

The Women

Jezebel
1 Kings 21

Grace Bible Church
August 19, 2019

Introduction: Jezebel is a _____ name and person. *My grandfather was a Pentecostal preacher. It was a sin to even pluck your eyebrows, and they thought it was a sin for me to be there looking like Jezebel. Dolly Parton*

- There is nothing _____ said about her in Scripture- One author says, “The narratives of 1–2 Kings portray Jezebel as a woman of great wickedness who persuades her husband and others to oppose Yahweh and commit evil deeds. Her legacy is preserved in 1 Kgs 21:25: “Truly, there was no one like Ahab who had sold himself by doing evil in the eyes of Yahweh, whose wife Jezebel urged him on.”
- Who was Jezebel?
 - She was a _____ of Baal. Her father, Ethbaal, was named after him. She could have been a high priestess of Baal if they followed typical Mesopotamian practice.
 - She was a _____ of the prophets of Baal. She regularly fed and supported 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah who was the consort of Baal (1 Kings 18:17-19).
 - She _____ Yahweh and His prophets. She kill numbers of them and would have killed them all but for the intervention of a faithful man, Obadiah who hid a 100 of them. (1 Kings 18:4)
 - She was powerful, _____ woman-After marrying Jezebel, Ahab promotes the worship of Baal in Israel (1 Kgs 16:31–33). After the killing of the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-39). She threatens the life of Elijah and he takes her threat seriously
 - She was deceitful and _____. After Ahab fails to acquire a vineyard from Naboth the Jezreelite. Seeking to ease her husband’s frustration, Jezebel engineers a scheme with the elders of Jezreel to have Naboth stoned to death on false charges. After Naboth is killed, Jezebel instructs Ahab to seize the vineyard (1 Kgs 21:1–16). As a result of the murder, Elijah pronounces Yahweh’s judgment on Ahab and declares that Jezebel will be eaten by dogs (1 Kgs 21:17–24)
 - She dies a _____ death. As Jehu enters the town of Jezreel, Jezebel puts on makeup and calls out to him from an upper-level window, attempting to make peace. Her servants, however, show allegiance to Jehu and throw Jezebel out the window. Her body is trampled by horses, eaten by dogs, and spread as dung over the field of Jezreel (2 Kgs 9:30–37).
- Some things you need to know to understand the story of Jezebel.
 - The _____. Following the death of Solomon Israel was split into two kingdom: 1) the northern kingdom was made up of 10 ten tribes known as Israel was rebellious toward Yahweh, never had a “good king” and were the faithful were a distinct minority (5000 who haven’t bowed their knee to Baal). 2) the Southern kingdom made up of two tribes (Benjamin and Judah) known as Judah who was blessed with a number of “good kings.”
 - Baal- God of _____ which means he was very attractive because this area is almost totally dependent on rain. In fact one of the background themes to this story is “who was responsible for the drought Israel was dealing with. Baal worship was one of the most enduring threats to the exclusively worship of Yahweh during this time.
 - The laws concerning land. All of the land belonged to God, was allotted to different tribes, who could only sell it

Key thought: Evil has many _____. We be able to recognize it if we are to _____ it in ourselves, in others, and in our culture. How is evil revealed in the life of Jezebel.

- I. Evil is rooted in what we _____. Evil is found in a heart given over to idols. To worship something or someone meant to declare is _____ or value. What you worship determines the value of everything else. Idolatry is worshipping the created thing and not the creator. (Romans 1:24–25)
- A. Total depravity doesn't teach that every person will be as evil as they can be. It means that there is nothing in our lives that haven't been corrupted and polluted by sin. It means that we have a "bent toward sinning." Jezebel's character was a result of three influences
 - 1. Nature- she had a bent toward sinning
 - 2. Nurture- she was raised in a culture that called many good things evil and many evil things good.
 - 3. Personal choices.
 - B. Our behavior reveals what we worship. (Mark 7:20–23)
 - C. Where does rain come from? A god who demands temple prostitution as a part of worship. The natural product of the cycles of nature. A God who created who created an orderly world of cause and effect. What are you willing to do to get rain... etc? This reveals what you worship.
- II. Evil is revealed in what we _____. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) You knew what Jezebel loved by following the money. She loved Baal, his servants and their message. What do you love? Where is your money going?
- A. God is not opposed to his people being wealthy or prosperous. (Psalm 112:1–3)
 - B. God is not to be used to gain wealth. "imagining that godliness is a means of gain." (1 Timothy 6:5). Danger of thinking "God, I will do this so You will do that"
 - C. God recognizes the dangers of wealth-we love to take God's gifts and make idols out of them. "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Timothy 6:9–10)
 - D. God gives wealth to be a blessing to others. "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:17–19)
- III. Evil is seen in what we hate or _____. Jezebel responded to obstacles and opposition with anger, manipulation, and deceit. The story of Naboth's vineyard is a classic example of the rich and powerful abusing the weak.
- A. What makes you angry? What makes you more angry? Do you get angry at the same kind of things that made Jesus angry. Do you get angry at the sin or the sinner.
 - B. Evil people get angry when the righteous do well." (Psalm 112:9–10)
- IV. Evil is seen in how we _____. I don't mean "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." (Galatians 6:6–8) (2 Kings 9:30–37)
- A. She died only caring about her appearance. (1 Peter 3:3–4)
 - B. She died friendless and alone- she was thrown out by her own servants.
 - C. She died because God raised up a person just as ruthless and remorseless as she was.

Conclusion:

What is the most valuable thing in the world to you?

What do you love?

What makes you angry

What will your funeral be like if you die the way you lived?