



# JEZEBEL

Christian Education

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## TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO.....

### ***METAMORPHOSIS***

**Every Woman** begins as a babe, a child being formed, shaped by a multiplicity of planned and unplanned events happening or being experienced during the developmental stages of her life. **Planned parenting** is more than clinical care, **planned parenting** is intentional input into the character being developed in the life of that girl child. There will always be unplan events, accidental injuries and outside influences, but that doesn't negate the fact that a plan is essential if our goal is a Godly outcome. As children of GOD how is HE nurturing us for growth, development and reproduction? \_\_\_\_\_



***“Train children to live the right way [in their/or his path; referring either to children or to God], and when they are old, they will not stray [depart] from it. Proverbs 22:6***

I remember as a child watching my dad **anchor a young tree** he planted, securing it to make sure it would **grow straight and its roots grow deep**. So, it is with a child, training is essential. The parenting responsibility is to train enabling stability, character and not to simply allow them to wildly grow. We train our children to give them direction, instruction, correction, recognition, and relationship to God and within the family of faith, to provide the essentials of spiritual, physical relational and emotional development. How important do you think it is to have a child development plan for early childhood? \_\_\_\_\_



### **THE GESTATIONAL SONOGRAM ONLY PROVIDES A BRIEF INSIDE VIEW...**

**Jean Piaget**, a Swiss psychologist recognized as one of the first people in the 20th-century to initiate a systematic study in the understanding of childhood developmental psychology. Piaget's (1936) theory of cognitive development attempts to explain how a child constructs a mental model of the world with cognitive development. Remember how God told Mary, her SON's future was already destined and eternal. *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”* Luke 1:32-33

# GENDER REVEALED AND ANNOUNCED

Mary's prebirth message told her Who JESUS, would be and not the plan on how to raise the SON of GOD. This was her sonogram view, advising her of the destiny and the future of the nation gestating within her, by the movement of the Holy Ghost overshadowing of her. HE will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ***He, Who is greater than her, was now growing in her.*** Making Mary the living example of "Greater is HE, Who is in you than he who is in the world". We must understand the greatness of God deposited in us and our responsibility to bring forth life... 1John 4:4 How do we identify and daily develop the gift of God in us? \_\_\_\_\_



**Jezebel** was a child growing up in the household of an idol worshipping king, in an idol worshipping culture. What we initially introduce our children to and what we are introduced to, and what becomes a part of our early life stages, impacts our lives and life choices.

**Jezebel's Name - Jezebel = "Baal exalts" or "Baal is husband to" or "unchaste"**

**Jezebel** was named to celebrate the idolatry surrounding her. She was born into conformity to what was considered the norm of her society. As a matter of fact, she was born a royal representative of an idolatrous culture. She represented an idol worshipping kingdom, that may have even sacrificed their children, by passing them through the fire. Consider as a child she had to understand the virtual threat to her peers, whose life could be terminated at any point as a religious token or sacrifice. Fear, sexuality and brutality were the framework of her childhood. As child she had to rationalize what was a cruel culture. Do you know the meaning of your name? When you introduce yourself to others, who and what are you introducing them to? -

**Jezebel** was of the royal household of the **Zidonians**, who inhabited Zidon one of the Canaanite nations, left to train Israel in warfare. *Judges 3:3* Colonies of Zidon spread into the hillsides of Lebanon and surrounding areas. *Joshua 13:4 Joshua 13:6* in later biblical history they provided cut cedar trees for David and Solomon. *1 Kings 5:8; 1 Chronicles 22:4* The Zidonians initially oppressed Israel. They were idolaters, worshipping Ashtoreth as their guardian or patron goddess and the sun-god Baal after which their king was named. *1 Kings 11:5 1 Kings 11:33; 2 Kings 23:13; 1 Kings 16:31* It is interesting, we often cover our children with once was called a receiving blanket. The question becomes how careful are we or should we be in what or **who** covers our children? \_\_\_\_\_



# ZIDONIAN WORSHIP



Consider

Let's think about it, consider as we spend a little time understanding the profanity of idol worship and its distortion. Molech represents the most repulsive of acts in God's sight. This ritual sacrifice of children to a pagan god was condemned in the strongest way by the Lord, including punishment by death. To understand the pagan gods of the inhabitants of Canaan we must reiterate Zidonians worshiped Baal with Ashtoreth his female consort. Molech whose name came from combining the Hebrew melech ("king") with the vowels of boshet ("shame"), was an additional inclusion worship with the more popular god Baal ("Lord").

The first mention of Molech is in *Leviticus 18:21*. *The Lord instructed His people, "You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord." God warned His people not to practice idol worship as it was punishable by death. "Any one of the people of Israel or of the strangers who sojourn in Israel who gives any of his children to Molech shall surely be put to death."* Leviticus 20:2-5 Do we have infiltration of secularism or cultural influences today in Christian worship? Are these influences positive or negative? How do we determine their benefit or potential harm? Is knowing their origins important in determining how or if we utilize them? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Jezebel** was groomed and wrapped in the social and religious culture of her ancestry at an early age. Her city included inhabitants of ancient Zidon, a Mediterranean seaport in the affluence of a wealthy Phoenician city. In other words, **Jezebel** grew up in *privilege*. **Having privilege is not bad**, unless our privilege provides immunity from responsibility or with special rights not afforded to others. **Jezebel** was an icon, a celebrity in her era.

Let's have a conversation about *privilege*. We'll never be able to change the everyday ways we all contribute to injustice if we never discuss our own *privilege*. If we automatically reject the idea of its existence, without acknowledging there are positives and negatives in *privilege*, then we don't really understand what *privilege* is. Today in our bias, racially and economically politicized society, when someone says you have *privilege*, it can sound accusatory. It can feel like they are accusing you of deliberately taking from oppressed groups or of having some undeserved or unearned right. Like **Jezebel** our children can inherit a position in life based upon the work, education, treasury of faith, finances we as parents earned.



This is part of their legacy as every generation wants to improve the life of their offspring. The issue than is not *privilege* itself but how we handle our *privilege*. How do you define privilege? \_\_\_\_\_

# LOCATION AND INFLUENCE

**PRIVILEGE IS: TEACHING OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO NOT ONLY KNOW THEIR PERSONAL VALUE, BUT TO KNOW THE TRUE SOURCE OF THEIR VALUE AND NOT BE OBSESSED BY WHAT PRIVILEGE PROVIDES.**



**Location is important:** Zidonians inhabit Zidon also known as Sidon. These are the same place, different ways of saying it. Zidon was a small Phoenician city built about 23 miles from Tyre.. They were among the nations of Canaan left in Canaan to train the Israelites in the practice of the art of war. The colonies of Zidon spread up into the hills from Lebanon to Misrephothmaim and their skills were used to cut down cedar trees for David. *[Judges 3:3; Joshua 13:4,6]* Have you noticed how people from different regions have different practices, accents and even styles

of dress? Can you sometimes tell where someone comes from by their attitude or conversation?  
\_\_Yes \_\_ No When you travel how do you prepare for differences in weather, customs, foods and languages? \_\_\_\_\_

## Zidonians or Sidonians & Their Influence in Israel's History

We can pass quickly by the names, nations and locations outlined in scriptures without understanding their significance. However, periodically we need to pause to investigate exactly who are these people who shape the history of God's interworking benefiting His people. We overlook and not fully comprehend their significance or even how God uses them in the historical background of His salvation and redemption plan. We as citizens can recognize we are shaped by the culture and politics of our culture. These Zidonians or Sidonians shaped **Jezebel's** life and her position as queen in the history of Israel. What are the political and cultural influences impacting our generation? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the impact positive or negative and how can we correct or adjust any negative impact? \_\_\_\_\_

## ***SCRIPTURE REFERENCES ABOUT ZIDONIAN CULTURE***

My servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt appoint: for thou knowest that [there is] not among us any that can **skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.**

**Joshua 13:6** - All the inhabitants of the hill country from Lebanon unto Misrephothmaim, [and] all the **Sidonians**, them will I drive out from before the children of Israel: only divide thou it by lot unto the Israelites for an inheritance, as I have commanded thee.

