

## Three Mothers Who Failed

Since Mother's Day, I have been thinking about how the scriptures give many examples of the far-reaching influence a mother has on her child. Mothers have great opportunities to lay down the teachings of God through His word in the first formative years. It would be wonderful if the Bible abounded with such examples, but it does not. In fact, we will examine three cases where the mothers failed.

Jezebel was a promoter of Baal worship which was a pagan god (1 Kings 18:19). She had a total lack of conscience and exhibited extreme cruelty in murdering many of God's servants (1 Kings 18:3-4). She was full of wickedness (1 Kings 21:8-10).

Athaliah was ruler over Judah for six years (2 Kings 11:1-3). She corrupted and destroyed her husband, Jehoram (2 Kings 8:18). She murdered the royal grandsons (2 Kings 11:1). She counseled her children to be wicked (2 Chronicles 22:2-3).

Herodias was Herod the Great's granddaughter. She was an adulterous woman who was violent and vindictive. She used her daughter to tempt Herod to sin. She was directly responsible for the death of John (Matthew 14:1-12).

In all three of these cases, we learn that God was simply not a priority in their lives and all three mothers demonstrated the how tragic it is when children are persuaded to follow in wicked footsteps (Ezekiel 16:44). How different would these circumstances have been if these women were only godly (Proverbs 31:25-30)!

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