John the Baptist's ministry was marked by "the spirit and power of Elijah" fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6. James uses Elijah as an example of prayer in James 5:17-18. He says that Elijah "was a human being, even as we are: yet he prayed that it wouldn't rain and it didn't. Then he prayed that it would rain and it did. We see through this that the power of prayer is in God, not within our human nature.

Many people think that the prophets were morally or spiritually superior to us, and it's easy to think of Elijah in this way. But the truth is, he wasn't. Like us, Elijah needed correction, encouragement and the knowledge that other believers were standing against Baal too. Elijah wasn't exceptionally spiritual or superior. He was completely human. But what made Elijah extraordinary was his complete commitment to the Will of God. Elijah gave all his energy and heart so that the world would know the one true God. God uses the ordinary to do the extraordinary.

The wrath of God is not something most people like to talk about. It is not a topic that you will hear addressed much in churches today, in pulpits, or in Bible study classes. It's not a pleasant fact, but it is a reality. We need not apologize for it, nor do we dare ignore it. While He is patient and kind, gracious and loving, God also can come to the end of His patience and execute His wrath with final, telling blows. What else can the writer of Hebrews mean when he writes in Hebrews 10:31, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

His wrath is as much a divine perfection as His faithfulness, mercy, and compassion. Let's not forget that a proper respect of our awesome Father-God cannot be complete apart from realization that there are times when He says, "That's enough!" He did it in Biblical time... and He does in in our times too. This ought to peak our attention not dull it. It ought to arouse us to the critical and exhausting nature of day. God does get enough! His patience is stretched. He is surely full of grace, mercy and longsuffering. But He is likewise a God who says, "Enough!"

LAYING SOME GROUND WORK: THE WRATH OF GOD

"Many Christians feel as if they have to apologize for the doctrine of God's divine wrath. Some think it a blemish on God's character. Others think that God's wrath is inconsistent with his love." -Dr. Ray Pritchard

“The fact is that the subject of divine wrath has become taboo in modern society, and Christians by and large have accepted the taboo and conditioned themselves never to raise the matter.” - Dr. J.I Packer (“Knowing God,” pg. 149)

Some Question on the Wrath of God:

1. Why do you think many Christians feel they have to apologize for God’s wrath (as cited by Dr. Ray Pritchard)?
2. How do you rectify (remedy, resolve, square, equalize, offset) God’s wrath and God’s love or can it be rectified?
3. In your estimation is God wrath as important (to understand) as God’s love? Why or why not? (Explain)

2 Important Biblical Facts to Know: (particularly dealing with God’s wrath)

1. The Bible says more about wrath than love
2. Jesus spoke more about hell than about heaven

What does that tell us about the subject and how does that perhaps inform our own belief/understand?

Let’s begin with a simple definition of wrath as one of God’s attributes. It’s important to get a proper definition because when we use the word wrath we tend to think of uncontrolled anger. While that may be human wrath, it is far from the truth about God’s wrath. Here’s a working definition...

A Good Working Definition of God’s wrath:

“God’s wrath is His settled hostility toward sin in all its various manifestations.”

To say it is “settled” hostility means that God’s holiness cannot and will not coexist with sin in any form whatsoever. God’s wrath is his holy hatred of all that is unholy. It is his righteous indignation at everything that is unrighteous.

3 Things God’s Wrath is Not: Please note these distinctions. God’s wrath is not ...

1. Uncontrollable rage
2. Vindictive bitterness
3. God losing his temper

In fact, the Bible says in more than one place that God is “slow to anger” (Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 103:8). God never “loses his temper” the way we do. Wrath is God’s “natural” response to sin in the universe. He cannot overlook it, he cannot wink at it, he cannot pretend it is not there.

4 Things God’s Wrath Is: (keep these in mind as you read our story and text from 1 Kings 21)

1. Wrath is what happens when holiness meets sin
2. Wrath is what happens when justice meets rebellion
3. Wrath is what happens when righteousness meets unrighteousness
4. Wrath is what happens when perfect good meets pure evil

- *As long as God is God, he cannot overlook sin.*
 - *As long as God is God, he cannot stand by indifferently while his creation is destroyed.*
 - *As long as God is God, he cannot dismiss lightly those who trample his holy will.*
 - *As long as God is God, he cannot wink when men mock his name.*
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The doctrine of the wrath of God has fallen on hard times. In today's world, any concept of God's wrath upsets our modern sentiments. It's too disconcerting, too intolerant. **We live in a day where we have set ourselves as the judge and God's character is on trial.** "How can hell be just?" "Why would God command the Israelites to destroy the Canaanites?" "Why does God always seem so angry?"

