

The Cost of Abdication – Pt. 2

1 Kings 21; 2 Kings 9, 10

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September 6, 2026

1 Now it came about after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. 2 Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money."

1 Kings 21:1–10

NASB95

3 But Naboth said to Ahab, “The Lord forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” 4 So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.

1 Kings 21:1–10

NASB95

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?” 6 So 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 a vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’ ”

1 Kings 21:1–10

NASB95

7 Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.” 8 So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city.

1 Kings 21:1–10

NASB95

9 Now she wrote in the letters, saying,
“Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at
the head of the people; 10 and seat
two worthless men before him, and let
them testify against him, saying, ‘You
cursed God and the king.’ Then take
him out and stone him to death.”

1 Kings 21:1–10

NASB95

17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, 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 the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours.” ’ ”

1 Kings 21:17–19

NASB95

1 Now it came about after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

1 Kings 21:1

NASB95

2 Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money.”

1 Kings 21:2

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3 But Naboth said to Ahab, “The Lord forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.”

1 Kings 21:3

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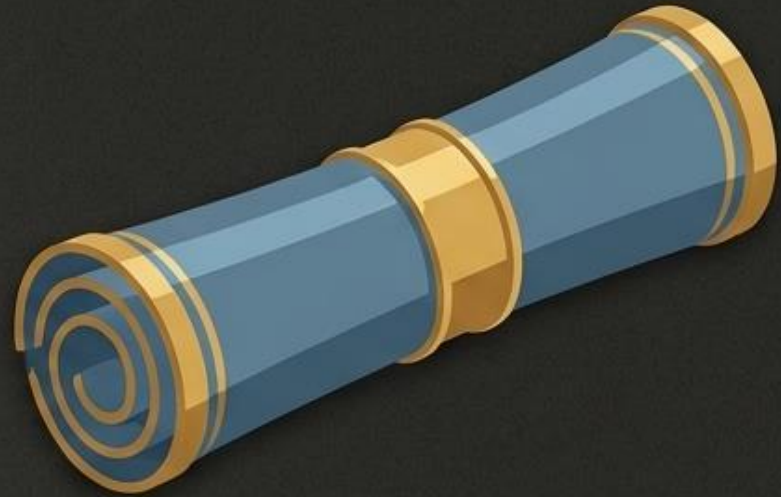
Naboth: The Righteous Anchor

The King's Failure



The King was commanded to write a copy of the Law and lead the people in it. Instead, Ahab demands a transaction that Leviticus 25 and Numbers 36 strictly forbid—selling ancestral land permanently.

The Citizen's Stand



Naboth, a common man, knows the Word of God and refuses to break it, even in the face of a royal bribe.

"The Lord forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." (1 Kings 21:3)

4 So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.

1 Kings 21:4

NASB95

A man who is not acting
like a man

Sulks when his **misplaced desire** is not met

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?”

