

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 16.1, 1 Kings 21-22, Part 1 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 16.1, 1 Kings 21-22, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture provides an analysis of 1 Kings 21-22, specifically focusing on the story of Naboth's vineyard. **He emphasizes that the land truly belongs to Yahweh and highlights the contrast between Ahab's wavering faith and Jezebel's ruthless pursuit of power. The lecture examines Ahab's double-mindedness**, torn between Yahweh and Baal, and contrasts it with Jezebel's unwavering commitment to paganism and power acquisition. **Oswalt underscores God's willingness to show mercy upon repentance**, even to those who have strayed far from righteousness, as seen in Ahab's partial repentance. **The lecture aims to convey a deeper meaning** to those seeking the message of the text.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 16.1 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).



**Oswalt_Kings_Sessi
on16_1.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 16.1, 1 Kings 21-22, Part 1

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 1 Kings 21-22, focusing on the story of Naboth's Vineyard:

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 1 Kings 21-22 (Naboth's Vineyard)

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session16_1.pdf"

Main Themes and Key Ideas:

- **God's Ownership of the Land:** The central theme is that the land of Israel belongs to Yahweh, not to the Israelites themselves. This is the core conflict in the Naboth's Vineyard story. As Oswalt states, "The land of Israel belonged to Yahweh. It was not Israel's land. It was Yahweh's land." This concept, rooted in the book of Joshua, means that individuals cannot dispose of land as they see fit, particularly outside of their tribe or clan. It's a stewardship, not absolute ownership. The story serves to underscore that critical point.
- **The Purpose of the Story:** The story is not a random inclusion but a carefully chosen narrative to illustrate the conflict between recognizing Yahweh's authority and adopting pagan values. Oswalt asks, "Over and over again as we study the Bible, we need to ask ourselves, why did the Holy Spirit cause this to be included?" He answers his own question by stating that the inclusion is to emphasize, "whose land is this? Is it Yahweh's land? Or is it simply the land of the Israelites who are worshiping whatever God comes to mind?"
- **Ahab's Double-Mindedness:** Ahab is portrayed as a "double-minded man," torn between loyalty to Yahweh and the allure of worldly desires and power. He's not fully committed to Baal like Jezebel but isn't fully devoted to Yahweh either. This internal conflict leads to misery and instability, a state Oswalt compares to James' description of the double-minded person. "He is one foot in the camp of Yahweh and one foot in the camp of Baal...Folks, that's a miserable place to live...You can't be happy sinning, and you can't be happy not sinning. And that's why the Apostle James says that kind of a person is unstable in all their ways."
- **Jezebel's Pursuit of Power:** In contrast to Ahab, Jezebel is single-minded in her pursuit of power, representing a pagan worldview where power is absolute and the acquisition of it is the ultimate goal. She manipulates the legal system and

orchestrates Naboth's death to obtain the vineyard, showcasing her ruthless ambition. "She knows that she's got to rig the books, which is precisely what she does...Now, what's going on there? What's going on there is the understanding that life is about the acquisition of power, power over people, and power to get what you want in a way that will leave you in power."

- **Elijah's Confrontation:** Elijah confronts Ahab, accusing him of selling himself to do evil. This highlights the choice between serving Yahweh (the God of grace, love, and faithfulness) and serving the pursuit of personal power and desires. Elijah's role is of someone who is seen as a "troubler", because Ahab had sold himself to evil in the eyes of the Lord. The prophet's pronouncements of doom emphasize the consequences of rejecting God's authority.
- **Ahab's Partial Repentance and God's Mercy:** Even Ahab's limited repentance leads to God's mercy, delaying the promised disaster until his son's reign. This illustrates God's willingness to forgive and bless those who genuinely humble themselves, regardless of their past actions. "Even an Ahab can repent to some degree...Because he's humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day. I'll bring it to his house in the days of his son." This emphasizes the consistent nature of God's mercy and forgiveness, as Jonah understood. "God will bless anybody who repents. If Satan would repent, God would have mercy on him."
- **One Prophetic Ministry:** The lecturer stresses that Elijah and Elisha are really "one prophetic ministry", beginning with Elijah's introduction in 1 Kings 17 until Elisha's death in 2 Kings 13.

Key Quotes:

- "The land of Israel belonged to Yahweh. It was not Israel's land. It was Yahweh's land."
- "Over and over again as we study the Bible, we need to ask ourselves, why did the Holy Spirit cause this to be included?"
- "He is one foot in the camp of Yahweh and one foot in the camp of Baal...Folks, that's a miserable place to live."
- "She knows that she's got to rig the books, which is precisely what she does...Now, what's going on there? What's going on there is the understanding that life is about the acquisition of power."

