

DISCERNING THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT PAT HOLLIDAY, PH.D.



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Numbers 33-32, commands the children of Israel to "destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places who, rather than destroy the high places worshiped and served the demonic beings that occupied them. "There is more to these stones and images and high places than just harmless native art. Many of these had become the literal dwelling place of demonic spirits, later in the New Testament called powers and principalities.

The Ahab spirit promotes a man to be wishy-washy and unstable in all his ways. He was efficient and strong in manipulative and administrative powers. He was weak and vacillating in the face of his powerful wife, Jezebel. "But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up. And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel," (1 Kin. 21:25). He gave his authority to his wife and even when she abused it. He remained passive. Ahab's marriage to Jezebel proved to be a major factor in the eventual fall of the Omride dynasty.

Worship of Baal --- Jezebel Worshiped Baal, a Phoenician god. She approached her religion with a fanatic's zeal. She came to Israel with four hundred and fifty priests of Baal and four hundred "prophets" of Aasherah, the mother-goddess. and dined at the palace. When Ahab built his "ivory house," he constructed a temple of Baal with quarters for the priest next to the palace. The greater part of this sacred structure was a court, enclosed with thick walls and open to the sky. Within the court was a small sacred chapel containing symbols of Baal and the mother-goddess, Asherah. The temple priest and their attendants kept an eternal flame burning in a large dish-shaped brazier on the chapel's altar.

Since Baal was a nature cult, worshipers joined the priests and temple prostitutes in sacred orgies before the altar, especially at the new-year celebration. They acted out the reproductive theme so that the gods, who control earth and water, would follow their example and improve the fertility of agriculture, animals and man.

In time of crisis, such as famine or war, these cultists sacrificed firstborn children in the sacred fire to summon the help of their gods. When some Israelite prophets opposed Jezebel's policies, she had several of them executed.

Ahaz was one who "in every single city of Judah he made high places to burn incense to other gods, and provoked to anger the Lord God his fathers," (2 Chron. 28:23). God had to execute judgment and punish Israel for what was frequently referred to by the prophets as spiritual adultery. The Babylonian captivity was one such judgment.

- I. Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal, a Zidonian, and wife of Ahab, (1 Kin. 16:31).
 - A. "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 took to wife Jezebel the

daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshiped him,” (1 Kin. 16:31).

B. Characteristic of Jezebel

1. Patroness of Idolatry, (1 Kin.18:19).
2. Zeal for the religion of her native land
3. Attempts to replace the worship of the true God with that of Baal and Asherah.
4. 450 Prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah ate at her table.
 - a. “ Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel’s table,” (1Kin.. 18:19).
5. A Murderess, (1 Kin. 21: 5-13).
 - a. ”Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, how I hid a hundred men of the Lord’s prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?” (1 Kin. 18:13).
 - b. Killed and persecuted the prophets of God.
 - c. An idolatress and persecuted the prophets of God, (1 Kin. 18:4, 13, 190; 2 Kin. 3:2,13: 9:7, 22).
 - d. Vowed to kill Elijah, (1 Kin. 19:1-3).
 - 1) “And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain 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 make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time,” (1 Kin. 19:1).
 - A) Wickedly accomplishes the death of Naboth,
 - 2) "But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no

bread? And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it; and he answered I will not give thee my vineyard. And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dos't thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry; I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast and set Naboth on high among the people: And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou did'st blaspheme god and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is alive, but dead."

- A) Notice the difference lifestyle of Queen Esther.
- B) She intervenes at the risk of her life, on the Jews' behalf to stop their extermination.
- C) She moved spiritually in (Est. 4:16).
 - I) "Go gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day; I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."

- a. Revengeful, (1 Kin. 19:2)
 - b. Incited her husband to evil, (1 Kin. 21:25).
 - c. Vain, (2 Kin. 9:30).
 - d. Met a terrible death, (2 Kin. 9:22-35).
 - e. Death of Jezebel foretold, (1 Kin. 21:23; 2 Kin. 9:10). Death of
6. Jezebel at the hand of Jehu, (2 Kin. 9:30-37).
- 1) “And When Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it: and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu enter in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said. Throw her down. So they threw her down on the wall, and on the horses; and he trod her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her; for she is a king’s daughter. And they went to bury her; but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands,” (2 Kin.9:20).

II. Church of the False Prophetess

A. Thyatira:

1. “Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repented of their deeds And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts and I will unto every one of you according to your works. But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine and which have not

known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden," (Rev. 2:18-24).

2. Prophetess led members into practices of immorality and idolatry.
 - a. The things of Satan: Twice we read of "the synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2:9; 3:9) at Pergamum was "The throne of Satan" (Rev. 2:13); In the letter to Thyatira mention is made the "deep things of Satan" (Rev. 2:24).
 - b. She teaches a different Gospel, different Jesus, a different spirit.
 1. Inspired witchcraft
 2. False signs and wonders
 3. False Prophecies
 4. Desires control of people's lives
 5. Ambitious for power
 6. Usurps authority
 7. Serves other gods: Seducing Spirits (1 Tim. 4:1, 2; 2 Tim. 3:1-9).
3. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils: Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth," (1 Tim. 4:13).
4. Seducing Spirits:
 - a. Bewitches from truth (Gal. 3:1).
 1. "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before

whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you.”

2. Removes to another gospel, Gal. 1: 6
 3. Preaches error, (Gal. 1:8-12).
5. Hypocritical lies (1 Tim. 4:1)
- a. Turns you to the works of the flesh with deception, (Gal.5:19- 21).
 - b. “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God,” (Gal. 5:19).
 - c. Attractions Fascination by false prophets, false, signs and wonders, etc, (Mk. 13:22)
 1. Seared Conscience, (1 Tim. 4:1).
 2. Deceived, (1 Jn. 2:18-26; 2 Tim. 3:13).
 3. Wander from truth, (1 Jn. 2:18, 26; 2 Tim. 3:13).
 4. Fascination to evil ways, objects, or persons, (Prov. 12:25).
 5. Seduced, enticed, (1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:13).
 - a. Means of seduction
 - 1) divination
 - 2) Psychology
 - 3) New Age
 - b. Means of operation

- 1) Spirit of the Antichrist
- 2) Personal ambition