1 Kings 21:5

NASB95

6 So 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 a vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’ ”

1 Kings 21:6

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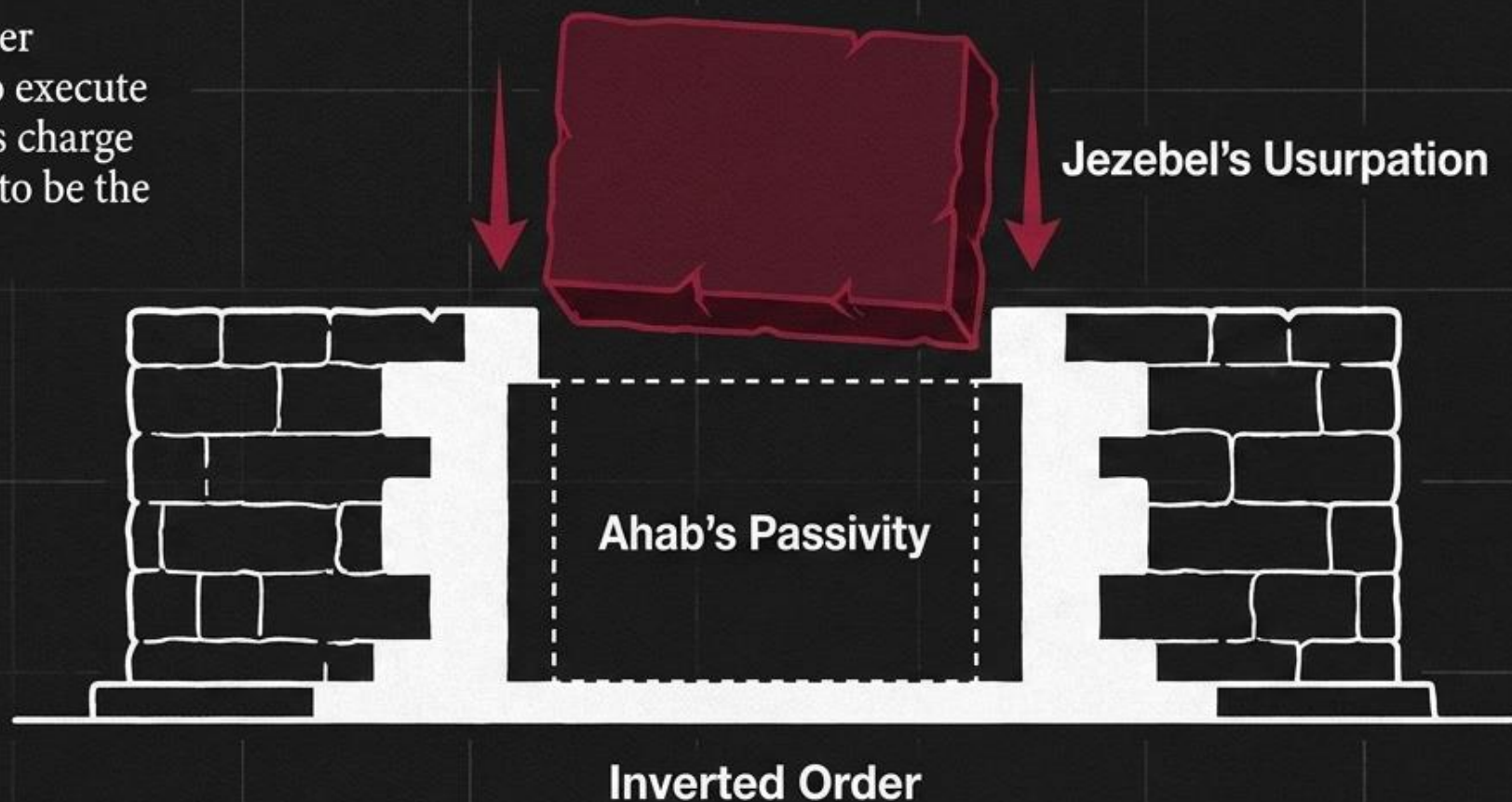
7 Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

1 Kings 21:7

NASB95

The Leadership Void

Jezebel asks, “Do you now reign over Israel?” before taking Ahab’s seal to execute her own plot. The evil woman takes charge only when the man of God refuses to be the man of God.



The Axiom

A Jezebel does not sulk; a Jezebel takes action. If Ahab had been the man he was supposed to be, Jezebel could never have been the woman she is known to be. She assumes authority that was never hers to appease a husband's misplaced desire.

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city.

1 Kings 21:8

NASB95

9 Now she wrote in the letters, saying,
“Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at
the head of the people;

1 Kings 21:9

NASB95

10 and seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him, saying, 'You cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and stone him to death."

1 Kings 21:10

NASB95

11 So the men of his city, the elders
and the nobles who lived in his city,
did as Jezebel had sent word to them,
just as it was written in the letters
which she had sent them.