**Judges 10:12** - The **Zidonians** also, and the Amalekites, and the Maonites, did oppress you; and ye cried to me, and I delivered you out of their hand.

**Judges 18:7** - Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the **Zidonians**, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the **Zidonians**, and had no business with any man.

**1Kings 11:1** - But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, **Zidonians**, and Hittites;

**1Kings11:5** - For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the **Zidonians**, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites

**1 Kings 11:33** - Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the **Zidonians**, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do [that which is] right in mine eyes, and [to keep] my statutes and my judgments, as [did] David his father

**2Kings 23:13** - And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the **Zidonians**, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

**1Chroncles 22:4** - Also cedar trees in abundance: for the **Zidonians** and they of Tyre brought much cedar wood to David.

And it came to pass, *as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he (Ahab) took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and (Ahab) went and served Baal, and worshipped him.* Then he (Ahab) *set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And (Ahab) made a wooden image. (Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.* 1Kings 16:31-33



Ahab was in the inherited line of kings approved and appointed by God. He inherited and was the GOD designated leader with the privilege of kingship. Yet he didn't walk in the correctness of leadership and reverence of God, HE established the kingdom to operate in. Ahab was a designated leader, void of spiritual discipline and the responsibility of the role he inherited. This takes us back to our discussion of **privilege**. *If we have privilege void of operational disciplines, what should be an advantage becomes a disadvantage. Scripture says "And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him". If in the process of providing privilege, we neglect the important lessons of training and discipline, we harm what we were designated to protect.*

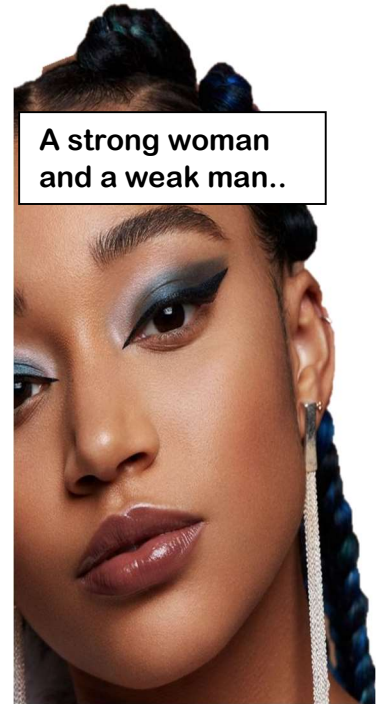
**Loving and providing doesn't take the place of preparation for the position you inherit.** Training a child in the way **they** should go; does not mean we duplicate ourselves. Instead we are seeking the Lord for their specific destiny, the purpose for which that child was formed in us. Remember, GOD has a destiny specifically designed individually. Others can use some of our parental or leadership traits, but we acknowledge their potential and purpose is GOD authored. Although we may not always know the exact position our generations will hold, building character and responsibility are important values to nurture our children and all those we are responsible to train and develop. **We are joining GOD in HIS work, not creating OUR OWN.** What are some important character traits to emphasize in child or leadership development and how should they be utilized? \_\_\_\_\_

**"Train children to live the right way [ in their/or his path; referring either to children or to God], and when they are old, they will not stray [depart] from it. Proverbs 22:6**

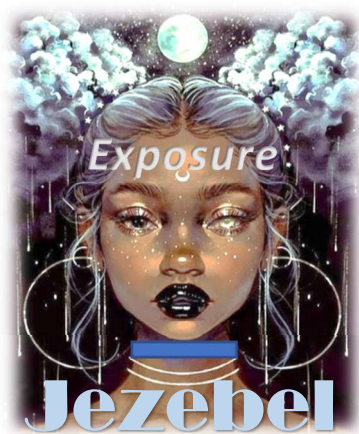
Store housed provision and prosperity, represents benefits passed down one generation to the next. **(Malachi 3:8)** highlights the storehouse benefits for national provision. If every word that proceeds from the mouth of God is what we should live by, then shouldn't there be **a storehouse of His word in our wilderness and throughout our journey? (Deut. 8:3 Matt. 4:4)** We have received God's word to prepare, build up and undergird another generation. Those inheriting generational blessings of wealth, position, reputation or favor start their life with an advantage

(*privilege*). The concept of seed planting should be an integral part of our family planning. Research shows approximately 70% of families inheriting wealth lose capital in the second generation, while 90% lose it in the third. **Evidently inheritance without maturity doesn't build sustainable wealth over the generations.** Have you witnessed squandering, misappropriation of generational blessings? \_\_\_\_\_

We now begin looking at **Jezebel** with a better understanding of her background, her childhood steeped in idol worship influenced with immorality from Baal and Asthroth worship and sacrificial child abusiveness with Molech. Ahab her husband, in weakness reinforced the idolatry of her father. **Jezebel's** concepts of God had been compromised, branded early in life. Ahab's lack of leadership responsibility gave her permission to influence the nation. She married a weak, undisciplined, and privileged king who conformed to nations surrounding him, instead of being faithful to God. Rather than being her leader, she became his pacification, taking advantage of his indecisiveness. ***She was a strong woman with a weak man..*** Do you think marriage changed her or did it allow her additional power and freedom to exercise the downside of privilege? \_\_\_\_\_



*And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he (**Ahab**) took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and **served Baal, and worshipped him.** 1Ki 16:31*



**Jezebel's fractured Marriage was under distorted spiritual influences.** **Jezebel** grew up in a dangerous, demonic cultish culture much like ours today. Marrying Ahab did not provide her with any sustainable understanding or exposure to the true and living GOD. **Jezebel's** husband was not her protector, instead **he became her apprentice**, easily distracted and satisfied. Ahab from generations of kings, ordained by GOD was carried by his lusts and cultural influences. How does exposure to unhealthy spiritual influence affect how we perceive and handle God's favor? \_\_\_\_\_

When you are tempted don't ever say, "God is tempting me," for God is incapable of being tempted by evil and he is never the source of temptation. Instead it is each person's own desires and thoughts that drag them into evil and lure them away into darkness. Evil desires give birth to evil actions. And when sin is fully mature it can murder you! So my friends, don't be fooled by your own desires!  
1 James 1:13-17



# Privilege Void of Principle

**Prayer:** Father today in the promise and power of Jesus Christ our risen Lord and Savior we accept the privilege of heirship in Christ, to walk in the wisdom of Holy Spirit acknowledging every good and perfect gift in us and for us comes from You.

**Jezebel** walked and worked among GOD's people with unearned privilege, outside the benefits provided for the faithful by GOD. **Instead, she walked in Zidon privilege among GOD'S people.** She began quietly and quickly taking over Israel's worship. Her husband, Ahab's obedience to God's commands was compromised by his Canaanite associations. Those who were left in the land to prepare the people and the land for habitation was infested with idolatry. God's inherent blessings seem to have been wasted on Ahab, who instead of following GOD followed his wife **Jezebel** and her idol worshiping religion. As Christians should we be careful whose leadership we follow? \_\_\_\_\_



What are the characteristics of Godly leadership? \_\_\_\_\_

ARE WE IN A **Kiaros Moment!** .. IS IT A SEASON OR A SEASONING?

