

### ~JEZEBEL 1 (436)

(Jez'e-bel) [from Phoenician, possibly meaning, Where Is the Lofty One that is the prince]

- Wife of Ahab, a king of Israel in the latter half of the **Tenth Century B.C.E.** She was a domineering queen who proved to be a strong advocate of Baalism at the expense of Yehowah's worship.
- In this she was like her father Ethbaal, the king of Sidon, evidently the one identified by the ancient historian Menander [according to Josephus Against Apion, I, 116,123, 18] as a priest of Astarte, Ashtoreth, who gained the throne by murdering his own king.
- And Ahab the son of Omri proceeded to do worse in the eyes of Yehowah than all those who were prior to him. (**1 Kings 16:30**)
- And it came about that, as if it were the most trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he now took as wife **Jezebel** the daughter of Ethbaal the king of the Sidonians and began to go and serve Baal and to bow down to him. (**1 Kings 16:31**)
- Quite likely Ahab's marriage to this pagan princess **Jezebel** was for political reasons, without regard for the disastrous religious consequences.
- And after his having made such an alliance, it was only the next logical step in pleasing his devout Baal-worshipping wife to build a temple and altar for Baal, erect a phallic sacred pole, and then join her in this idolatrous worship.
- In all of this, Ahab did more to offend Yehowah than all the kings of Israel prior to him.
- Further, he set up an altar to Baal at the house of Baal that he built in Samaria. (**1 Kings 16:32**)
- And Ahab went on to make the sacred pole, and Ahab came to do more to offend Yehowah the God of Israel than all the kings of Israel that happened to be prior to him. (**1 Kings 16:33**)

- **Jezebel**, not satisfied that Baal worship was officially approved by the throne, endeavored to exterminate the worship of Yehowah from the land.
- To that end she ordered all the prophets of Yehowah killed, but God warned Elijah to escape across the Jordan, and Obadiah, the palace steward, hid a hundred others in caves.
- And Elijah the Tishbite from the inhabitants of Gilead proceeded to say to Ahab; As Yehowah the God of Israel before whom I do stand is living, there will occur during these years neither dew nor rain, except at the order of my word! (1 Kings 17:1)
- The word of Yehowah now came to him, saying; (1 Kings 17:2)
- Go away from here, and you must turn your way eastward and conceal yourself at the torrent valley of Cherith that is east of the Jordan. (1 Kings 17:3)
- Hence it came about that when **Jezebel** cut off Yehowah's prophets, Obadiah proceeded to take a hundred prophets and keep them hid by fifties in a cave, and he supplied them bread and water. (1 Kings 18:4)
- Has not my lord been told what I did when **Jezebel** killed the prophets of Yehowah, how I kept some of the prophets of Yehowah hid, a hundred men by fifties in a cave, and kept supplying them bread and water? (1 Kings 18:13)
- Some time later Elijah again fled for his life when **Jezebel**, by personal messenger, vowed to kill him.
- Then Ahab told **Jezebel** all that Elijah had done and all about how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. (1 Kings 19:1)
- At that **Jezebel** sent a messenger to Elijah, saying; So may the gods do, and so may they add to it, if at this time tomorrow I shall not make your soul like the soul of each one of them! (1 Kings 19:2)
- And he became afraid. Consequently he rose up and began to go for his soul and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah. Then he left his attendant behind there. (1 Kings 19:3)

- And he himself went into the wilderness a day's journey, and at length came and sat down under a certain broom tree. And he began to ask that his soul might die and to say; It is enough! Now, O Yehowah, take my soul away, for I am no better than my forefathers. (1 Kings 19:4)
- To this he said; I have been absolutely jealous for Yehowah the God of armies, for the sons of Israel have left your covenant, your altars they have torn down, and your prophets they have killed with the sword, so that I only am left, and they begin looking for my soul to take it away. (1 Kings 19:14)
- There came to be 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the sacred pole, all of whom Jezebel cared for and fed from her own royal table at the States expense.
- And now send, collect together all Israel to me at Mount Carmel and also the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of the sacred pole, who are eating at the table of Jezebel. (1 Kings 18:19)
- But in spite of her fanatic efforts to obliterate the worship of Yehowah, Yehowah revealed that, in the end, all the knees that had not bent down to Baal, and every mouth that had not kissed him amounted to 7,000 persons.
- And I have let seven thousand remain in Israel, all the knees that have not bent down to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him. (1 Kings 19:18)
- In Jezebel's treatment of Naboth, we are given another view of this woman's wicked character, a character that was extremely selfish, unscrupulous, arrogant, cruel.
- When Ahab began to sulk and pout because Naboth refused to sell him his hereditary vineyard, this unscrupulous woman shamelessly overstepped her husband's headship and arrogantly declared; I myself shall give you the vineyard of Naboth.
- And it came about after these things that there was a vineyard that happened to belong to Naboth the Jezreelite, which was in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab the king of Samaria. (1 Kings 21:1)

