

## Life lessons from Jezebel

### *Various Scriptures*

*“No one else so completely sold himself to what was evil in the Lord’s sight as Ahab did under the influence of his wife Jezebel.” -1 Kings 21:25*

To what or whom are you most committed to in life? How do you think God would evaluate your commitment? These are just a couple of questions we will examine in our study as we look at the life of Jezebel. The Bible is clear in not only showing us various examples of good and evil, but also revealing the results of their end. As we consider the life lesson from Jezebel, let us ask ourselves, “am I committed to doing the will of God or something else and what will be the consequences of my actions?”

### **Did you know?**

\*Jezebel’s personal name means “where is the prince?” which is derived from “Baal is the prince”

\*She was the daughter of King Ethbaal of \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Kings 16:31

\*She was the wife of King \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel

\*She was a worshiper of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\*Her \_\_\_\_\_ became associated with the wickedness of the false prophets in Revelation 2:20.

\*Her story is told in 1 Kings 16:31-2 Kings 9:37

### **As the story continues...**

By now in the historical context of the story of the Israelites, the once \_\_\_\_\_ nation is now \_\_\_\_\_. Of the 12 tribes, 10 (Israel) went \_\_\_\_\_ and 2 (Judah) went \_\_\_\_\_. It has been 56 years since King Solomon’s death, and now we are in the rule of King Ahab. Not only did he follow the poor example of Jeroboam who permitted the people to worship in pagan shrines and refused to ordain priest from the tribe of Levi, but he also married Jezebel, a woman who was known for her commitment to Baal the Canaanite god of fertility.

Another important person to make note of in this period is the prophet Elijah. During this time, notice how God not only raises up Elijah to confront Ahab in his sin, but also how He allows Elijah to be a contrast to their commitments and to idol worship. In other words, this story shows us the consequences of staying committed to evil and benefit of staying committed to the will of the true and living God of Israel.

**What kind of impact can choosing the wrong spouse have on your personal relationship with God?**

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**Genesis 24:3; Ezra 9:2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16**

### **Jezebel's Impact 1 Kings 16:31-33**

After Ahab's marriage to Jezebel, it caused a negative ripple effect in him that continued in the nation of Israel. Once he started worshiping Baal his commitment to the Lord slipped further away. Notice what he did:

\*He built a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for Baal in Samaria (verse 32).

\*He set up the Asherah pole (verse 33).

\*He did more to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord to anger than any of the other kings before him (verse 33).

In contrast to Ahab's poor leadership and unwillingness to guide the people into a right relationship with God. Elijah comes on the scene in chapter 17 and declares the dew and rain will cease for the next few years! **1 Kings 17:1**

Keep in mind the people who worshiped Baal believed he was the god who brought the \_\_\_\_\_ and bountiful harvest. However, Elijah was reminding Ahab that the God of Israel was the supreme creator and sustainer of life. **Genesis 7:4; Psalm 93:3; 107:25; 148:8; Isaiah 51:15**

**Can you identify some things that we knowingly or unknowingly put before God as idols in our lives today?**

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### **Jezebel's Influence 1 Kings 18-19; 21**

Three years into the drought, the Lord sends Elijah to Ahab and tells him the Lord will soon send rain. Sadly, all this time as a way of retaliation, Jezebel had tried to kill all the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_. Although she managed to kill some, Obadiah was able to hide \_\_\_\_\_ in two caves.

In contrast to their commitment to idol worship and promoting false prophets, Elijah sent a challenge to 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah who were all supported by Jezebel to meet him at Mt. Carmel for the ultimate showdown of whose god was the true God!

#### **The Lord's prophet Elijah vs. 450 prophets of Baal**

They both presented sacrifices; He told them to call on their god, and he would call on the Lord. "The god who answers by setting the wood on fire is the true God."

Elijah let them go first..... verses 25-29 they called on Baal from morning until noon. They began to dance, shout and \_\_\_\_\_ themselves all the way until evening but still no answer from their god.

Then it was Elijah's turn...verses 30-41 He gathered 12 stones for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, rebuilt the altar in the name of the LORD, dug a trench around the altar to hold 3 gallons of water, prepared the sacrifice, had water poured on the altar three times over. When he called on the Lord, verse 38 says, Immediately the fire of the

LORD flashed down from heaven and burned everything! When the people saw it they said, "The Lord He is God! Yes the Lord is God!"

At that moment Elijah seized all the false prophets of Baal and had all of them killed.

**As we reflect on this dramatic scene, considering the action Elijah took in killing all of the false prophets, what are some things that need to be permanently removed from your life?**

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Jezebel's influence in inciting fear, killing the Lord's servants, promoting false prophets, now notice her influence in undermining the law.

### **1 Kings 21:1-15**

This instance tells us of a man named Naboth who owned a vineyard next to the palace of King Ahab. Verse 2 says, Ahab offered to purchase the land for himself, but Naboth refused. Frustrated and upset, Ahab goes home pouting to his wife Jezebel who in turn tells him to toughen up and let me get it for you!

Notice her evil scheme:

- \* \_\_\_\_\_ letters in Ahab's name.
- \* Sealed them with Ahab's seal.
- \* Sent them to the elders.
- \* Called for a fictitious fasting and prayer
- \* Gave Naboth a place of honor
- \* Set him up to be falsely accused of blasphemy against God and the king
- \* Had him \_\_\_\_\_ to death.

Jezebel tells Ahab that the land is available, and he immediately goes to the vineyard to claim it.

### **God's contrast:**

Verse 17 says, while Ahab was at Naboth's vineyard, Elijah met him with a word from the Lord. Not only did they \_\_\_\_\_ Naboth but they also \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Notice God's judgement:

- \* Dogs will lick your blood at the same place where Naboth was killed.
- \* He will be consumed by disaster.
- \* His male descendants will be destroyed.
- \* His family will be destroyed.
- \* His wife Jezebel's body will be eaten by dogs at the plot of land in Jezereel.
- \* Members of his family who die in the city will be eaten by dogs
- \* Member of his family who die in the field will be eaten by vultures.

Verse 25 all this happened because no one else so completely sold himself to what was evil in the Lord's sight as Ahab did under the influence of his wife Jezebel.

**Notice God's grace on Ahab...**

Verse 27-28 says, But when Ahab heard this message, he tore his clothing, dressed in burlap, and fasted. He even slept in burlap and went about in deep mourning. Then another message from the Lord came to Elijah. Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has done this, I will not do what I promised during his lifetime. It will happen to his sons; I will destroy his dynasty.

**As for Jezebel...**

2 Kings 9:10; 30-37

Her life came to a horrible end. God's judgement against her came to pass in that the dogs ate her body and she was unrecognizable. The Bible makes it clear that there is a place of judgement reserved for those who reject God and His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

**As we consider both the end of Ahab and Jezebel's life, what would you say to someone who is rejecting God and committed to doing what they please instead of what God would have them to do? How does the end of Ahab's life encourage you today?**

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**As you reflect on this study, what is the the greatest lesson learned that you are willing to share with someone else?**

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**“Do not be deceived: God is not to be mocked. Whatever a man sows, he will reap in return. The one who sows to please his flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; but the one who sows to please the Spirit, form the Spirit will reap eternal life.” -Galatians 6:7-8**