**HE WHO FINDS A WIFE FINDS A GOOD THING, AND OBTAINS FAVOR FROM THE LORD** - Proverbs 18:22

A man should understand  
he doesn't protect his  
woman because she is weak.  
He protects her because  
she is **VALUABLE.**

Can you imagine what Ahab could have accomplished if only he understood **Jezebel's** value, ability and occupied leadership in his family? If he took headship (not as a bully) in his marriage, teaching **Jezebel** about his GOD? She could have helped him strengthen Israel, *if only Ahab had been her*

*leader, instead of her follower.* The spirit of manipulation is subtle, requiring a willingness to abandon your personal power and join in a willing partnership. It is not always demonic. It can begin with our GOD given dominion attributes, the urge to lead and inadvertently become a striving for power. As women we have experienced the power of submission and must be careful not to abuse or misuse it. **Jezebel was only as affective as Ahab allowed her to be.** As we have examined the culture, religious training and the weakness of the man she married, we have a clarity about **Jezebel's** character being formed by her environment. Have you witnessed a subtle transfer of power in business, leadership or even in a family setting? What were the results? \_\_\_\_\_

# THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PRIVILEGE

In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri became king over Israel; and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD, more than all who were before him. 1 Kings 16:29-30

**Note:** Before **Jezebel** was even on the scene, Ahab was doing evil in GOD'S sight. Scripture isn't specific defining all the actions of Ahab but, we can be assured how GOD defines a man is how that man is. God knows and accurately identifies the heart, motive and actions of men. God has said in His word I have seen your works... God has indicated in His word that our works define who we are. They provide a testimony that cannot be hidden. Romans 2:6-10



Although much press has been given **Jezebel's** aggressiveness, lets shift our thinking as we may have neglected to see Ahab's complacency. There isn't indication she pushed him out of his leadership. Instead it appears he relinquished his authority, stepping back and benefiting from her actions. Ahab surrendered his privilege and power to her personal passions. Born of a kingly line and prepared for leadership, he neglected his role and **Jezebel** did the heavy lifting. **Designation of authority is an important part of leadership to avoid burnout, yet without wisdom and training what should be an asset becomes a liability.** Ahab became comfortable simplifying his responsibility, by giving them to **Jezebel** who wasn't called to Israel's leadership. Israel was a Godly nation, set aside to evidence God's plan of redemption. **Jezebel** was a pagan and not prepared or called to this office. Can leaders become comfortable in being served and neglect their

assignment to serve? \_\_\_\_\_  
Is it possible your reputation can be defined by others lack of action or correction? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
Could Jezebel reputation have been tarnished by Ahab's weakness of leadership? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and **Ahab went and served Baal and worshiped him.** Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And **Ahab made a wooden image.** Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun. 1 Kings 16:31-34



The two kings prior to Ahab his father Zimri and grandfather Omri referenced in 1 Kings 16:18-19 & 25-26 were also defined as evil. The corruption in Ahab appears to have been in his father and grandfather. It seems the old adage like father like son prevailed in successive kingly reigns during this time span. The kingdom of Israel was consolidated in one kingdom with one king, until Solomon died. After Solomon's death the nation split into two kingdoms: in the north - Israel, and in the south - Judah. The Israelites capital was in the city of Samaria, and the Judaeans kept their capital in Jerusalem. These kingdoms remained separate for over two hundred years.

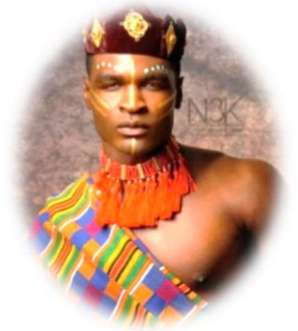
Did Ahab CONVERT to idol worship? Can a weak leader be easily manipulated?



And **Elijah** the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, **said to Ahab**, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, **there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.**" Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "Get away from here and turn eastward, and hide by the Brook Cherith, which flows into the Jordan. And it will be that you shall drink from the brook, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." 1 Kings 17:1-4

**Elijah the prophet of God** spoke boldly to the king, Ahab. As a true prophet he didn't speak the words that were in agreement with the king. **He didn't put an amen to the king's actions and policies, he wasn't politically correct.** Instead he **spoke real truth to power**, echoing what GOD said. Elijah knew the importance of speaking **only** what GOD authored. He knew the responsibility and timing was GOD'S to perform HIS own word. "Then said the Lord to me, You have seen well, for I am alert and active, **watching over My word to perform it.**" Jeremiah 1:12 AMP **The responsibility of the prophet is to say what GOD said, and what HE is saying.** Elijah was prepared to take the consequence of speaking truth to power. Yet we don't want to miss the faithfulness of GOD to protect and prepare for HIS servant leader. Can you be trusted to speak truth to power, in a respectful manner even if it costs you your position or personal safety? \_\_\_\_\_

A prophet, is a spokesperson through whom God can teach, admonish, warn, direct/redirect, encourage, intercede, and counsel to bring relevance and application from God's word to benefit and align the people. Elijah's prophetic ministry required boldness as he warns, challenges and convicts false prophets, and the king clearly stating; " **Which of them has stood in the council of the Lord to see or to hear his word? If they had stood in his council, they would have proclaimed his words to his people and they [the people] would have turned from their evil ways and from their evil deeds.** (Jeremiah 23:18,22)



# Drought, Famine and Idolatry

The draught/famine continued for three years; the situation was dire and the king sent search parties looking for vegetation. *1 Kings 17:5-6* "And Ahab had said to Obadiah, "Go into the land to all the springs of water and to all the brooks; perhaps we may find grass **to keep the horses and mules alive, so that we will not have to kill any livestock.**" So they divided the land between them to explore it; Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself." **When God withheld the rain, He was withholding His promise, produce, wealth, nourishment and provision.** "It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul, that **He will give the rain for your land in its season, the early and late rain,** that you may gather in your grain and your new wine and your oil. He will give grass in your fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied". **Deuteronomy 11:13-15** (NASB) "Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field." **Zechariah 10:1 (KJV)** When the consequences of disobedience befall us, do we have a remedy, a way out of judgement? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_ No What provision has God given us to change the consequence of sin? \_\_\_\_\_



Our congratulatory prophetic speaking, often does not provide sufficiently strong words that can turn leaders back to God and incline the hearts of the people to serve the Lord. When the rain was withheld from the land, it was GOD'S response to the faithlessness of the people. This was consequence for their idolatry which King Ahab allowed under the influence of **Jezebel** his queen.

"For so it was, while **Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD,** that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water." **1 King 17:4** Even in **Jezebel's** murderous plots, God had Obadiah, [servant of Jehovah] working behind the scenes to save some prophets. Obadiah as governor in Ahab's house, had a high position, in a severe famine. He was the agent of GOD'S faithfulness, HIS provision, HIS salvation and a missionary of GOD. **Jezebel** was killing GOD'S prophets. Looking at the leadership of Israel and the criminal activity in leadership against HIS prophets, was GOD'S judgement of famine a punishment or did they have three years to repent?

Leadership is not only about who you are as a leader, but includes how you lead your household. "He must know what he's talking about, not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry. He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church?" **1 Timothy 3:3-5 MSG**

# Leadership Responsibility



**Jezebel** grew into the woman she was trained to be and Ahab allowed her to continue her idolatry and to influence Israel. **Remember:** *“Train children to live the right way [in their/or his path; referring either to children or to God], and when they are old, they will not stray [depart] from it. Proverbs 22:6* Also Ahab became a follower of the gods of the **Zidonians** and began worshiping their god. *“Then Ahab set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.” 1 Kings 16:32* Many have blamed **Jezebel’s** seductiveness, without charging Ahab for his betrayal of covenant kingship requirements in his idolatrous actions. Perhaps it was easier to put the blame on **Jezebel**, instead of Ahab her coconspirator. How do you see leaders

advocating their responsibility to shift the blame? \_\_\_\_\_

Are leaders responsible for the actions of those they appoint? \_\_\_\_\_

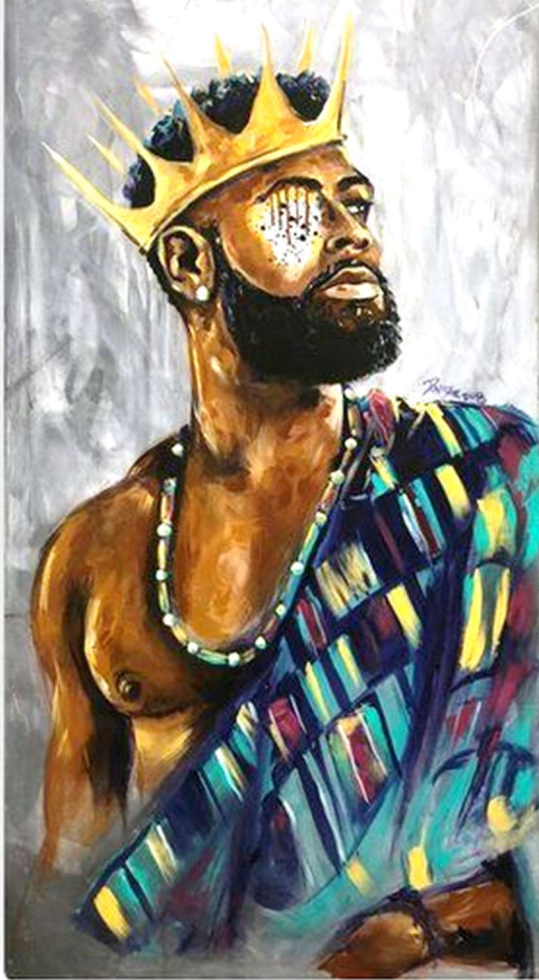
## Jezebel’s Aggression

*And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.” So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria. And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly. For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) 1 Kings 18:1-4*