- **So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying; Do give me your vineyard, that it may serve as a garden of vegetables to me, for it is close by my house, and let me give you in place of it a vineyard better than it. Or if it is good in your eyes, I will give you money as the price of this. (1 Kings 21:2)**
- **But Naboth said to Ahab; It is unthinkable on my part, from Yehowah's standpoint, for me to give the hereditary possession of my forefathers to you. (1 Kings 21:3)**
- **Consequently Ahab came into his house, sullen and dejected over the word that Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him, when he said; I shall not give you the hereditary possession of my forefathers. Then he lay down upon his couch and kept his face turned, and he did not eat bread. (1 Kings 21:4)**
- **Finally Jezebel his wife came in to him and spoke to him; Why is it that your spirit is sad and you are not eating bread? (1 Kings 21:5)**
- **At that he spoke to her; Because I proceeded to speak to Naboth the Jezreelite and say to him; Do give me your vineyard for money. Or, if you prefer, let me give you another vineyard in place of it. But he said; I shall not give you my vineyard. (1 Kings 21:6)**
- **Then Jezebel his wife said to him; Is it you that now exercise the kingship over Israel? Rise up, eat bread and let your heart be merry. I myself shall give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. (1 Kings 21:7)**
- **With that she wrote letters, signed and sealed in the name of Ahab, ordering the older men and nobles of Naboth's hometown to arrange for good-for-nothing fellows falsely to accuse Naboth of cursing God and the king and then to take Naboth out and stone him to death.**
- **In this way Naboth was put to death by a perversion of justice. Ahab then seized the vineyard and prepared to turn it into a vegetable garden.**
- **Accordingly she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the older men and the nobles that were in his city dwelling with Naboth. (1 Kings 21:8)**

- But she wrote in the letters, saying; Proclaim a fast, and have Naboth sit at the head of the people. (1 Kings 21:9)
- And make two men, good-for-nothing fellows, sit in front of him, and let them bear witness against him, saying; You have cursed God and the king! And bring him out and stone him that he may die. (1 Kings 21:10)
- So the men of his city, the older men and the nobles that were dwelling in his city, did just as Jezebel had sent to them, just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them. (1 Kings 21:11)
- They proclaimed a fast and had Naboth sit at the head of the people. (1 Kings 21:12)
- Then two of the men, good-for-nothing fellows, came in and sat down in front of him, and the good-for-nothing men began to bear witness against him, that is, Naboth, in front of the people, saying; Naboth has cursed God and the king! After that they brought him out to the outskirts of the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. (1 Kings 21:13)
- They now sent to Jezebel, saying; Naboth has been stoned so that he is dead. (1 Kings 21:14)
- And it came about that, as soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned so that he died, Jezebel immediately said to Ahab; Rise up, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for Naboth is no longer alive, but dead. (1 Kings 21:15)
- And it came about that, as soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab at once rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. (1 Kings 21:16)
- For such wanton disregard for righteousness, Yehowah decreed that Ahab and his line of descent would be removed in a clean sweep of destruction.
- Without exception no one has proved to be like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, whom Jezebel his

wife egged on. Hence, Yehowah's judgment against **Jezebel**. The very dogs will eat up **Jezebel**.

- And Yehowah's word came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying; (**1 Kings 21:17**)
- Rise up, go down to meet Ahab the king of Israel, who is in Samaria. There he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. (**1 Kings 21:18**)
- And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; Have you murdered and also taken possession? And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours. (**1 Kings 21:19**)
- And Ahab proceeded to say to Elijah; Have you found me, O enemy of mine? To which he said; I have found you. For the reason that you have sold yourself to do what is bad in the eyes of Yehowah. (**1 Kings 21:20**)
- Here I am bringing calamity upon you, and I shall certainly make a clean sweep after you and cut off from Ahab anyone urinating against a wall and the helpless and worthless one in Israel. (**1 Kings 21:21**)
- And I shall certainly constitute your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the offense with which you have offended and then caused Israel to sin. (**1 Kings 21:22**)
- And also as regards **Jezebel** Yehowah has spoken, saying; The very dogs will eat up Jezebel in the plot of land of Jezreel. (**1 Kings 21:23**)
- Anyone of Ahab's that is dying in the city the dogs will eat up, and anyone dying in the field the fowls of the heavens will eat up. (**1 Kings 21:24**)
- Without exception no one has proved to be like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, whom **Jezebel** his wife egged on. (**1 Kings 21:25**)
- And he went acting very detestably by going after the dungy

idols, the same as all that the Amorites had done, whom Yehowah drove out from before the sons of Israel. (**1 Kings 21:26**)