1 Kings 21:11

NASB95

12 They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people.

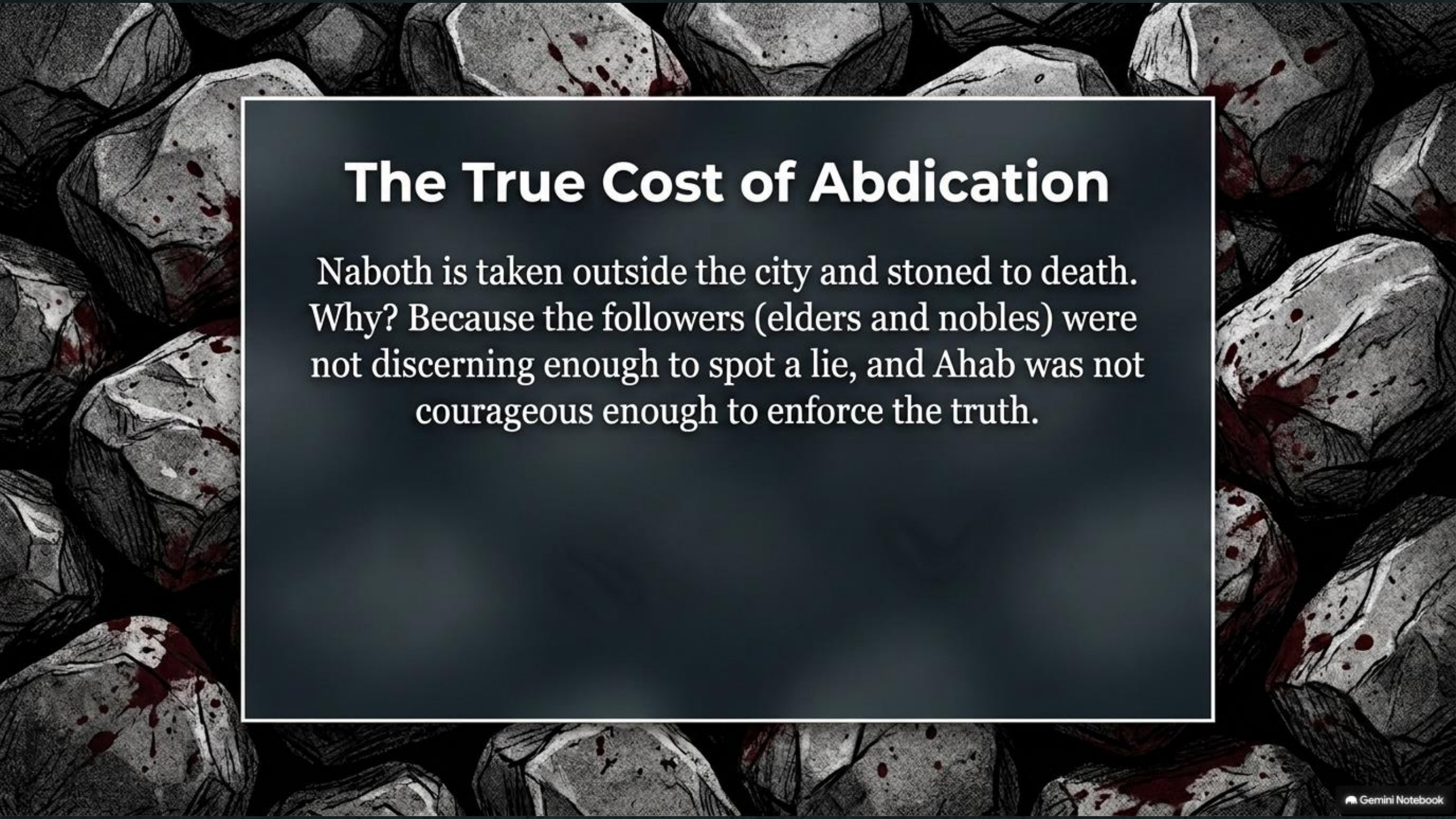
1 Kings 21:12–13

NASB95

13 Then the two worthless men came in and sat before him; and the worthless men testified against him, even against Naboth, before the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

1 Kings 21:12–13

NASB95



The True Cost of Abdication

Naboth is taken outside the city and stoned to death. Why? Because the followers (elders and nobles) were not discerning enough to spot a lie, and Ahab was not courageous enough to enforce the truth.

The Church needs people who are
discerning enough to see the
difference and courageous enough to
do something about it when they do.