**Jezebel** wasn’t just *“arm candy”* for the king, she took on an authoritative warring position that promoted her own idolatry. If anything, positive was to be said about **Jezebel** it was that she was devoted to her gods as she went on a killing spree. Although there has been much discourse about the **“JEZEBEL SPIRIT”**, as a demonic spirit responsible for tearing down churches, pastors, and Christian ministries. Also, with breaking up many marriages, friendships, companies and getting many people to commit cold-blooded murders and suicides. True or not, while the nation was suffering with famine and drought, **Jezebel** fed Baals’ prophets from the people’s table. **Jezebel’s** operation was powerless without Ahab’s complicity. Ahab’s weak, permissive leadership failure allowed **Jezebel** to actively operate with power and influence. **Jezebel’s** power was empowered by Ahab’s power deficit. Has history villainized **Jezebel** while giving Ahab a leadership pass? How does designated leadership in the wrong hands affect national or organization operations and progress? \_\_\_\_\_



# Who Is the Leader?



Perhaps **Jezebel** came into the kingdom for conversion, but instead Ahab was converted. Blinded to his responsibility, seeking only the pleasure of kingship, **Jezebel's** allegiance to her gods evidenced greater commitment than Ahab's. Ahab forfeited his leadership becoming a follower of the cults of Baal and Asherah. Ahab was in conflict with GOD and His prophetic word. Elijah appeared suddenly to condemn Baal worship, saying by his word alone, there wouldn't be rain or dew in the land. (1 Kings 17:1) Just as quickly as Elijah appeared, he disappeared even with an international search being initiated. ***What a powerful pictorial that gives us, being hidden in Christ while in the world.*** Colossians 3:3 Elijah evidences GOD as his refuge and strength, his hiding place. How does our now being hidden in Christ with GOD sustain us in turbulent times?

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After three years Elijah sought out the king, Obadiah his palace employee told Ahab where Elijah could be found. Ahab accuses Elijah of being a "troubler of Israel." **Elijah GOD'S prophet responds putting the responsibility of Israel's trouble on Ahab shoulders.** He then throws down the gauntlet challenging Ahab to meet him on Mt. Carmel.

## Whose Fault is it?

Obadiah took the message of Elijah back to Ahab and as the king and the prophet met it was a contentious meeting. ***"Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" And Elijahe answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals." 1 Kings 18:17-18*** Ahab refused to accept responsibility for the consequence of the drought brought upon Israel because of his leadership. Ahab, instead attempted to blame Elijah for pronouncing the judgement of God. Do you believe GOD would still have brought the drought/famine upon Israel even if Elijah didn't declare it?

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## The Challenge

A King with a crooked and bloody crown allowed his idol worshipping wife to jeopardize the kingdom. **Jezebel's** influence was detrimental to Israel in her massacre of the prophets. **GOD would have the last WORD.** Ahab was entering into a challenge from Elijah as a demonstration of GOD'S supreme power.

*Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? 1 Kings 18:19-21*

*Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." 1 Kings 18:19* Evidently the drought/famine wasn't sufficient for Ahab to change, to repent or lead the nation into repentance. God wasn't yet punishing **Jezebel** or holding her accountable. The responsibility was being laid at the feet of Ahab, GOD'S appointed leader. Here is the challenge to Ahab, you and the prophets of both Baal and Asherah meet me for a demonstration of power on Mount Carmel. ["garden-land"] Elijah set up the meeting, Ahab accepted. Is it possible after all the miraculous power GOD had already shown in HIS many deliverances of Israel, Ahab thought these idols capable of standing up against the GOD of Israel? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No Who or what is able to withstand the power and majesty of GOD? \_\_\_\_\_

## The Choice is Yours

Ahab silently accepted Elijah's challenge on Mt. Carmel, without interruption he watched. After GOD'S victory, Elijah told Ahab to eat and drink, while he went away to prayed for the droughts end. Although Elijah had declared the drought, it was with GOD'S authority. He therefore went back to GOD to release what GOD ordained. We must be mindful our authority is given us by GOD, for his glory and purpose. Apostle Paul in Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:1 and more, states his apostleship is by **the will of GOD.** The power, authority is of GOD, Elijah went to the source. Elijah warned Ahab heavy rains were coming and to quickly ride his chariot to Jezreel. **Elijah took the position of a loyal servant, running ahead of the king.** (ex: 1 Kings 1:5; 2 Sam. 15:1) Ahab was a wicked king, but Elijah respected his office and humbled himself. How does this respect of authority apply to us today? \_\_\_\_\_

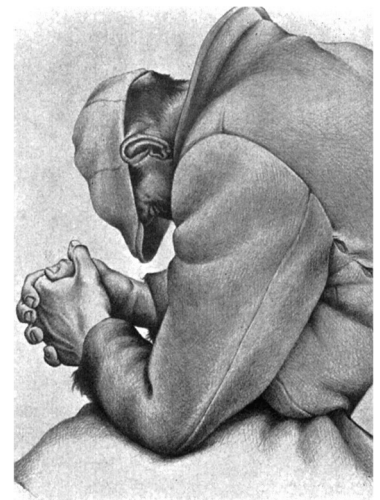


These false prophets were eating from the king's table when they sat at **Jezebel's** table. In a time of famine/drought, when GOD'S chastisement, HIS displeasure was poured out on the nation, the king had the audacity to not only feed, but give prophets of an idol god the valuable resources of the people. The king and his wife **Jezebel** showed favoritism to false gods while the people were suffering lack. Ahab married the king's daughter and evidently adapted the king's religion. Ahab failed as a leader in his own household and his failure put the nation in jeopardy. How do bad leadership decisions affect the people they lead? How have the results of poor leadership in government, church, businesses or families affected their strength and faith? \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, **Jezebel** was an unhealthy influence on the nation, but remember GOD had not made her queen of His people, this was Ahab's choice and his conversion to her faith. *"So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word."* **1 Kings 18:21** Elijah gives the people a choice, not allowing them any excuse, they could no longer straddle the fence. How much had the people been corrupted? Their silence made them complicit with the spiritual corruption of their leader. Are Christians today complicit when they are silent even when they see misappropriation of power? \_\_\_\_\_

Can our silence be viewed as agreement or approval of inappropriate actions? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

In the scripture account of Elijah vs the prophets of Baal, note how **GOD, HIMSELF humbled Himself to prove Himself to His people**. When initially confronted by Elijah they were silent, but after GOD demonstrated His power on Mt Carmel *(read 1 Kings 18:20-35)* Elijah prayed *(And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."* **1 Kings 18:36-37**) Imagine GOD had to evidence Himself again. After seeing GOD'S miraculous working and after Elijah's prayer, the people finally responded. *"Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"* **1 Kings 18:39** In response to Elijah's prayer and out of GOD'S love for HIS people, HE turns their heart again to HIMSELF by giving them visible evidence. Jesus told Thomas who needed evidence to believe; *"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."* **John 20:29** Do some people need a miracle to believe? Are miracles evidence for unbelievers? \_\_\_\_\_



