

## Jezebel I Kings

### Introduction:

Jezebel is the wife of Ahab. Ahab was the king when Elijah came to him and said that it would not rain on Israel until Elijah prayed for rain (I Kings 17:1-7). Ahab did not like Elijah. Ahab was evil, while Elijah was good. Because of the relationship between Elijah and Ahab, Jezebel hated Elijah and all of the prophets of God.

Today we will focus on Jezebel and see some of the evil that she did to God and His prophets.

### I. Jezebel did what she could to kill the prophets of God.

- A. She tries to kill the prophets of God on at least two occasions.
  - 1. I Kgs. 18:1-14
  - 2. I Kgs. 19:1-3
- B. Notice the first instance of Jezebel (18:1-14).
  - 1. It should be noted that the main point of this story is not about Jezebel; but rather it is about Elijah and Ahab meeting during this drought.
  - 2. It was three years after the announcement of the drought by Elijah that we are introduced again to Ahab and Jezebel (18:1).
  - 3. It is here that we read of the wickedness of Jezebel towards the prophets of God (18:3-4).
  - 4. In fact, it was so bad, that Obadiah was afraid to tell Ahab that he had met Elijah for fear that he would also be killed (18:7-14).
  - 5. This should demonstrate to us just how wicked Jezebel truly is.
- C. Notice also the second instance of Jezebel trying to kill Elijah (19:1-3).
  - 1. Elijah has just defeated and killed the 450 prophets of Baal (18:20-41).
  - 2. As soon as Jezebel hears of this victory, she sends a message to Elijah (19:1-2).
  - 3. Elijah runs for his life (19:3).
  - 4. Again, we see just how wicked Jezebel truly is.

### II. Jezebel was about as heartless as one could get (I Kgs. 21:1-16).

- A. Ahab wants to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth (21:1-2).
  - 1. The reason for this is that this vineyard is next to the palace.
  - 2. Ahab offers Naboth his choice of two things:
    - a. A vineyard better than the one that he owns.
    - b. "Its worth in money."
- B. Naboth refuses to give the field to Ahab (21:3-7).
  - 1. The reason: this field has been in Naboth's family for years (21:3).
  - 2. Ahab was upset and goes home (21:4).
  - 3. When Jezebel discovers why he is upset, she tells him to "exercise authority over Israel!" (21:5-7).
  - 4. She goes on to say that she will give him the vineyard (21:7).

- C. Notice the plan that she devises to have Naboth killed (21:8-10).
  - 1. “She wrote letters in Ahab’s name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth” (21:8).
  - 2. Notice what these letters said:
    - a. “Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people” (21:9).
    - b. “Seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, “You have blasphemed God and the king.” Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die” (21:10).
  - 3. After these two scoundrels come and lie about Naboth, they are to take Naboth “out, and stone him, that he may die” (21:10).
- D. This plan is executed just as Jezebel had written (21:11-13).
- E. After Naboth is dead, Jezebel gives the vineyard to Ahab (21:14-16).
- F. **The point: Jezebel was willing to kill innocent people when they crossed her path!**

Before we leave I Kgs. 21, notice verses 23-24 as we begin looking at the death of Jezebel.

### III. The violent death of Jezebel (II Kgs. 9:30-37).

- A. Before we read of her death, notice the setting of what has just happened to the kings of Israel and Judah (9:1-26).
  - 1. Jehu is appointed by a servant of Elisha as the next king over Israel (9:1-10).
    - a. Jehu has specific instructions to follow.
    - b. These instructions include killing all of the house of Ahab and his family, including Jezebel (9:6-10).
  - 2. Jehu has come to repay Joram and Jezebel for their wickedness.
    - a. Two messengers are sent to Jehu by Joram; and both of these messengers follow after Jehu.
    - b. Jehu kills Joram (son of Ahab and Jezebel) (9:24-26).
  - 3. Remember the prophecies concerning the death of Jezebel.
    - a. I Kgs. 21:23 (Following the death of Naboth) - “And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, “The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.””
    - b. II Kgs. 9:10 (A reminder of the punishment given to Jezebel – as God gives Jehu (the newly appointed king) commands on what to do to obtain the throne) - “The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.””
- B. Now notice the death of Jezebel (9:30-37).
- C. This woman was so despised that when she was thrown from the window, Jehu went inside and ate a meal before he came out to bury her (9:34).

### **Practical Application and Conclusion:**

- A. The New Testament says that the Old Testament is there for our learning.
  - 1. **Rom. 15:4** - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.
  - 2. **I Cor. 10:11-12** - Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come. {12} Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
- B. We need to be careful of our influence on others. Notice what is said about Jezebel:
  - 1. **I Kgs. 21:25** - But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, **because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.**
  - 2. Jezebel was behind the evil rule of Ahab.
    - a. Of course, Jezebel was not entirely to blame.
    - b. Ahab had to make his own decisions.
    - c. But Jezebel pushed him along in his wickedness.
- C. Whether our influence is good or bad, we can have a powerful impact on the lives of others.
  - 1. **I Cor. 15:33** - Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
  - 2. **I Cor. 5:6** (directly with sexual immorality) - Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?
- D. Today, what kind of influence are you on others?
  - 1. Are you an influence for good?
  - 2. Or are you an influence for evil?