The fact that so many people struggle with these questions, and many more like them, means that more than ever right thinking is needed about the doctrine of God's wrath. It is needed for motivation for Christian living, fuel for proper worship, and as a toolbox to confront objections to Christianity. Here are five biblical truths about the wrath of God:

5 Truths About the Wrath of God:

1. **God's wrath is just** - It has become common for many to argue that the God of the Old Testament is a moral monster that is by no means worthy of worship. However, biblical authors have no such problem. In fact, God's wrath is said to be in perfect accord with God's justice. Paul writes in **Romans 2:5**, *"But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."* God's wrath, then, is in proportion to human sinfulness. "God's wrath is his love in action against sin." Similarly, **Proverbs 24:12 (ESV)** says, *"If you say, 'Behold, we did not know this,' does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?"* J.I. Packer summarizes, "God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil" (*Knowing God*, 151).
2. **God's wrath is to be feared** - God's wrath is to be feared because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Paul said in **Romans 3:23**, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* God's wrath is to be feared because we are justly condemned sinners apart from Christ (**Romans 5:1**). God's wrath is to be feared because he is powerful enough to do what he promises (**Jeremiah 32:17**). God's wrath is to be feared because God promises eternal punishment apart from Christ (**Matthew 25:46**).
3. **God's wrath is consistent in the Old and New Testaments** - It is common to think of the Old Testament God as mean, harsh, and wrath-filled, and the God of the New Testament as kind, patient, and loving. Neither of these portraits are representative of Scripture's teaching on the wrath of God. We find immensely fearful descriptions of the wrath of God in both the Old and the New Testament. Here are just a few examples: "God must act justly and judge sin, otherwise God would not be God." **Jeremiah 30:23** says, *"Behold the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked."* **Nahum 1:2** says, *"The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies."* And in the New Testament **Romans 1:18** says, *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."*

4. **God's wrath is His love in action against sin** - This is counter-intuitive, but hear me out. God is love, and God does all things for his glory (1 John 4:8; Romans 11:36). He loves his glory above all (and that is a good thing!). Therefore, God rules the world in such a way that brings himself maximum glory. This means that God must act justly and judge sin (i.e. respond with wrath), otherwise God would not be God. God's love for his glory motivates his wrath against sin. Admittedly, God's love for his own glory is a most sobering reality for many and not good news for sinners. It is after all, "a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).
5. **God's wrath is satisfied in Christ** - "In saving us from his own wrath, God has done what we could not do, and he has done what we didn't deserve." Here we have the ultimate good news: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15). Because of Christ, God can rightly call sinners justified (Romans 3:26). God has done what we could not do, and he has done what we didn't deserve. Charles Wesley rightly exulted in this good news:
**And can it be that I should gain
 An interest in the Saviour's blood?
 Died he for me, who caused his pain!
 For me, who him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! How can it be
 That thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

GENERAL REVELATION: DIVINE JUDGEMENT

Not enough is said these days about the end of God's patience. For some time, God's grace has been given the spotlight. Although that's not wrong, it is not the full story. His grace is to be properly viewed and understood in light of His wrath... the two truths must be held in balance.

2 Principles in Proverbs: Though many passages in the Bible deal with God's judgment, we want to review two that appear in this timely and wise, book of Proverbs.

1. **God's wrath falls on the one who hears and does not respond (Proverbs 29:1) -** *"He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."* This verse includes both a warning and a severe promise. Speaking to mankind in general, Solomon says that a man or woman who hardens his heart (neck, i.e. hardheaded and won't listen) after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy. This is a warning to those who hear, but don't respond.
2. **God's wrath falls on the one who walks contrary to His ways (Proverbs 6:12-15) -** *"¹² A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; ¹³ He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; ¹⁴ Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. ¹⁵ Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; suddenly he shall be broken without remedy."* Again, a warning and a severe promise are given. Referring to a "worthless person" (v.12), Solomon says, that his calamity will come suddenly; instantly he will be broken, and there will be no healing.

Observation: Notice in both instances God's wrath comes with two realities.

2 Realities Concerning God's Wrath:

1. **God's wrath comes suddenly** – We may think we've gotten away with it, God's never going to judge me, I'm okay, my sin doesn't matter, God doesn't see, it's not so back. It is almost as if we become anesthetized to our own sin. We become so fixated on God grace and mercy we forget about His holiness and that he does judge sin.

2. **God's wrath comes without remedy** – In other words it's final, it's ultimate, it's absolute and it's complete.

Some Examples in Scripture: To illustrate God's exercise of His wrath, let's consider the following...

