

# 1 Kings 21:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.

## Analysis

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**And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.**

This verse contributes to the broader narrative of Naboth's vineyard, within the book's focus on prophetic ministry of Elijah confronting Baalism. The temple represents God's dwelling among His people and foreshadows Christ as Immanuel ('God with us').

The Hebrew text reveals nuances important for understanding this passage's contribution to 1 Kings' theological message about kingship, covenant, and faithfulness to Yahweh. This verse demonstrates the consequences when God's people—especially their leaders—either follow or forsake the covenant established at Sinai.

## Historical Context

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First Kings was written during or after the Babylonian exile (6th century BCE), reflecting on the monarchy period (10th-9th centuries BCE) to explain why the kingdoms fell. Elijah's ministry (c. 860-850 BCE) occurred during Ahab's reign, a time of intense spiritual crisis in Israel.

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology viewed kings as divine representatives responsible for maintaining cosmic order through right worship. Archaeological discoveries from sites like Megiddo, Hazor, and Samaria confirm the historical reliability of 1 Kings' descriptions of building projects and administrative structures.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage illustrate the importance of complete obedience to God's word without compromise?
2. What does Elijah's ministry reveal about God's character and His commitment to His covenant people?
3. How does this verse point toward or prepare for the coming of Christ and His eternal kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶת	לִּי	אֶתְנָה	לֵאמֹר	נָב וְתָן	אֶל	אֲחָא ב	וַיִּדְבֹּר
		<b>Give</b>	<b>saying</b>	<b>unto Naboth</b>		<b>And Ahab</b>	<b>spake</b>
	H0	H5414	H559	H5022	H413	H256	H1696
הָוָא	כִּי	יָבֹקֶק	לִגְן	לִי	וַיְהִי	כֶּרֶם	
		<b>of herbs</b>	<b>that I may have it for a garden</b>			<b>me thy vineyard</b>	
	H3588	H3419	H1588	H0	H1961	H3754	
כֶּרֶם	תַּחְתֵּי	יֹלֵךְ	אֶתְנָה	בֵּיתִי	אֶל	קָרוֹב	
			<b>Give</b>	<b>my house</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>because it is near</b>	
	H8478	H0	H5414	H1004	H681	H7138	
בְּעֵינֶיךָ	טוֹב	אִם	מִמֶּנּוּ	טוֹב	וְאִם	טוֹב	
<b>to thee</b>	<b>than it or if it seem good</b>		<b>than it or if it seem good</b>			<b>than it or if it seem good</b>	
H5869	H2896	H518	H4480	H2896		H2896	
זֶה:	מִחַיִּר	כֶּסֶף	לָךְ	אֶתְנָה			
	<b>thee the worth</b>	<b>of it in money</b>		<b>Give</b>			
H2088	H4242	H3701	H0	H5414			

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Samuel 8:14** (Parallel theme): And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

**1 Timothy 6:9** (Parallel theme): But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.