

The Spirit Of Jezebel

Introduction. Jezebel was the wife of Ahab, the most wicked king of Israel (1 Kings 16:29-31). The name "Jezebel" is synonymous with evil and she is the one who officially brought Baal worship into the kingdom. She was clever, strong, bold, unscrupulous and a devotee to the most base and revolting idolatry the world has ever known. Let's consider the characteristics of this wicked woman.

I. ***She Hated A Teacher Of Truth***

- A. She hated Elijah even after he was shown to be teaching the truth, and she sought to kill him because of that hatred.
- B. This was also the case in the New Testament (Matthew 23:35; 12:14; 26:3-4; Mark 6:17-19; Acts 7:51-53; 12:1-2).

II. ***She Gave Aid And Comfort To Evil***

- A. The prophets of Baal and the Ashtaroth ate at Jezebel's table and she cut off the prophets of the Lord (1 Kings 18:4, 19). The apostasy of Israel had reached its highest point.
- B. Her sympathies remained with the false prophets even after they were executed (1 Kings 19:1-2).
- C. Ahab had disregarded God's law and it brought about his demise (Deuteronomy 7:1-5). Jezebel took pleasure in the evil she wrought (Romans 1:32; 2 Timothy 3:1-5).

III. ***She Incited Others To Do Evil***

- A. Jezebel "stirred up" Ahab (1 Kings 21:25-26).
 - 1. Ahab sold himself to "work wickedness in the sight of the Lord."
 - 2. If he were left to himself, Ahab might have yielded to better influences (1 Kings 18:39-46; 20:13; 21:27-29). However, he was marred by a fatal weakness.
- B. Jezebel encouraged false witnesses against Naboth (1 Kings 21:10).
- C. We must watch lest the influence exerted upon us is evil (1 Corinthians 5:6; 15:33; 2 Peter 2:14, 18-19).

IV. ***She Destroyed Herself And Others***

- A. Everyone who came in contact with Jezebel was harmed by her (Proverbs 11:3, 19; 22:24-25).
 - 1. Naboth was killed (1 Kings 21:13; cf. vs. 10).
 - 2. Ahab was killed (1 Kings 22:37-38; cf. 1 Kings 21:19).
 - 3. Jezebel was killed (2 Kings 9:30-37; cf. 1 Kings 21:23).
- B. Because of her evil, she treasured up for herself the wrath of God (Romans 2:4-11).

Conclusion. Jezebel's influence was so evil and notorious that the church at Thyatira had someone who apparently imitated her spirit (Revelation 2:20-22). This spirit still lives today in those who hate truth and love evil. We must be careful to avoid the influence of such people. The influence of this ungodly spirit may not be just in the world, but among God's people (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).