14 Then they sent word to Jezebel,
saying, “Naboth has been stoned and
is dead.”

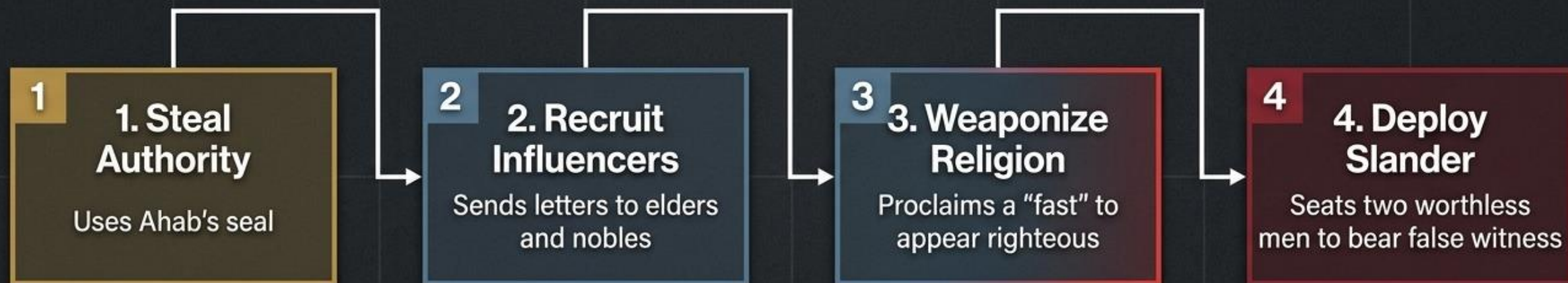
1 Kings 21:14

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Beware those who try to drag you into
their (perceived) offense

Tactical Warning: Weaponizing Influence

Jezebel targets the elders and nobles—the influencers of the city. She uses the guise of righteousness to conceal wickedness.



Modern Parallel

Beware the biggest pom-poms; they often conceal a dagger. When someone tries to recruit you into their personal offense, verify the evidence. Do not lend your platform or influence to a false narrative disguised as justice.

15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, 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.”

1 Kings 21:15–16

NASB95

16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

1 Kings 21:15–16

NASB95

17 Then the word of the Lord came to
Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 “Arise,
go down to meet Ahab king of Israel,
who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the
vineyard of Naboth where he has
gone down to take possession of it.

1 Kings 21:17–19

NASB95

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 the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours.” ’ ”

1 Kings 21:17–19

NASB95

20 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.

1 Kings 21:20

NASB95

21 “Behold, I will bring evil upon you,
and will utterly sweep you away, and
will cut off from Ahab every male, both
bond and free in Israel;

1 Kings 21:21–25

NASB95

22 and 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 because you have made Israel sin.

1 Kings 21:21–25

NASB95

23 “Of Jezebel also has the Lord spoken, saying, ‘The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.’

1 Kings 21:21–25

NASB95

24 “The one belonging to Ahab, who dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and the one who dies in the field the birds of heaven will eat.”

1 Kings 21:21–25

NASB95

25 Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him.

1 Kings 21:21–25

NASB95

26 He acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord cast out before the sons of Israel.

1 Kings 21:26–27

NASB95

27 It came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently.

1 Kings 21:26–27

NASB95

The Differentiation Spectrum

Undifferentiated (Ahab)



- Impressionable and reactive
- Tossed by emotional demands
- Bends to the loudest voice
- Lacks a defined self

Differentiated (Naboth)



- Maintains identity and values
- Unyielding under immense pressure
- Stands firm on truth
- Emotionally grounded

Bowen Family Systems Theory

Differentiation is the psychological ability to maintain your own identity, values, and beliefs while staying emotionally connected to others. Ahab cannot stand for truth when faced with his wife's pressure or his own thwarted desires. He is a wave, tossed to and fro.

28 Then the word of the Lord came to
Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

1 Kings 21:28–29

NASB95

29 “Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son’s days.”

1 Kings 21:28–29

NASB95

The Rise of Jehu

2 Kings 9

7 'You shall strike the house of Ahab
your master, that I may avenge the
blood of My servants the prophets,
and the blood of all the servants of the
Lord, at the hand of Jezebel.

2 Kings 9:7–10

NASB95

8 'For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and I will cut off from Ahab every male person both bond and free in Israel.

2 Kings 9:7–10

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9 'I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.

