

Chapter 21

Naboth for denying his vineyard to King Achab, is by quene Iezabels commandment, fallly accused, and ftoned to death. 10. Achab haftening to poffeffe the vineyard, Elias the prophet threatneth him manie euiles, 23. and no leffe to Iezabel: both being obftinate in finne. 27. Yet Achab for feare of punishment, doth external workes of penance, and therby elcapeth part of the temporal plagues.

And after thefe wordes, at that tyme Naboth the Iezrahelite had a vineyard, which was in Iezrahel, befide the palace of Achab the king of Samaria. ² Achab therefore fpake to Naboth, faying: Geue me thy vineyard, that I may make me a garden of herbes, becaufe it is nigh, and ioyning to my houfe, and ^a)I wil geue thee for it a better vineyard: or if thou thinke it more commodious for thee, the price of filuer, fo much as it is worth. ³ To whom Naboth answered: Our Lord be merciful to me, that I geue not the inheritance of my fathers to thee. ⁴ Achab therefore came into his houfe with indignation, and fretting vpon the word, that Naboth the Iezrahelite had fpoken to him, faying: I wil not geue thee the inheritance of my fathers. And cafting him felf vpon his bed, he turned away his face to the wal, and did not eate bread. ⁵ And Iezabel his wife went in vnto him, and fayd to him: What is this matter, whereupon thy foule is greued? and why eateft thou not bread? ⁶ Who answered her: I fpake to Naboth the Iezrahelite, and fayd to him: Geue me thy vineyard, taking money for it: or if it please thee, I wil geue thee a

^a If no fubiect were lord of anie land, but only at the kings pleafure & kinges were proper lordes of al the landes in their kingdomes, then Achab might haue taken Naboths vinyard; efpecially geuing him a better, or money for it. Neither was it a vaine fcruple in Naboth, to conferue his ancefters inheritance. For both his denial is here iuftified, and Achabs extortion condemned. S. Ambrofe *li. 3. offic. c. 9.* counteth Naboth a Martyr. See *Annot. 1. Reg. 8.*

better vineyard for it. And he fayd: I wil not geue thee my vineyard. ⁷ Iezabel therfore his wife fayd to him: Thou art of great authoritie, and doeft wel gouerne the kingdome of Ifrael: Arife, and eate bread, and be of good cheere, I wil geue thee the vineyard of Naboth the Iezrahelite. ⁸ She therfore wrote letters in the name of Achab, and figned them with his ring, and fent to the ancientes, and the chiefe men that were in his citie, and dwelt with Naboth. ⁹ And this was the tenor of the letters: Proclame a faft, and make Naboth fitte among the chiefe of the people, ¹⁰ and fuborne two men the children of Belial agaynft him, and let them beare falfe teftimony: that he hath ^a)bleffed God and the king: and bring him forth, and ftone him, and fo let him die. ¹¹ His citizens therfore the ancientes and chiefe men, that dwelt with him in the citie, did as Iezabel had commanded them, and as it was written in the letters which she fent to them: ¹² they proclamed a faft, and made Naboth fitte among the chiefe of the people. ¹³ And two men the children of the diuel being brought forth, they made them fitte agaynft him: but they, as deuelifh men, gaue teftimonie agaynft him before the multitude: Naboth hath bleffed God and the king: for the which thing they brought him forth without the citie, and killed him with ftones. ¹⁴ And they fent to Iezabel, faying: Naboth is ftoned, and is dead. ¹⁵ And it came to paffe, when Iezabel had heard that Naboth was ftoned, and dead, she fpake to Achab: Arife, and poffeffe the vineyard of Naboth the Iezrahelite, who would not agree vnto thee, and geue it taking money: for Naboth liueth not, but is dead. ¹⁶ Which when Achab had heard, to witte, that Naboth was dead, he arofe, & went downe into the vineyard of Naboth the Iezrahelite, to poffeffe it. ¹⁷ The word of our Lord therfore came to Elias the Thefbite, faying: ¹⁸ Arife, and goe downe to meete Achab the king of Ifrael, who is in Samaria: behold he goeth downe to the vineyard of Naboth, to poffeffe it: ¹⁹ and thou

^a To auoide horrors of blafphemie holie fcripture often vfeth the terme *bleffing* for *curfing*.

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shalt fpeake to him, faying: Thus fayth our Lord: Thou haft flayne, moreouer alfo thou haft poffeft. And after thefe wordes thou shalt adde: Thus fayth our Lord: In this place, wherein the dogges haue licked the bloud of Naboth, they shal licke thy bloud alfo. ²⁰ And Achab fayd to Elias: Haft thou found me thyne enemy? Who fayd: I haue found thee, for that thou art fold, to doe euil in the fight of our Lord. ²¹ Behold I wil bring euil vpon thee, and wil cut downe thy pofteritie, and wil kil of Achab him that piffeth agaynft the wal, and the inclofed, and the laft in Ifrael. ²² And I wil make thy houle, as the houle of Ieroboam the fonne of Nabat, and as the houle of Baafa the fonne of Ahias: becaufe thou haft done, to prouoke me to anger, and haft made Ifrael to finne. ²³ But of Iezabel alfo our Lord fpake, faying: The dogges shal eate Iezabel in the field of Iezrahel. ²⁴ If Achab die in the citie, the dogges shal eate him: but if he die in the field, the foules of the ayre shal eate him. ²⁵ Therefore there was not fuch an other as Achab, who ^a)was fold to doe euil in the fight of our Lord: for his wife Iezabel fette him on, ²⁶ and he became abominable, in fo much that he folowed the idols, which the Amorrheites had made, whom our Lord confumed before the face of the children of Ifrael. ²⁷ Therefore when Achab had heard thefe wordes, he rent his garmentes, and couered his flesh with haercloth, and fafted and flept in sackcloth, and walked cafting downe his head. ²⁸ And the word of our Lord came to Elias the Thefbite, faying: ²⁹ Haft thou not feene Achab humbled before me? therefore, becaufe he hath humbled him felf for my fake, I wil not bring in the euil in his dayes, but in his fonnes daies wil I bring the euil vpon his houle.

^a So addicted to wickednes, as if he had folde him felfe to the diuel for fome temporal profite or pleafure. *In your iniquities you are folde. Ifaie. 50. S. Aug. q. 102. ex vitro. teft. S. Greg. ho. 10. in Ezech.*