- "Even an Ahab can repent to some degree...Because he's humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day. I'll bring it to his house in the days of his son."

Implications and Applications:

- The story challenges individuals to examine their own allegiances: Are they fully devoted to God, or are they double-minded, torn between faith and worldly desires?
- The story serves as a warning against the pursuit of power at all costs, highlighting the destructive consequences of rejecting God's authority and embracing pagan values.
- The story offers hope and encouragement, demonstrating God's willingness to forgive and show mercy to those who genuinely repent, regardless of their past sins.

This briefing document captures the key themes and ideas presented in the excerpts, providing a concise overview of Dr. Oswalt's analysis of 1 Kings 21-22.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 16.1, 1 Kings 21-22, Part 1

Study Guide: 1 Kings 21-22 (Part 1)

Quiz

Instructions: Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the central point of the story of Naboth's vineyard in 1 Kings 21?
2. Why did Naboth refuse to sell his vineyard to King Ahab?
3. Describe Ahab's initial reaction to Naboth's refusal, and explain what this reveals about his character.
4. How did Jezebel manipulate the situation to acquire Naboth's vineyard for Ahab?
5. What does Jezebel's actions reveal about her understanding of power?
6. How does Elijah confront Ahab after the acquisition of Naboth's vineyard?
7. According to Elijah, in what way has Ahab "sold himself"?
8. What prophecy does Elijah pronounce against Ahab and Jezebel?
9. How does Ahab react to Elijah's prophecy, and what does this reveal about his state of repentance?
10. How does God respond to Ahab's actions of repentance?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The central point is that the land belongs to Yahweh, not the Israelites. Naboth's refusal underscores the importance of adhering to God's laws regarding land ownership and the limitations placed on individual rights in relation to God's ultimate ownership. The narrative emphasizes that loyalty to Yahweh should take precedence over personal desires or royal demands.
2. Naboth refused to sell his vineyard because it was his ancestral inheritance and selling it would violate the laws and customs regarding land ownership within his tribe. Naboth understood that the land ultimately belonged to Yahweh.
3. Ahab sulked and became depressed, demonstrating his inner conflict and inability to fully embrace either Yahwistic faith or pagan practices. This shows his double-mindedness and lack of decisive commitment to either God or worldly desires.

4. Jezebel orchestrated a false accusation against Naboth, accusing him of cursing God and the king, and hired false witnesses to testify against him, resulting in his execution. This allowed Ahab to legally seize the vineyard through a rigged "sheriff's sale."
5. Jezebel's actions reveal that she views power as an absolute and shapeless force to be acquired and used without moral constraints to achieve her desires. She is willing to manipulate and exploit the legal system and religious customs to secure her goals.
6. Elijah confronts Ahab by telling him that he has been found out because he has sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord. This confrontation highlights the consequences of Ahab's actions and his submission to worldly desires over obedience to God.
7. Ahab has "sold himself" by prioritizing his own desires and pursuit of power over loyalty to Yahweh and his covenant. He has chosen to be owned by the pursuit of personal gratification rather than by the God of grace and truth.
8. Elijah prophesies that dogs will lick up Ahab's blood in the place where they licked up Naboth's blood, and that Jezebel will be devoured by dogs by the wall of Jezreel. He also foretells the destruction of Ahab's descendants.
9. Ahab tears his clothes, puts on sackcloth, fasts, and walks around meekly, demonstrating a degree of repentance. This suggests a level of remorse and acknowledgement of wrongdoing, but is limited because it isn't sustained and doesn't lead to a full turning away from his sins.
10. God acknowledges Ahab's humbling himself and shows mercy by postponing the disaster to Ahab's house until the days of his son. This demonstrates God's willingness to show compassion even to those who only partially repent.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer the following questions in essay format, drawing upon the text and lectures.

