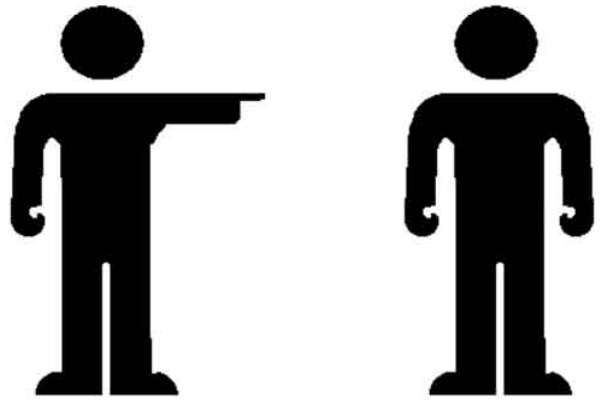


*"And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, 'Art Thou He That Troubleth Israel?' And he answered, 'I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the Commandments of The LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.'" 1 Kings 18:17-18 KJV*



A preacher once called Ahab “the toad that squatted on Israel’s throne.” An apt description, taking into account what God said about him. *“Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the Sight of the LORD above all that were before him. He reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.”* What a damning epitaph! Ahab wasn’t even a leader. By nature, he was easily swayed to take the path of least resistance. His wife, Jezebel, was the true power behind his throne as evidenced by whom he worshipped. He had no compunction whatsoever about taking possession of a murdered man’s vineyard just because he wanted it. Any means necessary was justified. *“The men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, ‘Naboth did blaspheme God and the king.’ Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, ‘Naboth is stoned, and is dead.’ Jezebel said to Ahab, ‘Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.’ When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, [he] rose up...to take possession of it.”* He cared little for his people and cared even less if they were destroyed as long as he was happy. He quickly blamed Elijah for the drought that his own evil had incurred. He was a dull man of dull clay with a dull intelligence born of lust and self-gratification. He didn’t even look for water until what was around him dried up. He is typical of government leaders that forget God in pursuit of their own prosperity. History is replete with records of such devious fiends driven by lust for power and pleasure. Caesar, Attila, Hitler, Stalin, and Pol Pot are just a few names that come to mind. Our own nation is in turmoil and chaos because of such leaders. Those “squatted on its throne” are being manipulated from behind the scenes by wickedness that only seeks its own. *“The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God!”* What men glibly refer to as “natural disasters” is The Hand of God against wickedness! I’m sure when God sent drought to Israel, few saw it as God’s Judgment. Call it what you will, God’s Judgment Is Falling all around us! Even the faithful are caught in the fallout. However, like the 100 prophets of God whom Obadiah, Ahab’s servant, hid and fed, Obadiah not only had enough, but extra to take care of others who served God. Ravens fed Elijah and Obadiah and the prophets were taken care of from wicked king Ahab’s own table!

The ones who trouble righteousness,  
Have hearts that brim with wickedness,  
They falsely blame the faithful soul,  
For Godly judgments on them tolled! –CGP

Wickedness and its parrots are always quick to blame the righteous for their own evil. Nero blamed the Christians for Rome’s burning; murdering thousands to entertain bloodthirsty crowds of the Coliseum! Today’s entertainment – reality shows, sports, and movies – is filled to the brim with wickedness! *“Woe! Woe! Woe!”*

*"The show of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! For they have rewarded evil unto themselves. Say ye to the Righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe unto the wicked! It shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. As for My People, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My People, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy The Way of thy paths." Isaiah 3:9-12 KJV*