

# Jezebel

## Introduction:

### Revelation 2:18-29

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: 19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. 20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. 24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. 25 But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations- 27 He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'- as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

## Characteristics of Jezebel: (“Without Co-habitation”)

**Self Righteousness** – “who calls herself a prophetess,” (literally, “an inspired woman.”)

- Pride in her spirituality and spiritual maturity
- Presents herself as the mouthpiece of God
- Self appointed “spiritual authority”

**Superiority** – “to teach”

- This is indicative of her desire to be the one who imparts knowledge to those who are “not as spiritually mature” as she is.
- This reflects a warped “motherly nature”

**Manipulative** – “to seduce” (literally, to lead astray or deceive)

- Jezebel has her own agenda. It is all about her. She will not submit to anyone. If it appears that she is submitting to God it is only because she is promoting her own “righteous” agenda and appearance.
- When she appears to serve, she is doing so for manipulative and self promoting reasons.
- Everything she does, including the act of praising God, is motivated by self exaltation. She will do whatever makes her look good.

**Scheming** – “to commit sexual immorality”

- The Greek word here means fornication. This is speaking sexually but has spiritual implications as well. To fornicate is to fulfill a human desire in a way other than what God approves of.
- This word is also translated, “idolatry.” God was no longer first. They began to treat things other than God as divine.
- Keep in mind, the sin of this church began, not when they agreed with her, but when they did nothing to oppose her. Sinful non-actions can be just as damning as sinful actions.

**Deceptive** – “and eat things sacrificed to idols.”

- This was a problem, not because of the food, but because of the environment the food was usually served in.
- It was served in pagan festivals that included all manner of immoral acts taking place.

- Thus many believers were enticed to levels of sin they would not have believed themselves capable of because they had given the enemy a foothold.
- Intimidating –**
- **1 Kings 19:1-2** *“And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.<sup>2</sup> 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.”*
  - She uses fear and threats to maintain her control
  - A person controlled by Jezebel is someone that causes people to walk on eggs around them.
  - People will go out of their way not to offend such a person – even to the degree of tolerating things that are not Godly.

### **The Jezebel influence on a man:**

#### **Authoritative Dictator**

- Such a man cannot stand to have his authority questioned.
- In a marriage, he is a drill sergeant. He keeps his family under his thumb.
- If he is a leader in a church, he will abuse God given spiritual authority to promote himself and his agenda.
- As long as things are going his way he is fine.

### **The Jezebel influence on a woman:**

#### **Domineering and Controlling**

- In a marriage, this woman will either rule her house or be constantly bucking her husband.
- If she does rule her house, she will keep her husband in line through ridicule, nagging, and attacks at his self esteem.
- In the church, she loves to appear super spiritual and will attempt to control the pastor and leaders through manipulation and intimidation.

## **Consequences of Jezebel:**

**Revelation 2:21-23**, *“21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”*

### **Those she is attached to:**

#### **Sickness:**

- Jesus states that such a person will eventually suffer debilitating sickness if they do not turn away from the influence of Jezebel and her way of thinking.
- It is easy to see how much stress such a control obsessed person would be under. It is no wonder that sickness would plague this person.

#### **Death:**

- God will not tolerate this opposition long. He will do what He desires to do.
- In the end, as in 1 Kings, God will usually allow Jezebel to be destroyed by her own devices.

#### **2 Kings 9:30-37**

*30 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window.<sup>31</sup> Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, “Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?”<sup>32</sup> And he looked up at the window, and said,*

*"Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him.<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup> 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>35</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.<sup>36</sup> 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;<sup>37</sup> 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."*

### **Those who allow her to continue:**

#### **Great tribulation:**

- To tolerate Jezebel is to commit the acts with her.
- Those who are bound by her are in misery.
- They want to be free but they don't want to "rouse her anger."

#### **The death of their children:**

- **Rev. 2:23** *"I will kill her children with death"*
- Jezebel will not simply destroy a person, but will continue to control, manipulate and ultimately destroy that person's descendants.
- God's judgment will fall on her children, because she has trained her children to be like her.

## **Combating Jezebel**

### **Let God search your mind and heart.**

**Revelation 2:23, "all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts."**

- Jesus refers to Himself this way because it is in the searching of God that Jezebel is revealed.
- God must be the one who searches because many times Jezebel's deception comes in the form of "godly" or "pure" motives.

**The Mind:** He starts with the mind because the foundation on which Jezebel rests is a faulty mental stronghold of dominion and superiority.

- It exists because somewhere the person has believed a lie that makes them feel entitled to be superior.
- You cannot tolerate any Jezebelian thinking!!!

**The Heart:** He continues to the heart because once the lie has been revealed the motives of the heart have been exposed as well.

### **Repent**

**Revelation 2:21 "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent."**

- God is patient if the person is seeking Him.
- As God reveals Jezebel, the person must turn away and reject her utterly.
- God will help you do this if you will ask Him and let Him.

**QUOTE: "Victory begins with the name of Jesus on our lips. But it is not consummated until the nature of Jesus is in our heart." - Francis Frangipane**

**Men:** Overcome Jezebel by seeking to love as Christ loves – sacrificially.

‡ Do not seek to rule; seek to relate.

† Ephesians 5:25, *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her”*

**Women:** Overcome Jezebel by seeking the meekness of Christ.

† 1 Peter 3:1, *“Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives.”*

† Seek God's wisdom in the divine order of things.

**Both:** Humility and Peace in serving others is a sign that Jezebel is being destroyed. The opposite of not co-habiting is not dominion; it is co-habitation.