1. Discuss the significance of land ownership in the story of Naboth's vineyard, and how it reflects the relationship between the Israelites and Yahweh.
2. Compare and contrast the characters of Ahab and Jezebel, focusing on their attitudes toward power and their relationship with Yahweh and Baal.
3. Analyze the concept of "double-mindedness" as it is exemplified by Ahab, and discuss its implications for faith and personal integrity.
4. Explore the role of the prophet Elijah in the narrative, considering his confrontation with Ahab and the significance of his pronouncements.
5. Examine God's response to Ahab's partial repentance, and discuss the implications for understanding divine mercy and justice.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Yahweh:** The personal name of God in the Hebrew Bible, often translated as "LORD" in English.
- **Baal:** A Canaanite deity associated with fertility, storms, and kingship.
- **Jezreel:** A city located in the Jezreel Valley, serving as a royal residence for the Israelite kings.
- **Naboth:** An Israelite man who owned a vineyard coveted by King Ahab.
- **Ahab:** The King of Israel who desired Naboth's vineyard.
- **Jezebel:** The Phoenician wife of King Ahab, known for promoting the worship of Baal.
- **Elijah:** A prophet of God who challenged Ahab and Jezebel.
- **Prophet:** A person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God.
- **Repentance:** The act of expressing sincere regret or remorse about one's wrongdoing.
- **Sackcloth:** A coarse fabric traditionally worn as a symbol of mourning or repentance.
- **Double-mindedness:** Having divided loyalties or being inconsistent in one's thoughts, feelings, and actions, especially in relation to faith.
- **Feudalism:** A medieval European social system in which land was owned by a king or lord but held by vassals in return for their loyalty.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 16.1, 1 Kings 21-22, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about 1 Kings 21-22

1. Why is the story of Naboth's Vineyard included in the book of Kings?

The story highlights the fundamental issue of land ownership in Israel. The land belonged to Yahweh, not the Israelites, and this placed limitations on what individuals could do with their inherited property. Naboth's refusal to sell his vineyard to Ahab underscores this principle and reveals the conflict between loyalty to Yahweh's laws and the king's desire for personal gain. It serves to emphasize that Israel was to be governed by God's laws, not the whims of a king who might be tempted to act like the pagan rulers of other nations.

2. What is significant about Naboth's refusal to sell his vineyard?

Naboth's refusal wasn't simply a matter of personal preference. It was rooted in the understanding that the land was an inheritance from his ancestors and ultimately belonged to Yahweh. Selling it outside his tribe would violate the established law and essentially deny God's provision for his family. Naboth's actions represent a commitment to honoring God's law above the desires of the king.

3. How does Ahab's reaction to Naboth's refusal reveal his character?

Ahab's reaction of sulking and pouting demonstrates his "double-mindedness." He is partially committed to Yahweh, but also tempted by the ways of the world. He acknowledges the limitations placed upon him by the Yahwistic faith but isn't willing to fully embrace it or to forsake his desire for the vineyard. This internal conflict leads to instability and unhappiness.

4. How does Jezebel's approach to acquiring Naboth's vineyard differ from Ahab's, and what does this reveal about her character?

Unlike Ahab, Jezebel has no allegiance to Yahweh. She sees life as a pursuit of power and is willing to use any means necessary to achieve her goals. She orchestrates Naboth's false accusation and execution, demonstrating a ruthless disregard for justice and morality. Her actions highlight the corrupting influence of paganism and the dangers of prioritizing personal power over righteousness.

5. What does Jezebel's plot to acquire Naboth's vineyard reveal about the nature of power in paganism?

Jezebel's plot reveals that in paganism, power is absolute, shapeless, and the primary goal in life is to acquire and wield it. She believes she has the right to use her power to get whatever she wants, regardless of the consequences for others. This is in stark contrast to the Israelite understanding of power, which was to be exercised within the bounds of God's law and for the benefit of the people.

6. What does it mean when Elijah tells Ahab, "You have sold yourself to do evil"?

This is a powerful statement that goes to the heart of Ahab's moral failure. It means that Ahab has chosen to surrender his will and actions to the pursuit of evil, allowing it to control his decisions and ultimately his destiny. He has prioritized his own desires and the acquisition of power over obedience to God, effectively making himself a slave to sin.

7. How does Ahab's reaction to Elijah's prophecy demonstrate the possibility of repentance, even for someone who has committed great sins?

Ahab's initial reaction of tearing his clothes, putting on sackcloth, and fasting shows a degree of humility and remorse in response to Elijah's pronouncement of judgment. While his repentance may not have been complete or sustained, it was genuine enough for God to show him mercy by postponing the disaster until the reign of his son. This illustrates God's willingness to forgive those who genuinely repent, even if they have committed serious offenses.

8. What does Ahab's story teach us about God's mercy and the importance of repentance?

Ahab's story teaches us that God is merciful and willing to forgive those who genuinely repent, regardless of the severity of their sins. While Ahab did not fully turn away from evil, his initial act of humbling himself before God led to a postponement of judgment. This underscores the importance of repentance and the hope that even those who have strayed far from God can find redemption through sincere contrition.