Wine, the beverage described most frequently by the biblical writers, played important roles in the ancient Israelite diet, economy, and religious life. The recent discovery of a large, well-preserved winery complex at Jezreel, in the fertile Jezreel Valley in Israel’s Galilee, offers insights into the technology of wine production in the Iron Age (ca. 1200-586 BCE) and provides context for the dramatic story of Naboth’s vineyard in 1 Kings 21. In this lecture, Prof. Ebeling will discuss wine’s significance in Israelite culture, present the results of the excavation of the Jezreel winery, and suggest how this discovery informs our understanding of the bloody events surrounding Ahab and Jezebel at Jezreel.

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