*(Read - John 4:48)*



# Who Is Really in Charge?

And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." 1 Kings 19:1-2



After Elijah outran Ahab to the city of Jezreel, he told his wife his complaint and all Elijah had done on Mt. Carmel. It would appear **Ahab wanted Jezebel to do something**. She became his 'Cohen' his fixer, his problem solver, the one who would have solutions. This evidences his weakness as a **puppet king** willingly surrendering his kingdom authority and rulership to his wife. It doesn't appear Jezebel usurped his authority, but he found it easier to whine and wait for her resolutions. Although Ahab had military leaders, he began to depend upon **Jezebel** to strategize for him. She would continue to promote and establish her own religion, while simultaneously fulfilling her husband's agenda and whims. **Jezebel** trained to be a queen in her father's kingdom, carried over her training to Israel, infiltrating their covenant relationship with idolatry. Is the church today vulnerable to outside influences which can alter its mission? \_\_\_\_\_

Elijah came unannounced, without introduction, or genealogy, not a VIP to deliver God's warning of a drought. **Jezebel's** threat, had military power to back it up. Elijah was aware of **Jezebel** authority in Israel and her words were not idle threats. She had an army to back up all she said. **Jezebel** took an oath a religious oath based on her defeated idols. Elijah was facing another religious battle. "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." **Ahab was only the voice behind the curtain, no longer commander in chief.** "Will two people walk together unless they have agreed to do so?" **Amos 3:3 CEB** Ahab's silence was his consent to **Jezebel**. The mission of the prophet invites adversarial challenge. What are some of the challenges we experience today as those called to declare the kingdom message? \_\_\_\_\_



In reading of 1Kings 19:1-18 Elijah is weary, exhausted and fearful of **Jezebel's** threat of her power. Although GOD provides an escape plan, Elijah's humanity overtakes his confidence. God has an alternative plan to include **Jezebel** and Ahab's defeat, but not before **HE delivers Israel from the Syrian army and gives them an opportunity to return to HIM.** GOD again proves HIS faithfulness by delivering Israel from the King Ben-Hadad. Ahab goes against GOD'S command, spares King Ben-Hadad and in doing so forfeits his own life. (Reference - 1 Kings 20)

# A Brooding King

Then he said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Because you have let slip out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.'" **So the king of Israel went to his house sullen and displeased, and came to Samaria. 1 Kings 20:42-43**



This prophetic drama presented to Ahab, was similar to Nathan's story to David. (2 Samuel 12:1-10) Ahab has an opportunity to acknowledge his disobedience and repent. He committed a sin in releasing Ben-hadad even

though GOD ordered this Syrian king's destruction. **Ahab failed to carry out GOD'S command and now the entire nation would suffer.** Ahab responded to the prophetic announcement with displeasure, sulking and not repenting, he returned to his house. Ahab had an opportunity to repent, but rather chose like a spoiled child, an immature king to pout and sulk. Disappointment may come to leaders. Does how we respond to obstacles or setbacks to our plan affect others?

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No How? \_\_\_\_\_

"And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, **because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money.**" But Naboth said to Ahab, "**The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!**" So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "**I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.**" And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food. " 1Kings 21:1-4

Naboth's generational Inheritance was an important gift, irreplaceable and **not for sale**. The bible highlights the value and continuation of blessings passed from one generation to the next. The inherited blessing was not limited to land and possessions, in included holding on to generational promises and spiritual blessings passed down from generation to generation, from the fathers to the sons and daughters. This inheritance was valuable to Naboth, it represented his family's investment in their future. Naboth understood the sacrifice and inherited value, what it cost his ancestry to secure what he now possessed. What has it cost previous generations for you to possess today? \_\_\_\_\_



# VINEYARDS

Vineyards were an important part of Israel's agricultural economy, especially for those wealthy enough to own or inherit them. Vineyard owners were urged to share at least some of their produce. *"When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the alien, the fatherless and the widow."* (Deuteronomy 24:21) The vineyard in the right hands was a missionary outreach to the poor and disenfranchised. Naboth's retention of his family's vineyard allowed him to give to the poor in his community. In the Old Testament, Israelites coming out of Egyptian slavery are compared to a vine which he has planted, but which does not always bring forth good fruit, and consequently destroys. God 'transplanted a vine from Egypt, drove out the nations and planted it. The land once cleared became fertile and a vineyard became rooted and filled the land'. (Psalms 80:8-9) How will you utilize the inheritance that's been handed to you, God's fertile investment in you? \_\_\_\_\_



The vineyard of *Naboth* = (fruits) was considered so desirable and convenient, Queen **Jezebel**, arranged for the owner of a vineyard to be murdered so that her husband, King Ahab, could take it over. (1 Kings 21:1-29) *Naboth* unlike Esau, knew the value of his inheritance which was his birth rite. Although God prophesied the older would serve the younger, Esau still didn't have the proper understanding or appreciation of his inheritance. Naboth valued his inheritance. **Let's Go Deeper:** Is it up to you to know the value of your inheritance in Christ? When you receive the inheritance, is it your responsibility to know what to do with what you received? \_\_\_\_\_

The New Testament gives great emphasis to our rich "inheritance." It tells us, *"My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:19). Inheritance, as God's children we share the family fortune. Here on earth we are given the riches of His grace, kindness, patience, glory, wisdom, power, and mercy. When spiritually born into God's family, we received astounding birthday gifts: the family name, the family likeness, family privileges, family intimate access, and the family inheritance plus much more! What an inheritance, **we are far richer than we realize.** *"God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay"* (1 Peter 1:4, NLT) In Matthew 20:1-4 Jesus speaks of the vineyard and its contents being of such value, that it is in need of harvesters. GOD is seeking those whom He will reward, for their willingness to bring the produce of the vineyard to harvest. What does GOD'S vineyard look like today, are harvesters still needed, what does their work consist of and how does it profit the world? \_\_\_\_\_

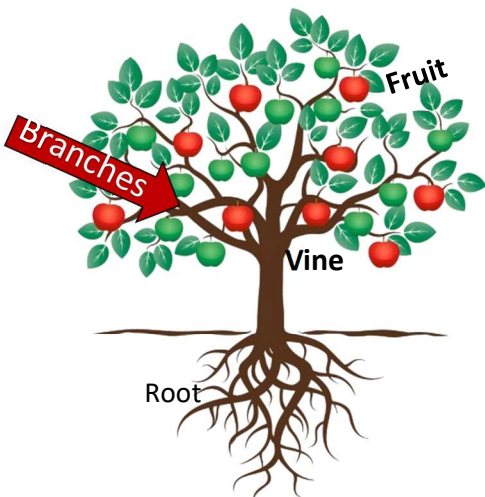
*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward"* (Colossians 3:23-24).

# Vineyards Continued

Let's reiterate: King Ahab acted like a spoiled child, who when he could not have his way resorted to bad behavior by pouting and making those around him miserable. **Jezebel** knew how to appease her husband's anger, what it took to make him happy, what gave her access to his power and free reign in the kingdom. **All it required was her submission.** She would give Ahab what he wanted and at the same time receive what she wanted, it was a win, win situation or so she thought. ***Mt Carmel was the tipping point of her resentment and revenge.*** **Jezebel** used submission to her advantage. When scripture teaches wives should submit to their own husbands, **Jezebel** followed this instruction incorrectly? Can we use the word of God to sway others and get what we want? Is God pleased with that action? \_\_\_\_\_  
Can the appearance of submission be a deceptive tool? \_\_\_\_\_



God says about Israel, ***she is HIS vineyard*** in Isaiah 5:1-7 9 (v/5) *“For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry”*. The inheritance Naboth valued and would not forfeit or be separated from was his precious vineyard. Naboth was connected historically and spiritually to the promises of GOD through what he received from generation to generation. Even the scriptures were an oral tradition, as yet unwritten, a generational verbal translation. ***The Mosaic law forbid permanent selling of inherited land without the possibility of redemption.*** (read - Leviticus 25:23-28) Because of Jewish law, **Naboth** refused to give up his family's ancestral land.