2 Kings 9:7–10

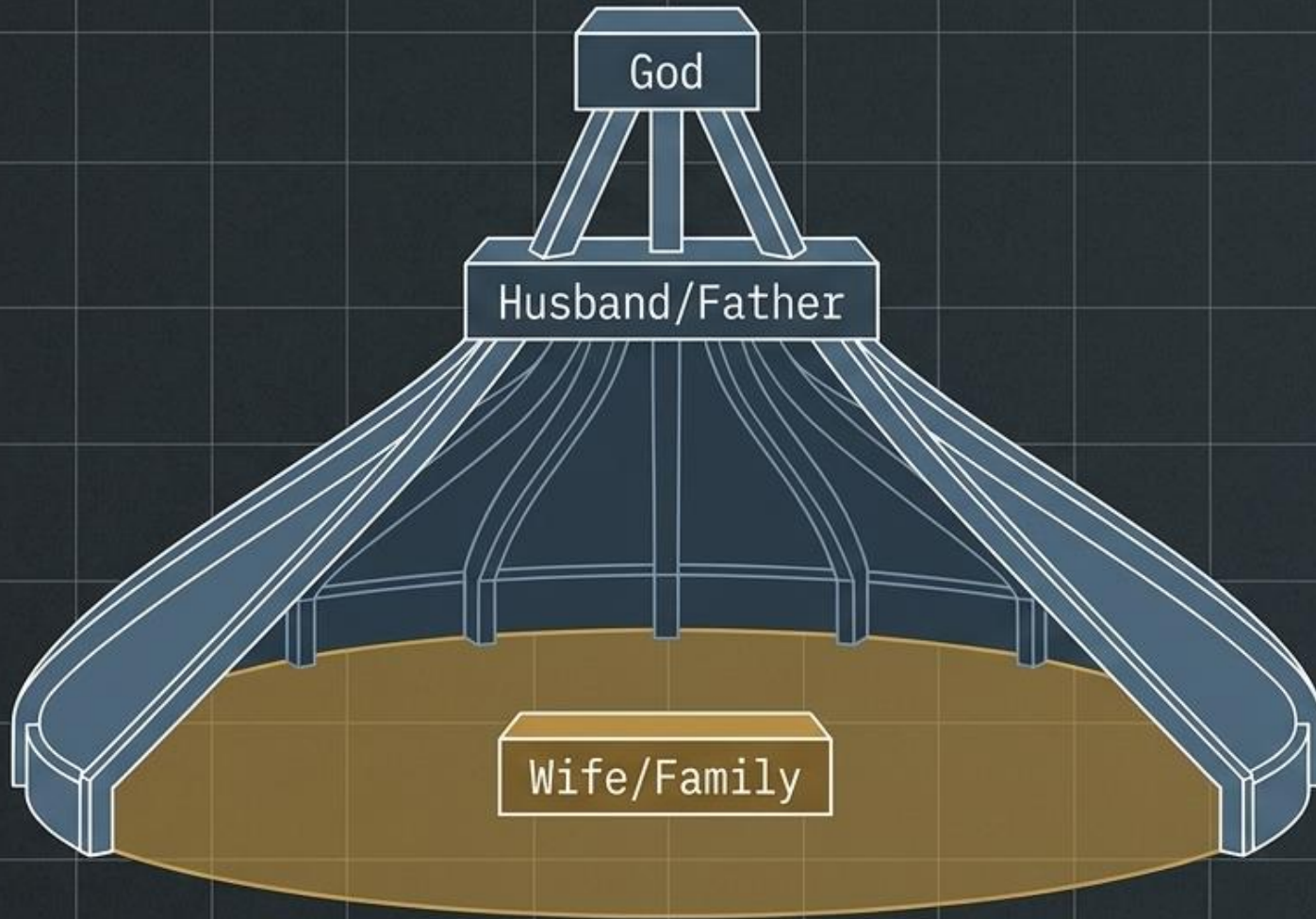
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10 ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her.’ ” Then he opened the door and fled.

2 Kings 9:7–10

NASB95

The Divine Order of Protection



God is a God of order. He ordained male headship not for oppression, but for protection.

Structural Insight

When the man stands firm on the Word of God, he forms an umbrella of protection.

In this environment of godly leadership and mutual submission (reflecting the perichoretic relationship of the Trinity), families blossom in peace.

When the man abdicates, he invites the chaos of the enemy.

22 When Joram saw Jehu, he said, “Is it peace, Jehu?” And he answered, “What peace, **so long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?**”

2 Kings 9:22

NASB95

23 So Joram reined about and fled
and said to Ahaziah, “There is
treachery, O Ahaziah!”

2 Kings 9:23–26

NASB95

24 And Jehu drew his bow with his full strength and shot Joram between his arms; and the arrow went through his heart and he sank in his chariot.