1. **Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19)** – In His grace, God tolerated the actions of the citizens living in the two towns, but He eventually came to a point when He said He would take no more. He destroyed both cities forever. Verses 12-13 says, *"¹² Then the men said to Lot, 'Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! ¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.'*" God's patience had grown thin and He had enough.
2. **Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12:21-23)** – *"²¹ So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. ²² And the people kept shouting, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!' ²³ Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died."* This man, the grandson of Herod the Great, dressed up in his royal attire on an appointed day and appeared before his people. The people made claims which he wrongly accepted. They said, "The voice of a god and not a man!" Failing to do what was right, Herod Agrippa was "immediately" struck down dead by God, because the monarch pushed Him to the end of His patience. Worms ate Herod, apparently attacking his intestines. He died at the age of 34 in 44 AD.
3. **The Prophets of Judah (1 Chronicles 36:11-16)** – *"¹¹ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. ¹² He did evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. ¹³ And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear an oath by God; but he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁴ Moreover all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to all the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the LORD which He had consecrated in Jerusalem. ¹⁵ And the LORD God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy."* For more than three hundred years, the people had been served by godless kings. Also, *"¹³... all the leaders of the priests and the people transgressed more and more, according to the abominations of the nations, and defiled the house of the Lord which He had consecrated in Jerusalem."* Finally, *"¹⁶... the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was not remedy."*

SPECIFIC ILLUSTRATION: AHAB AND JEZEBEL (1 Kings 22)

We have seen how God dealt with two cities, with a king, and with a nation. Now, we will see how He dealt with a royal couple.

The Vineyard (vv.1-4) - *"And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, 'Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money.' ³ But Naboth said to Ahab, 'The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!' ⁴ So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken 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." The scene given to us is pitiful. Naboth, a Jezreelite, owned a vineyard situated within the shadow of Ahab's palace. Wanting the vineyard for a vegetable garden, Ahab tried to negotiate a trade or a purchase, but Naboth refused to sell the inheritance of his ancestors. (According to the Law of Moses as recorded in Leviticus 25:23-28, his refusal was appropriate.) Ahab was upset ("sullen and vexed") at the response, and began to pout.

The Murder (vv.5-13) – *"⁵ But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, 'Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?' ⁶ 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 pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.' " ⁷ Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." ⁸ And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. ⁹ She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth ^[a] with high honor among the people; ¹⁰ and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die. ¹¹ So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them. ¹² They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people. ¹³ And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died."* Upon learning of Naboth's refusal, Jezebel moved in to take control, promising her husband, "... I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite" (v.7). She devised a strategy which framed Naboth and resulted in premeditated, cold-blooded murder. Two false witnesses recruited by the king and queen said of him, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king" (vv.10, 13). The result? He was stoned to death.

The Response (vv.14-19) – *"¹⁴ Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead." ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that 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 So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. ¹⁷ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ¹⁸ "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. ¹⁹ You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?" ' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours." ' " Without guilt, regret, or fear, Jezebel seized the vineyard for her husband (vv.14-16). And at that point, God stepped in and said, in essence, "That enough; I will not take anymore" (vv.17-19). God gave Elijah a message with accompanying instruction. "You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: Have you murdered and also taken possession? And you shall speak to him, saying, Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.'" God's patience had come to an end!*

The Prediction (vv.20-24) – *"²⁰ So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD: ²¹ 'Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. ²² I will make your house like the house*

of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.' ²³ And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.' ²⁴ The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field." Ahab was informed by Elijah that evil would come on him and that he would be "utterly" swept away. The judgment continued as Elijah told Ahab that every male would be "cut off" from him and that the dogs would eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel. His offspring dying in the city would also be eaten by dogs, while those dying in the fields would be consumed by birds. NOTE: God's prediction made through Elijah was indeed fulfilled (Ahab: 1 Kings 22:37-30; Jezebel: 2 Kings 9:30-37)

The Commentary (vv.25-26) – ²⁵ But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. ²⁶ And he behaved very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel." Scripture tells us: "But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up. And he behaved very abominable in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel."

PERSONAL APPLICATION: FOR OUR DAY

➡ A general principle must be learned from this study, as Dr Charles Swindoll says it, "God's wheels grind slowly, but exceedingly fine." What do you think he means by this? What are the implications for our day? For our lives personally?

When we sin and compromise, God doesn't tolerate it, though He may allow it to continue for a season. Therefore, we must mind the following...

Some Biblical truths to remember given God's wrath:

1. **There is an end of God's patience** – No one knows it! Listen to Paul's word in Romans 1:18-25, ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. ²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." And yet Peter reminds us in 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promises, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."
2. **God keeps His promises** – No one stops it! 2 Corinthians 1:20, "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."
3. **God acknowledges humility** – No one should refuse it! 1 Peter 5:5-6 says, "... God resists the proud, but give grace to the humble. Therefore, humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."