## The 'New Wine' of Christ

It all begins in the vineyard, as Jesus describes the relationship between the vine and the branches, **(John 15:1-8)** we can understand the value of the vineyard. More significantly for Christians, Jesus defines himself as the 'true vine', planted by God to grow abundant and profitable fruit. He uses this imagery to compare his followers to the branches of the vine, which, because they are attached, connected to Him bear fruit How can we become connected and work the vineyard of God in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?  
\_\_\_\_\_

*“Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money.” 2 Kings 21:2*

Naboth was a Jezreelite, from the city of **Jezreel** = *(May God Give Seed)* an ancient city of Palestine, under King Ahab’s rule. It is also where King Saul was killed battling the Philistines. Ahab was frustrated because he couldn’t obtain for his convenience, Naboth’s ancestral vineyard. Naboth would not trade or forfeit his inheritance. Ahab returned to his palace and went to bed without eating anything. No! Ahab wasn’t fasting he was sulking, he wasn’t accustomed to being told no, especially by a subject of his. **Jezebel came to the rescue to lift his spirits and with murderess intention to secure what Ahab desired, Naboth’s vineyard.** At first glance it would appear Ahab’s request was reasonable, a fair exchange or even profitable for Naboth. Yet the right of choice was Naboth’s, he had the right of refusal. It was his refusal, the king’s subject refusing his royal highness that may have infuriated Ahab. We again see how privilege can attempt to dominate and override the rights and choices of others. Did Naboth have the right of refusal to the king? Should he have expected reprisal because of his actions? How do you see *vindictiveness in various leaders?*

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## Jezebel’s Action Plan



His wife, Jezebel, learning the reason for his despair, questions his leadership ability. She asks him a poignant question. **“Are you not the king?”** She then took the reins out of his weak hands, saying she would obtain the vineyard he could not get on his own. **WOW!** What an amazing exchange of power in just a few short words. Ahab gave over his authority as king to his pagan wife without hesitation because he was emotionally upset and immature. God had not appointed **Jezebel** authority over the kingdom, she simply married the king. Now with the absence of Ahab’s leadership she initiated a government land acquisition. How does an absence of leadership open government to ruthless land grabs?

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### 2 Kings 21:5-7

His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, “Why are you so sullen? Why won’t you eat?”

He answered her, “Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, ‘Sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.’ **But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’**”

*Jezebel his wife said, “Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”*



**Jezebel** commanded him to get up out of the place of despondency he was in... Imagine **Jezebel ordered him to get up and eat**. She was doing a hostile land grab, taking up the leadership she considered him to have advocated. It is not just the divisiveness of **Jezebel** but also the weakness of Ahab that will eventually cause their downfall. Leaders are expected to lead, **Jezebel's** rise in authority had a lot to do with Ahab's inability or unwillingness to lead and his selfishness.

*Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership.*

**Colin Powell**

Have you experienced or seen how leaders can lose power willingly or ignorantly and the chaos it causes?

Once lost can authority be regained with or without a power struggle? If with a struggle how does the struggle affect others? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; and 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. 1 Kings 21:7-10*

The covert operation of **Jezebel** begins with her assurance to Ahab, she would take care of the situation. Notice **Ahab didn't even question how**. He wasn't concerned about what she would be able to do to convince Naboth to forfeit his family's vineyard. Ahab was content to let **Jezebel** handle it. **Jezebel** sent an internal correspondence under the name of the King to the royal leadership team. This memo would register **Ahab's authorization** for the action. In other words, whether intentional or unintentional he cosigned her plan with all palace employees, this was the king's order. We must be careful who we allow to use our name, use our reputation and authority to accomplish their devious plans. Have you experienced someone using your name for their purpose? \_\_\_\_\_



# by or by = By Hook or By Crook

"*By hook or by crook*" is an English phrase meaning "*by any means necessary*", suggesting that nothing is off the table and anything is doable to accomplish a goal. **Jezebel** made sure all palace leaders were involved in her undercover plot. They all would be coconspirators along with her. It appears she didn't hold back her intentions. Once the operation was a go, it would be an all hands-on deck. **Jezebel** was quietly taking over the kingdom her husband forfeited by becoming disengaged. *Naboth* was an innocent victim, a citizen who should have had his rights protected by the same leadership group who would set him up to be executed. This murderous plot wasn't for a national advantage or enemy espionage, this was a government crime for the convenience and satisfaction of the king. Ahab could not tolerate being told **NO** by his subject, he wanted what he wanted and it appears he wasn't concerned how he got it. Does it surprise you that **none of Ahab's leadership objected to this plot** or went back to question the king? Why do you think they went along with murder? \_\_\_\_\_  
How important is what leaders say and allow? \_\_\_\_\_



What was **Jezebel's** ulterior motive, she was already a queen with everything she wanted at her fingertips. So, what would this action accomplish or how would it benefit **Jezebel**? Perhaps she was a partisan, bigot, enthusiast, or a religious fanatic. Maybe what she had learned as a child, her idolatrous training was so instilled in her that she wouldn't be satisfied until her idols took over Israel. A person who is fanatical and uncompromising in pursuit of their religious, political, or other ideals will go to any extreme to convert others. Jesus addresses religious zeal: "*Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are*". *Matthew 23:15* Have you been exposed to religious zealots

or have you been one yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

***ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS,  
TODAY'S MODERN TECHNOLOGY HAS GIVEN THEM A LETHAL CAPACITY.***

*Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; and seat **two men, scoundrels**, before him to bear witness against him, saying, 1 Kings 21:9b-10a*

**Jezebel** used Israel's religious preconditioning to fast, to set up Naboth. Like some political stereotypes she used a religious symbol as a prop to gain their confidence, evidence right judgment and add credibility to her actions. She also humbled her husband when questioning his authority; "*Does it become so great a prince as thou art to cast thyself down for so small a matter?*"

**Jezebel** used religious zeal against them. Her plan set Naboth up, after all who wouldn't want to be honored, recognized by his neighbors and community. Scripture doesn't indicate why Naboth was being honored, but they set him centered stage. Be very careful how you allow others to exalt you. Like Humpy Dumpty it can cause unrepairable damage. Naboth thought he was being honored, but he was actually being sacrificed so his inheritance could be stolen. "*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall*". *1 Corinthians 10:12*

# The Government Land Grab

*I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.  
1 Kings 21:7b*

- Notice the words of a presumptuous queen... what Ahab could not obtain.... **Jezebel would secure....**



**Jezebel** wasn't out front, she manipulated from behind the curtain. Although she was the orchestrator of the intrigue, she remained hidden, sheltered backstage. **Jezebel** was definitely the leader of this murder pack. She wanted a specific type of witness, ones whose reputation were dubious. The KJV labels them "*the sons of Belial*" or "*scoundrels*" unprofitable, worthless, wicked, ungodly men. These men stood as evidence that Naboth blasphemed God and the king. The people would be outraged because Naboth was being accused of both speaking against God and the king. Justice and religious criminal activity made it possible for the citizens to sentence Naboth to death. **Jezebel** incorporated all of Israel to unknowingly aid and abet her '*murder for gain*' operation. How have you witnessed the use of religion to gain political or personal acquisitions for personal gain? \_\_\_\_\_

**Jezebel's** coconspirators were **Ahab the wicked and weak king and the elders subservient and without conviction.** Naboth after being falsely accused, was taken outside the city and stoned to death, according to the law. The elders and nobles agreed to carry out the letter's instructions using two witnesses to accuse Naboth, which according to Deuteronomy 17:6 and 19:15, was sufficient to charge an offender, especially when the death penalty was involved. Written under Ahab's name and with Naboth's alleged crime of cursing the *king and God*, the letter may have convinced the elders and nobles Naboth should be executed. Also 2 Kings 9:26 indicates **Jezebel's** crime was possibly even worse, in that the sons of Naboth may have also been killed to avoid any additional claim of ownership on the property. Wars are still being fought worldwide over the acquisition of land. How do we see land acquisition harming families, ethnic groups and the environment? \_\_\_\_\_

After the letter's instructions were completely carried out, dogs outside of the city licked the blood of Naboth's corpse. God would later use this same death description for Ahab. It is in simple terms, "**what goes around, comes around**".

