

the law specified his responsibility (Lev. 25:23-28). He replied, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." (1 Kings 21:3)

The Scriptures record the King's reaction, "So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, 'I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.' He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat." (1 Kings 21:4)

So the King wallowed in self-pity, experienced a loss of appetite and other symptoms of depression.



The Hebrew words used to describe his condition are

קָדַח . קָדַח is an adjective which means "stubborn, resentful, sullen or implacable."³⁰ קָדַח means to be "out of humor, vexed." The usage of the verb and noun forms make it clear that the mood could be likened to the rage of a fierce storm.³¹ While Ahab's self-pity is not described, it is clearly implied by his actions (cf. 2 Kings 20:2 Hezekiah's self-pity). Like a little child whose request for a new toy has been rejected, he stares at the wall but sees only his poor wounded self.

³⁰Brown, Driver and Briggs, A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907), p. 711.

³¹Brown, Driver and Briggs, Lexicon of Old Testament, p. 277.