

Jezebel

**Her name means "chaste" - morally pure and virtuous. Yet she was the total opposite!
A God-hating, murderous, shameless, impudent, scheming woman.**

1. Who she was:

- a. **She was the daughter of a Sidonian King** - 1 Kings 16:31. [Sidon was located north of Israel, along the Mediterranean coast. Today it is a part of Lebanon.]
- b. **Ahab, King of Northern Israel, married her** - 1 Kings 16:31. [She would complement and reinforce his own evil character.]

2. About her "religious perspective":

- a. **She was deeply involved in both idolatry and witchcraft** - 2 Kings 9:22.
- b. **She had a strong negative influence on Ahab** - 1 Kings 21:25.
 - i. Ahab became more evil than any of Israel's kings before him - 1 Kings 16:30; 21:26.
 - ii. Ahab began to serve Jezebel's false gods. He constructed an altar for Baal (the "sun god"), and built an Asherah pole (in honor of the "fertility goddess") - 1 Kings 16:31-33.
- c. **She zealously pursued her idolatry and opposed the God of Israel.**
 - i. She had at her services 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah - 1 Kings 18:19.
 - ii. She attempted to exterminate the Lord's prophets - 1 Kings 18:4, 13. [She did not completely succeed. Obadiah managed to keep 100 of them alive, by hiding them in two caves. Also Elijah had "disappeared" from the land - 1 Kings 17:2-3, 8-9; 18:10 (+context).]
- d. **She threatened to kill Elijah.**
 - i. Elijah had just proved that the prophets of Baal and Asherah were fakes, and he had them put to death (in accordance with God's Law - Deuteronomy 18:20) - 1 Kings 18:21-40; 19:1.
 - ii. This angered Jezebel (of course) so she swore that she would kill Elijah within 24 hours - 1 Kings 19:2.
 - iii. When Elijah heard this, he ran for his life - 1 Kings 19:3. [Jezebel's threat was not mere empty words. She had already succeeded in killing many of the Lord's prophets. If Elijah had stayed in Jezreel, it would have been a simple matter for Jezebel to accomplish what she threatened to do.]
 - iv. [Later, God gave Elijah the task of appointing those who would eventually judge Ahab and his family - 1 Kings 19:15-18.]

3. Her scheming plot to have Naboth murdered:

- a. **Ahab wanted Naboth's property, but Naboth would not sell it to him** - 1 Kings 21:1-3.
 - i. God prohibited the selling of one's inheritance property; it was to be kept within the family - Leviticus 25:23; Numbers 36:7.
 - ii. Land could temporarily exchange hands - Leviticus 25:24-28, but Ahab's offer was apparently intended as a permanent transaction.
- b. **Jezebel plotted to have Naboth falsely accused and put to death, so that Ahab could take over the property** - 1 Kings 21:4-16.

4. God's judgment pronounced against her (and the rest of Ahab's family), by Elijah:

- a. **Jezebel would be killed and her body eaten by dogs, by the wall of Jezreel** - 1 Kings 21:23; 2 Kings 9:10, 36.
 - i. This is where Naboth had lived - 1 Kings 21:1, 15.
 - ii. This judgment meant that there would be little left to bury. Her body would become dog excrement. There would be no tomb, where people could build a memorial in her honor - 2 Kings 9:37.
- b. **All of Ahab's family would be destroyed** - 1 Kings 21:24.
 - i. Part of this judgment was delayed, because Ahab humbled himself - 1 Kings 21:27-29. [Ahab restrained his actions; but his heart did not change. He was still unwilling to follow the Lord - compare to chapter 22.]
 - ii. King Ahaziah, his son, was just as evil, for he walked in the ways of his parents - 1 Kings 22:52.

5. God's judgment accomplished by Jehu:

- a. **He was an army officer, who was appointed by God to do this** - 2 Kings 9:1-13.
- b. **How Jezebel was killed:**
 - i. Jehu went to Jezreel, where Jezebel was residing.
 - ii. Jezebel was thrown out a window in the city wall; then her body was trampled by horses - 2 Kings 9:30-33.
 - iii. While Jehu was inside the city eating a meal, dogs were outside the city eating Jezebel's body. In the end, nothing could be found of her, except for her skull, feet and hands - 2 Kings 9:34-35.
- c. **How the rest of Ahab's family was killed:**
 - i. Chapters 9 & 10 describe how Jehu killed the rest of Ahab's family.
 - ii. Note that Jehu went *beyond* what God told him to do, by killing others who were *not* a part of Ahab's family - 2 Kings 10:11. He also failed to remain loyal to God - 2 Kings 10:31. In the end, his family would also be judged by God - Hosea 1:4.

6. Being like Jezebel - a person mentioned in Revelation (2:20-25):

- a. **There was a woman (perhaps even a prominent leader) who was encouraging the same types of sins as what Jezebel encouraged.** She was a corrupting influence on the people in the church, just as the Jezebel of the Old Testament was a corrupting influence on Ahab (and the rest of the nation).
 - i. Committing sexual immorality - perhaps comparable to the worship of Asherah, who was supposed to be the "goddess of fertility."
 - ii. Eating food sacrificed to idols (understood as an acceptance of what those idols represented) - perhaps comparable to the worship of Baal. Baal was supposed to be the "sun god," who could provide light and heat - or (if angry) fierce heat, plague and destruction. Sacrifices to Baal were quite common during Jezebel's day. (At times, they even sacrificed children - compare to Jeremiah 19:5.)
 - iii. Learning Satan's "deep secrets" - perhaps comparable to the witchcraft (occult practices) that Jezebel was involved in. [Or it may simply represent the sum total of her evil ways (as well as their evil source).]
- b. **Like the Jezebel of the Old Testament, this New Testament "Jezebel" (most likely *not* her real name) would be judged by God, along with everyone associated with her.**
- c. **NOTE:** Perhaps, within the context of the church, this New Testament "Jezebel" may have introduced the sinful *practices*, rather than emphasizing the idols themselves. (She would have taught that those practices were acceptable and compatible with Christianity.) Or she may have begun with less-obvious sins and (once she gained a following) progressed to the more obvious ones.