*I will give you the vineyard  
of Naboth the Jezreelite.  
1 Kings 21:7b*

*And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. 1 Kings 21:15-16*



# You Got What You Wanted, PLUS

Now at the end of this violent day, **Jezebel** encourages Ahab to take possession of the vineyard she secured “*by hook, or by crook*” for him. Without question regarding the how, Ahab simply took possession of the land and unknown to him, the judgment God would deliver for how the land was secured.



*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17* Ahab was so busy looking at the world, at acquisition, and convenience he lost sight of his kingdom responsibility. How easy can we lose kingdom focus and how do we refocus to keep kingdom perspective? \_\_\_\_\_

*Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. You shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: **“Have you murdered and also taken possession?”**’ And you shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: **“In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.”**’ 1 Kings 21:17-19*

Ahab has both land and judgment. The watchful eye of God has seen this conspiracy plot for inheritance land. God’s judgment is Ahab’s entire house, because he advocated his authority putting in the hands of **Jezebel**. “*And Elijah answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD: ‘Behold, **I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free**’”.* Ahab stole Naboth’s inheritance, so God appropriated his family inheritance. 1 Kings 21:20b-21 Remember Apostle Paul clearly states in **Romans 6:23a ‘the wages of sin is death’**.... Romans 6:23 what is the equity of the gift of Christ? The penalty of sin remains for us as it is for Ahab and **Jezebel**, but what does GRACE provide? \_\_\_\_\_

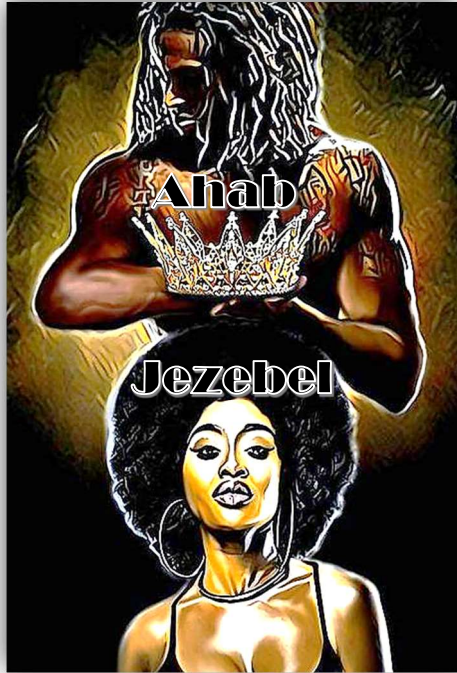
## The Penalty of Ahab’s Sin

*“Because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and **made Israel sin.**’ **And concerning Jezebel** the LORD also spoke, saying, **‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’** The **dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab** and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field.” 1 Kings 21:22-24* God reminds Ahab, he brought this judgment upon himself, because Ahab is primarily held responsible since he advocated his leadership to **Jezebel**. However, **Jezebel** doesn’t get away without her share of the penalty for her criminal activity. *There is an old saying, **“you can get by, but you can’t get away”**.* God adds His emphasis to this as He warns Ahab.



# GOD IS Yet Merciful

*And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:1-3*



*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? Romans 6:1*

GOD's commandment was broken, shattered in the sight of all Israel. GOD required Ahab to pay for his leadership failure, absence of faith and disregard of the future of Israel. Ahab provoked God to anger, to action for Ahab's sin against HIM and HIS command.. *"For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10: 30-31* Ahab not only allowed **Jezebel's** idolatry, but also promoted the worship of Israel to be inclusive of Baals. In the midst of a famine, food rationing and lack, he fed the prophets of Baal from his own table, disregarding his people and prioritizing idol worshipers. After all GOD has done for Israel, HIS deliverance, protection, forgiveness and patience they worshiped another god. The people had temporarily repented at Mt. Carmel, but their king still refused to turn back to GOD. *James 2:13 - if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.* Can we rely upon GOD'S faithfulness when we have sinned and do we take

advantage of GOD'S love? \_\_\_\_\_

There is a song sung by CeCe Winans - "Mercy said No" the partial lyrics of the song recall GOD'S faithfulness to us... *Mercy said no - I'm not going to let you go - I'm not going to let you slip away - You don't have to be afraid - Mercy said no - Sin will never take control - Life and death stood face to face - Darkness tried to steal my heart away Thank You Jesus, Mercy said no... **Mercy stands between us and judgment** and in Christ we are declared "NOT GUILTY".* We can rely upon the mercy of GOD, not upholding us in our sin, but to forgive us when we sin and confess the sin and turn from the sin to HIM.. GOD gives us opportunity to get it right with HIM, when we admit it and are determined to get every action of betrayal through disobedience to His word. Even an Ahab can receive the comfort of GOD'S forgiveness. Have you experienced underserved forgiveness? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No How has that forgiveness deepened your commitment to GOD? \_\_\_\_\_

*So it was, when Ahab heard those words, that he tore his clothes and put sackcloth on his body, and fasted and lay in sackcloth, and went about mourning. 1 Kings 21:27*

Ahab humbled himself before GOD. We cannot judge the sincerity of anyone's confession or repentance, because only GOD knows the heart. Yet when Ahab heard how GOD judged his actions it appeared, he tuned into the mercy GOD had always shown Israel. Ahab seemed to be penitent, once he heard Elijah's message. After all everything else Elijah said had already come to pass, Ahab had to believe Elijah's judgment message. Ahab immediately tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and prostrated before the LORD. He may have been a proud hardened sinner, yet he could find favor with GOD. Christ came to seek and save the sinner. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 How important is the knowledge of forgiveness to new converts? \_\_\_\_\_



*And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, "See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house." 1 Kings 21:28-29*

**Note:** God can make the proudest heart to tremble and humble itself. His word is so quick, powerfully effective and will boldly establish itself like a *fire and a hammer*, *Jeremiah 23:29*. After believing Elijah, Ahab quickly disbelieves another prophet GOD sent. Often in the midst of a Titanic devastation, a pandemic, the heart can appear to humble itself before GOD. The proof of our confession is in how we live once our 911 urgency is over. Do we continue to honor the Lord or do we quickly turn back to our unfaithful habits? Genesis 4:7 GOD, gives Cain a warning and a truth question: "*If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? **But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.***" This is GOD'S warning and HIS empowerment message to us after the fall of Adam. The dominion authority we received gives us the ability to overcome the ominous sin looking for an open door to enter. We must develop sufficiency of faith to rule over the sin that sits at our door. We have the power of resistance, we have GOD given rulership, dominion power. If sin looks for an opportunity to overtake us, how can we utilize our God given authority to block those efforts? \_\_\_\_\_



Even before we begin to reach out to GOD, HE is reaching out to us. We can have this confidence "IN GOD WE TRUST". God is extending mercy to Ahab... Imagine if HE extends mercy with all Ahab has done and the spiritual corruption he has allowed. So much more will HE forgive those who seek HIM daily and still occasionally sin. Remember how Jesus told the men who accused the woman caught in adultery. Jesus said in *John 8:7b* "*He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her*". Paul later says, <sup>we repeat</sup> from *Romans 3:23* *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*". We can have this bold confidence as we walk through the challenges of our complicated lives. Is GOD'S forgiveness endless and will every sin be forgiven? \_\_\_\_\_

# Ahab, What About Jezebel?

*And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'*

Ahab's case was adjourned to his son's days, but the sentence wasn't revoked. The execution suspended, Ahab was now in a state of temporal reprieve, but what would he do after the 911 call was successful? Also, for all the power and authority Ahab allowed **Jezebel** to exercise, he now doesn't even mention her name to GOD. He doesn't seek forgiveness for **Jezebel** as well as himself. **Not a word is uttered on her behalf**, not a request to "help my wife". It would appear Jezebel is on her own, up the creek without the proverbial paddle, while her husband seeks 'self-relief'. Consider **Jezebel** satisfied every one of Ahab's desires, no matter how petty. Now he played a safety card, selfishly appealing to GOD for himself alone. Have you witnessed one partner obtaining favor for themselves without including others who contributed to their business, government, marriage, family and ETC.?



