

JEZEBEL - English

Introduction

--- **To orient ourselves in history.** Genesis 12 God calls Abraham saying "I will make you a great nation" and He did it through his descendants Isaac, Jacob, the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel). They were slaves in Egypt, Moses took them out, followed by Joshua, the Judges, and kings Saul, David, Solomon who apostatized serving idols and during the reign of his son Rehoboam the nation divided, ten tribes following Jeroboam who put golden calves in the towns of Dan and Bethel.

--- There was a succession of the kings of Israel and we come to Ahab, the worst of the worst.

--- **1 Kings 16:30** "And Ahab son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. And Ahab son of Omri did evil in the sight of Jehovah, more than all who reigned before him."

--- Idolatry in the form of the worship of the god Baal reached its peak under the reign of Ahab, **dominated by his wife Jezebel**. The biblical account gives more attention to King Ahab than to any other king of Israel.

--- **1 Kings 16:31-33.** "For it was a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nabat, and **he took Jezebel for his wife**, daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. ³²And he made an altar to Baal in the temple of Baal which he built in Samaria. ³³Ahab also made an image of Asherah, **thus making Ahab more than all the kings of Israel who reigned before him, to provoke the wrath of Jehovah God of Israel.** "

--- **2 Kings 9:32**, Jehu, the prophet, accuses Jezebel of fornications and all kinds of witchcraft.

--- Jezebel killed the Lord's prophets (**1 Kings 18:4,13**).

--- **1 Kings 18:19-** . **Elijah invited Jezebel's prophets of Baal and Asherah to a contest on Mount Carmel.** The contest was to see if God, or Baal, would burn a bull sacrifice on an altar. Jezebel's prophets could not convince their god Baal to burn the sacrifice, despite their cries and cutting themselves. Elijah, however, succeeded when God sent fire to consume the sacrifice.

--- He then commanded the people to capture and kill the prophets of Baal and Asherah at the Kishon River. **After the prophets were killed, Jezebel swore that Elijah would become like her prophets (i.e., killed).**

---**1 Kings 19:1-3**, "Ahab gave Jezebel the news of all that Elijah had done, and of how he had killed all the prophets by the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, So do the gods to me, and even more, if tomorrow at this hour I have not made your person like that of one of them. ³Seeing the danger, he got up and went to save his life, and came to Beersheba, which is in Judah, and left his servant there."

--- **Elijah did not fear the prophets of Baal and killed a great number of them but he did fear Jezebel and fled for his life into the wilderness and** regretted being the only remaining worshipper of the True God.

--- **Naboth's Vineyard. 1 Kings 21.** After an unspecified time passed, as Ahab was notably rebuked by an unnamed prophet for letting Ben-Hadad survive (Ben-Hadad planned to capture Ahab's "wives," including Jezebel, as booty after besieging Samaria) he visited Naboth's residence. The residence was located near the royal palace in the city of Jezreel. Wishing to acquire Naboth's vineyard so that he could expand his own gardens, Ahab asked to buy Naboth's vineyard in exchange for a better quality vineyard or financial compensation. Naboth refused, which he justified by informing Ahab that his vineyard was ancestral property. Ahab returned to his palace, sullen and depressed by Naboth's response. Jezebel decided to comfort him by arranging for Naboth to be caught and then executed on the (false) charges of blasphemy against God and the king. After Naboth was executed outside the city, his corpse was licked by stray dogs. Jezebel then informed Ahab that he could seize Naboth's vineyard. Elijah condemned Ahab for committing robbery and murder. As punishment, God decreed the death of Ahab and the annihilation of his royal line. Jezebel's death was also decreed, with her corpse to be eaten by dogs.

--- **The death of Jezebel** Three years later, Ahab died in battle. His son Ahaziah inherited the throne, but died as a result of an accident and Ahaziah was succeeded by his brother, Jehoram. Elisha, Elijah's successor, ordered one of his disciples to anoint Jehu, commander of Jehoram's army, as king, to be the agent of divine punishment against Ahab's family. [10] Jehu killed Jehoram, and his nephew Ahaziah (the king of Judah and son of Athaliah).

--- He later approached the royal palace in Jezreel to confront Jezebel.

--- **2 Kings 9:30-37**, "Then Jehu came to Jezreel; and when Jezebel heard it, she painted her eyes with antimony, and clothed her head, and looked out of a window. ³¹And as Jehu entered the door, she said, Did it happen well to Zimri, who killed his master? ³²And then he lifted his face to the window, he said, "Who is with me? And two or three eunuchs bowed down to him. ³³And he said to them, Cast her down. And they threw her out; and some of her blood splattered on the wall, and on the horses; And he ran over her. ³⁴Then he went in, and after he had eaten and

drunk, he said, Go now to see that accursed woman, and bury her, for she is the daughter of a king. ³⁵But when they went to bury her, they found of her only the skull, and the feet, and the palms of the hands.

³⁶And they returned, and told him. And he said, This is the word of God, which he spake through his servant Elijah Tishbite, saying, In the inheritance of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel,³⁷

and the body of Jezebel shall be like dung upon the face of the earth in the inheritance of Jezreel, so that no one can say, This is Jezebel."

--- **Revelation 2:20-23**, Jezebel's name was applied to members of the church in Thyatira who promoted fornication and idolatry.

--- Lessons we learn from Jezebel. The perversity to which one can fall when he or she rejects God to serve idols. Compare Romans 1.

--- Let no one doubt the influence and power of women as wives, mothers, teachers. Consider Romans 16, Paul's list of women who served in various ways as collaborators of the apostles and their companions. Remember Priscila, Phoebe, etc.