

1 KINGS 21:1-16 “THE SPIRIT OF JEZEBEL”

Now, the story we are about to study wouldn't necessarily be of particular interest today.

- Lots of shady property deals happen every day in America.
- **Except for the fact that it involves a Biblical figures of some renown.**
 - An evil Queen
 - A childish, bumbling, selfish King
 - AND, one more example of a demonic spirit infecting, controlling and possessing a person that's power hungry.

Let's take a look at **Jezebel** in 1 Kings first and perhaps we can discover why Jesus would refer to certain personalities within a modern Christian church as having a “Jezebel” Type Spirit.

- Ahab, King of Israel, decided to marry a pagan woman
 - You marry a Non-Christian – you have no room to complain about him or her later.

1 Kings 16:31 And **as if it had been a light thing** for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him.

1 Kings 21:25–26

25 (There was none who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab, **whom Jezebel his wife incited.**

26 He acted very abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD cast out before the people of Israel.)

- Ahab started worshipping the gods of his new wife – he chose her church!

1 Kings 18:19 Now therefore send and gather all Israel to me at Mount Carmel, and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.”

- He allowed her to amass 850 pagan prophets
 - All expenses paid
 - New Temples
 - Gold statues

- Innumerable sacrifices and offerings from the King's treasury
- Ahab sheepishly informs Jezebel that Elijah killed all the prophets of Baal with the sword.
1 Kings 19:1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. (Boo-hoo)
- Jezebel murders a man so that she can give his vineyard to Ahab.
1 Kings 21:7 And Jezebel his wife said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."
- Jezebel commits herself to destroying Elijah:
1 Kings 19:1-2
1 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword.
2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow."

1 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.
2 And after this Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money."
3 But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers."

- The Law would not allow such a give-away – but Ahab didn't care for the LAW
Numbers 36:7-9
7 So the inheritance of the children of Israel shall not change hands from tribe to tribe, for every one of the children of Israel shall keep the inheritance of the tribe of his fathers.
8 And every daughter who possesses an inheritance in any tribe of the children of Israel shall be the wife of one of the family of her father's tribe, so that the children of Israel each may possess the inheritance of his fathers.
9 Thus no inheritance shall change hands from one tribe to another, but every tribe of the children of Israel shall keep its own inheritance."
- The request of Ahab, at first view, appears fair and honourable. But, as he most evidently wished Naboth to *alienate it finally*, which was expressly forbidden and provided against in the law of God, (Le. 25:14-28,) it was high iniquity in Ahab to tempt him to do it, and to covet it showed the depravity of his soul. ¹

¹ B. Blayney, Thomas Scott, and R.A. Torrey with John Canne, Browne, *The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge*, vol. 1 (London: Samuel Bagster and Sons, n.d.), 251.

4 And Ahab went into his house **vexed and sullen** because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said 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.

- **VEXED:** סָרַף S⁵⁶²⁰ TWOT^{1549a} GK⁶²³⁴ **adj. stubborn, resentful, sullen, implacable;**—סָרַף וְזָעָה 1 K 20:43; 21:4; f. מֵהֵינָה רוּחַהּ סָרָה v 5 why then *is thy spirit sullen?* poss. also pl. cstr. סָרִי סוֹרְרִים Je 6:28 *revolters (stubborn ones)* among, etc. (v. supr. and סוֹר Qal ad fin.).²
- **SULLEN:** זָעַף [za‘eph /zaw·afe/] **adj.** From 2196; TWOT 569b; GK 2409; Two occurrences; AV translates as “displeased” twice.
1 angry, raging, out of humor, vexed.³

Luke 12:16-21

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: **“The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.**

17 And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’

18 So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

19 **And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’**

20 **But God said to him,** ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

21 **“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”**

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?”

6 And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

2 issues face Ahab & Jezebel

1. Imminent Domain of the Lord throughout Israel
 - a. God owns everything
2. The Law of the Lord

Not a problem – Jezebel wants her man to be happy – regardless of what it takes.

- Happiness Theology is ruining the church
- Jesus didn’t die on the cross for you to be happy

² Francis Brown, Samuel Rolles Driver, and Charles Augustus Briggs, *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977), 711.

³ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

- He died on the cross for your salvation from sin and sickness

7 And Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city.

9 And she wrote in the letters, **“Proclaim a fast,”** and set Naboth at the head of the people.

10 And set two worthless men opposite him, and let them bring a charge against him, saying, ‘You have cursed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him to death.”

11 And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them,

12 they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people.

13 And the two worthless men came in and sat opposite him. And the worthless men brought a charge against Naboth in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.”

15 As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, 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.”

16 And as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

JEZEBELS:

She sees Fasting as another opportunity to satisfy her own selfish goals.

- She uses the cloak of RELIGION as her sheep’s costume.
- She uses open prayer to pass on gossip and rumor
- SHE WILL CRITICIZE YOUR HUSBAND FOR YOUR SITUATION

She infects others by her ability to manipulate and negotiate.

- Some have called her a great counselor
- Some have called her a very wise woman
- Some envy her power and try to be like her.

She’s inquisitive – not out of concern but out of information to use against others.

She weaves a web of deceit and sweetness – but eventually she kills because there can only be one Jezebel in any church.

Several Main Goals of the Jezebel Spirit:

- To gain identity, glory, recognition, power, and satisfy the need for the “praises of men.” This is the consequence of the desire for love from others in an attempt to gain self-worth.

- Typically the Jezebel Spirit is a man hater and seeks to emasculate all men while divesting them of their authority and power over others.
 - Fostering and encouraging a distrust or hatred for men AND AUTHORITY FIGURES.
 - Criticizes all men, but particularly her husband – belittling him to other wives.
- Typically very aggressive, determined, controlling and manipulative. Seeking to over-rule the decisions or opinions of anyone who may disagree or challenge her.
- MUST be the Queen Bee.
- To seduce all men and then make fools of them.
- To use her sexuality to control men – either overtly or literally.
 - By with-holding sex from her husband in order to solicit certain performance.
 - By using her body to influence men
 - Immodest dress
 - Over use of perfumes, make-up and hair.

Spiritually expressive in these ways:

- Has words of discernment about others, typically tearing them down or soliciting distrust.
- Misuses prayer to preach her agendas in the cloak of hyper-spirituality.
- Manipulates the church to appease her sorrows and unhappiness.
- Critical of everyone except herself.

Revelation 2:21–29

21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

22 Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,

23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

24 But to the rest of you in Thyatira,

who do not hold this teaching,

who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan,

to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden.

- The selfish agenda of Jezebels always seeks their own success – as Lucifer did.

25 Only hold fast what you have until I come.

26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations,

27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority 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.'

- Hold fast!
- Cling to your faith in Jesus alone