*So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken. 1 Kings 22:37-38*

## Prophetic Word

In 1 Kings chapter 22, all the prophecy, deception of Ahab, his efforts to save his own life and his eventual death are detailed. As previously prophesied to Ahab: *'Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?" ' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours."* 1 Kings 21:19 The word of GOD spoken by Elijah came to pass. And even after the death of Elijah, his prophetic word regarding **Jezebel** was unchanged. This helps us to understand the power of the prophetic word is not dependent upon the one speaking, **but on GOD Who authors and performs all HE has spoken**. *"God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; **Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?**" Numbers 23:19 NASB* We Praise God, despite the instabilities and uncertainties of this world, and in spite of the faults and failings of men – **the Word of the Lord is sure**, His decrees are unalterable, and all His promises are all "yes" and "amen". Ahab was aware of the prophetic word spoken by Elijah regarding his death, living his life knowing its end. What are some prophetic words you see coming to pass in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

*Ahaziah the son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and reigned two years over Israel. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, and **walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother** and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; for he served Baal and worshiped him, and provoked the LORD God of Israel to anger, according to all that his father had done. 1 Kings 22:51-52*

The idolatries of the family carried on from one generation to the next, provoking GOD to anger....



**Jezebel** provides us the opportunity to teach lessons on morality, the evil outcomes of idol worship and the absence of leadership. **Jezebel** was a foreign idol worshiper who became empowered by Ahab's lack of leadership. **Jezebel** embodies everything to be eliminated, so GOD'S people return to HIM. A lesson in how to avoid contamination by cults. Although the book of Kings doesn't script sexual impropriety on Queen Jezebel's part, she is a very devoted and supportive wife, willing even to commit murder in order to help her husband maintain his authority as king. **Jezebel** doesn't surrender her identity in marriage to submerge herself in Israelite ways. She never adopts his religion or social norms, instead she remains independent of Israel's God. **Jezebel** remains true to her own beliefs and her husband doesn't insist upon her conversion or interfere with her idol worship. Instead, Ahab promoted her GOD. Can an unequally yoked relationship work? What are the complications and adjustments that must be considered?

**Jezebel** marriage to Ahab was a political alliance, politics isn't a romantic relationship. The union provided both peoples with military protection from powerful enemies as well as valuable trade routes: Israel gained access to the Phoenician ports; Phoenicia gained passage through Israel's central hill country to Transjordan and especially to the King's Highway, the heavily traveled inland route connecting the Gulf of Aqaba in the south with Damascus in the north. But although the marriage is sound foreign policy, it should have been intolerable because of **Jezebel's** idol worship. Ahab was a puppet in the hands of **Jezebel**, he was weak and easy to manipulate. **Jezebel** became the feared leader in Israel and not her husband. It may be that Ahab was more luxury-loving and sensual than cruel, he was under the domination of his wife.

## Whatever Happened to Jezebel?

*So the young man, **the servant of the prophet**, went to Ramoth Gilead. And when he arrived, there were the captains of the army sitting; and he said, "I have a message for you, Commander." Jehu said, "For which one of us?" And he said, "For you, Commander." Then he arose and went into the house. And he poured the oil on Jehu's head, and said to him, "**Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel. You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.** For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab all the males in Israel, both bond and free. 2 Kings 9:4-8*

**Switch:** The kingdom is moved from one family to another. Ahab's decedents as prophesied have lost their right to rule in the northern kingdom of GOD. Imagine how many people lose their privilege of leadership due to a compromised and disloyal faith. How can this loss be prevented?

# The Death Of:

JEZEBEL



God had not forgotten HIS word or forgotten the death of HIS prophets. **Jezebel** had persecuted the prophets of the LORD and had them killed. *For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.) 1 Kings 18:4* Elisha the prophet replacing Elijah, sent another prophet to Ramoth Gilead to anoint Jehu, a commander in the army of Ahab as king of Israel. Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, grandson of Nimshi, was to dismantle and replace the kingly reign of the sons of Ahab, Ahaziah and Joram. Remember Elijah told Ahab, his leadership would change. *1 Kings 21:22-29*

After Jehu was anointed and received by the people as king, he went into Jezreel. *“But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which the Syrians had inflicted on him when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, “If you are so minded, let no one leave or escape from the city to go and tell it in Jezreel.” So **Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel**, for Joram was laid up there; and Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram.” 2 Kings 9:15-16* After Joram sent two messengers to inquire if Jehu came in peace and they didn’t return: *Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot; and they went out to meet Jehu, and **met him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite**. Joram met Jehu and asked if he came in peace and Jehu responded: *Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, “Is it peace,**

*Jehu?” So he answered, “What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?” 2 Kings 9:22* God true to HIS word had not forgotten the treachery of **Jezebel** and **unlike** her husband Ahab, **Jezebel** refused to seek God’s mercy for herself or her generations. On Naboth’s property God fulfilled HIS word. Is repentance beneficial to us or does it only turn away God’s judgment or both? \_\_\_\_\_

*Then Jehu said to Bidkar his captain, “Pick him up, and throw him into the tract of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I were riding together behind Ahab his father, that the LORD laid this burden upon him: ‘Surely I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,’ says the LORD, ‘and I will repay you in this plot,’ says the LORD. Now therefore, take and throw him on the plot of ground, according to the word of the LORD.” 2 Kings 9:25-26* Joram is thrown away, discarded as worthless on the same ground stolen from Naboth. What a paradoxical ending to the legacy of Ahab, his sons who continued idol worship under the influence of **Jezebel** died as dishonored kings.

*And he looked up at the window, and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. Then he said, “Throw her down.” So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot. 1 Kings 9:32-33*



Jehu entered the city, looking up to the window as Jezebel's voice taunted him. She repeated her sons' question: "Is it peace Jehu, but added taunt: "**thou murderer of thy master?**" Such a taunt quickly got Jehu's attention and seeing two eunuchs standing at her side, he shouted up to them, "**Who is on my side? Who? Throw her down!**" They immediately obeyed and threw her out of the window, and as she fell her blood sprayed the walls. Below her were the soldiers with their spears, the horses to tread her underfoot and the hungry dogs waiting for her flesh. Jehu entered the palace, the new king would reign over Jezebel's dead body.

*And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter."<sup>5</sup> So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel." ' 2 Kings 9:34-37*

Jehu remember **Jezebel** was the wife of a king and also the mother of kings. In respect he ordered is men to retrieve her body for a proper burial. When they went out to recover her remains, **they found her skull, feet, and the palms of her hands**. **Jezebel** died as she lived an idol lover, a defiant tyrant and murder. She had sown to the wind, and reaped the whirlwind. Hosea 8:7a **Jezebel** died a horrific death in divine retribution for acts of brutality and idolatry.

**Jezebel** may have been prepped from childhood as an idol worshiper, perhaps even a priestess of her idol. Her weak husband who allowed her to exercise authority over the nation he was to rule and align to GOD'S word, didn't help her change. However, **the sin was hers**, she was an example of the price tag for the wages of sin. **Jezebel** used her influence as a wife and mother to bring destruction on her household. **Jezebel** was the opposite of all God meant woman to be, exercising God given dominion and a true help-meet of man. Ahab, we read, was "stirred up" by Jezebel, but stirred in an unhealthy manner. When a man marries a woman because of her beauty or forceful personality, or politics to simply get ahead it often ends in heartache and disappointment. **Jezebel** even in her old age, never changed, never stopped stop being obstinate and unyielding. The death of Ahab and her sons whose life she polluted didn't provide remorse or repentance. What life lessons can be realized regarding relationship power by examining the life of **Jezebel?** \_\_\_\_\_



What a difference her life story would have been, if only she had learned how to stir up her husband and children to love God and follow good works ([2 Timothy 1:6](#); [2 Peter 1:13](#)). Her misdirected talents instead only brought death and loss.