2 Kings 9:23–26

NASB95

25 Then Jehu said to Bidkar his officer,
“Take him up and cast him into the
property of the field of Naboth the
Jezreelite, for I remember when you and
I were riding together after Ahab his
father, that the Lord laid this oracle
against him:

2 Kings 9:23–26

NASB95

26 'Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,' says the Lord, 'and I will repay you in this property,' says the Lord. Now then, take and cast him into the property, according to the word of the Lord."

2 Kings 9:23–26

NASB95

30 When Jehu came to Jezreel,
Jezebel heard of it, and she painted
her eyes and adorned her head and
looked out the window.

2 Kings 9:30

NASB95



16 He said, “Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord.” So he made him ride in his chariot.

2 Kings 10:16

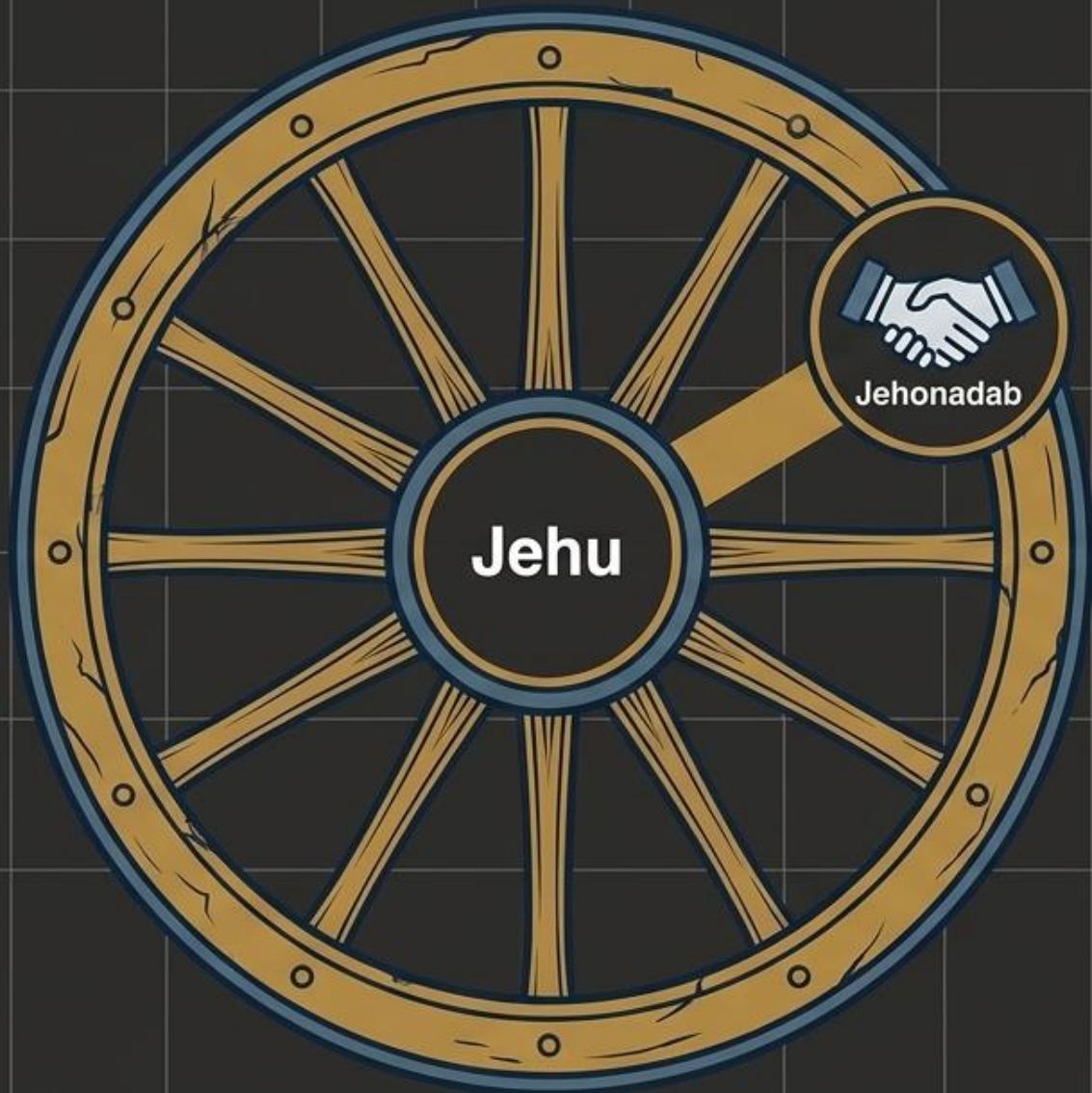
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15 Now when he had departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, “**Is your heart right**, as my heart is with your heart?” And Jehonadab answered, “It is.” Jehu said, “If it is, give me your hand.” And he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.

