

Jezebel: An Incurably Wicked Woman



The land of Israel was split into two kingdoms, after the time of Solomon: The 10 tribe kingdom of Israel, and the two tribe kingdom of Judah. The 7th king of Israel was Ahab, who reigned from 940 BCE to 919 BCE. **1 Kings 16:29, 30**

He was already a wicked king, but then he got married! **1 Kings 16:31**

Jezebel was a domineering queen who promoted Baal worship instead of Jehovah's worship. Baal was the principal god of the Canaanites, their god of fertility and of rain. The worship of Baal was disgusting: Idolatry (phallic symbols), fertility rites, temple prostitutes, even the sacrifice of children. Jezebel had been immersed in Baalism from infancy. Her father Ethbaal, a king from north of Israel, was a priest of Ashtoreth, the wife of Baal; and he gained the throne by murdering his own king.

Ahab married this pagan princess Jezebel for political reasons, to create an alliance between their two nations. He had no concern about the potentially damaging religious consequences. After having made this alliance, to please his Baal-worshipping wife, he built a temple and altar for Baal, erected a phallic "sacred pole," and then joined with her in this Baal worship. **1 Kings 16:32, 33**

In all of this, Ahab offended Jehovah more than all the kings of Israel before him, and although there were many wicked kings following him he was amongst the very worst. Jezebel was not satisfied that Baal worship had been endorsed by the king. She also wanted to eliminate the worship of Jehovah from the land, so she ordered all the prophets of Jehovah killed. Many were.

But Jehovah warned Elijah, who had criticized Jezebel and Ahab, to escape across the river Jordan. **1 Kings 17:1-3**

Later, though, Elijah again had to flee for his life when Jezebel vowed to kill him. **1 Kings 19:2, 3** Before long, in the land of Israel there were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah, (possibly the mother or wife of Baal). All of these prophets fed at Jezebel and Ahab's own royal table, and were cared for at the State's expense. However, in spite of her obsessive attempts to completely replace the worship of Jehovah, there were 7,000 persons who remained loyal to him. **1 Kings 19:18**

We can get another insight into this woman's wicked character - one that was extremely selfish, corrupt and cruel. Late on in his reign, about 923BCE, Ahab was sulking because a man named Naboth refused to sell him his family property - a vineyard, near the Kings palace. Jezebel blatantly overstepped her husband's headship and arrogantly declared: "*I myself shall give you the vineyard of Naboth.*" She forged documents, in the name of Ahab, ordering the older men of Naboth's hometown to arrange for corrupt men to falsely accuse Naboth of cursing God and the King.

Then they were to take Naboth out and stone him to death. In this way Naboth was put to death by a perversion of justice, and Ahab seized the vineyard. **1 Kings 21:9, 10, 13, 16** Because of their wickedness, Jehovah declared that Ahab, Jezebel and their offspring would be destroyed. **1 Kings 21:20, 21, 23**

Four years later, in 919 BCE Ahab died, in a battlefield accident. **1 Kings 22:34, 35, 51** He was succeeded first by Jezebel's son Ahaziah, who ruled for just two years, and then by another of her sons, Jehoram, who ruled for the next 12 years. Then the line of Ahab died out. During the reigns of these sons, Jezebel, now in the role of queen mother, continued to influence the land into immorality, spiritism and idolatry. Her influence was even felt in Judah, where her wicked daughter Athaliah, who had married Judah's king Jehoram, perpetuated the Jezebel spirit. **2 Kings 8:16-18; 2Chron 24:7**

However, things went further downhill for Jezebels family. **2 Kings 9:14a, 22-24**

This was about 906 BCE, and news reached Jezebel that Jehu had killed her son Jehoram and was on his way to Jezreel. Perhaps in some attempt to entice or impress Jehu, she fully made herself up, and placed herself in an upper window overlooking the palace square. From there she sarcastically greeted Jehu. But some of her officials, who perhaps had doubts about her, we're standing with Jezebel. Jehu shouted to them: "*Let her drop!*" **2 Kings 9:30, 33**

Her fall was so violent, that her blood splattered the wall and the horses, and she was trodden underfoot by the horses. Shortly thereafter when men came to bury her, they found the scavenger dogs had already practically disposed of her, leaving only the skull, the feet, and the palms of her hands as evidence that all that Jehovah says comes true.

Thus, came to an end over thirty years of her vicious treatment of Jehovah's people. A lesson can be learnt from this: Although some people seem to get away with opposing and persecuting Jehovah's servants, even for many years, eventually they get their comeuppance, when Jehovah executes vengeance upon them.