2 Kings 10:15

NASB95

Allies for the Kingdom



Jehu meets Jehonadab, a devout follower of Yahweh, and asks the ultimate diagnostic question: **“Is your heart right?”** (2 Kings 10:15).

When the answer is yes, Jehu pulls him up into his chariot.

The Power of Brotherhood

We cannot stand against darkness alone. We need other differentiated men with zeal for the Lord. Out of a community of strong men comes the boldness to say: “Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord!”

30 When Jehu came to Jezreel,
Jezebel heard of it, and she painted
her eyes and adorned her head and
looked out the window.

2 Kings 9:30–31

NASB95

31 As Jehu entered the gate, she said,
“Is it well, Zimri, your master’s
murderer?”

2 Kings 9:30–31

NASB95

32 Then he lifted up his face to the window and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” And two or three officials looked down at him.

2 Kings 9:32–37

NASB95

33 He said, “Throw her down.” So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot.

2 Kings 9:32–37

NASB95

34 When he came in, he ate and drank; and he said, “See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king’s daughter.”

2 Kings 9:32–37

NASB95

35 They went to bury her, but they found nothing more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

2 Kings 9:32–37

NASB95

36 Therefore they returned and told him. And he said, “This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ‘In the property of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel;

2 Kings 9:32–37

NASB95

37 and the corpse of Jezebel will be
as dung on the face of the field in the
property of Jezreel, so they cannot
say, “This is Jezebel.” ’ ”

2 Kings 9:32–37

NASB95

Sometimes it takes one courageous
man for the others to stand up for
what is right

(but that one courageous man needs
you to stand with him)



**Everyone knows
Goliath fell.**

**Almost no one talks
about who came next.**

1 Chronicles 20:4–8



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Bible Nuggets

2/9

Years later, the Bible
introduces a man named:

Lahmi.

Then tells us who he is.

Goliath's brother.

1 Chronicles 20:5



**But Lahmi isn't the
only one.**

**Scripture records more
giant warriors connected
with Gath.**

**Goliath's story wasn't
the end of the giants.**

1 Chronicles 20:4–8



And here is where
the story changes.

David doesn't kill Lahmi.

Elhanan does.

1 Chronicles 20:5



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Bible Nuggets

5/9

Another giant appears.

Sibbecai kills him.

Then another man from Gath
appears with six fingers on
each hand and six toes on
each foot.

Jonathan kills him.

1 Chronicles 20:4–7



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Bible Nuggets

6/9

Now compare that with
the beginning.

Goliath challenged Israel
for 40 days.

One giant.
An entire army afraid
to fight him.

1 Samuel 17:16, 24



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Bible Nuggets

7/9

Years later, the giants
were still there.

But the fear wasn't.

David was no longer
the only man willing
to face one.

1 Chronicles 20:4–8



David's story began with
one man walking toward
the giant everyone feared.

It ends with the men
around him doing
the same.

1 Chronicles 20:4–8



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Bible Nuggets

9/9

The man who once
stood alone against a
giant ended up
surrounded by giant
killers.

Who will fight
differently because
they watched you?

1 Chronicles 20:8

The Tactical Self-Audit



1. Where are you pouting?

Are you harboring a misplaced desire and sulking because God has forbidden it?



2. Where are you abdicating?

Are you allowing your wife to bear the weight of leadership, or worse, sinning on your behalf because you fear conflict?



3. Who is in your chariot?

Do you have differentiated, godly allies with right hearts to stand with you against the culture?

**Turn away from misplaced desires. Step into the void.
Let the Word of God be the loudest voice in your life.**