- In the course of time Ahab died and was succeeded first by **Jezebel's** son Ahaziah, who ruled for two years, and then by another of her sons, Jehoram, who ruled for the next 12 years before Ahab's dynasty finally ended.
- Finally Ahab lay down with his forefathers, and Ahaziah his son began to reign in place of him. (**1 Kings 22:40**)
- As for Ahaziah the son of Ahab, he became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, and he continued to reign over Israel for two years. (**1 Kings 22:51**)
- And he kept doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes and went walking in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin. (**1 Kings 22:52**)
- And he continued serving Baal and bowing down to him and kept offending Yehowah the God of Israel according to all that his father had done. (**1 Kings 22:53**)
- And he gradually died, according to the word of Yehowah that Elijah had spoken, and Jehoram began to reign in place of him, in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, because he had not come to have a son. (**2 Kings 1:17**)
- As for Jehoram the son of Ahab, he became king over Israel in Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, and he continued to reign for twelve years. (**2 Kings 3:1**)
- During the reigns of these sons, **Jezebel**, now in the role of queen mother, continued to influence the land with her fornications and sorceries.
- And it came about that as soon as Jehoram saw Jehu, he immediately said; Is there peace, Jehu? But he said; What peace could there be as long as there are the fornications of **Jezebel** your mother and her many sorceries? (**2 Kings 9:22**)

- Her influence was even felt in Judah to the South, where her wicked daughter Athaliah, who had married Judah's king, perpetuated the **Jezebel** spirit in that southern kingdom for another six years after her mother's death.
- And in the fifth year of Jehoram the son of Ahab the king of Israel, while Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah became king. (**2 Kings 8:16**)
- Thirty-two years old he happened to be when he became king, and for eight years he reigned in Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 8:17**)
- And he went walking in the way of the kings of Israel, just as those of the house of Ahab had done, for it was Ahab's daughter that became his wife, and he kept doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes. (**2 Kings 8:18**)
- In the twelfth year of Jehoram the son of Ahab the king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram the king of Judah became king. (**2 Kings 8:25**)
- Twenty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and for one year he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri the king of Israel. (**2 Kings 8:26**)
- And he went walking in the way of the house of Ahab and kept doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, like the house of Ahab, for he was a relative of the house of Ahab by marriage. (**2 Kings 8:27**)
- Twenty-two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and for one year he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri. (**2 Chronicles 22:2**)
- He himself also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother herself became his counselor in doing wickedly. (**2 Chronicles 22:3**)
- For as regards Athaliah the wicked woman, her sons themselves had broken into the house of the true God, and even all the holy things of the house of Yehowah they had rendered up to the Baals. (**2 Chronicles 24:7**)



- When the news reached **Jezebel** that Jehu had killed her reigning son Jehoram and was on his way to Jezreel, she artfully painted her eyes, adorned her hair, and framed herself in an upper window overlooking the palace square.
- There she greeted the conqueror upon his triumphal entry, saying; Did it go all right with Zimri the killer of his lord? This sarcastic greeting was probably a veiled threat, for Zimri, after killing his king and usurping the throne, committed suicide seven days later when his life was threatened.
- At length Jehu came to Jezreel, and **Jezebel** herself heard of it. And she proceeded to paint her eyes with black paint and do her head up beautifully and to look down through the window. (**2 Kings 9:30**)
- And Jehu himself came in by the gate. She now said; Did it go all right with Zimri the killer of his lord? (**2 Kings 9:31**)
- And Zimri proceeded to come in and strike him down and put him to death in the twenty-seventh year of Asa the king of Judah, and he began to reign in place of him. (**1 Kings 16:10**)
- In the twenty-seventh year of Asa the king of Judah, Zimri became king for seven days in Tirzah, while the people were encamping against Gibbethon, which belonged to the Philistines. (**1 Kings 16:15**)
- And it came about that as soon as Zimri saw that the city had been captured, he then came into the dwelling tower of the king's house and burned the king's house over himself with fire, so that he died. (**1 Kings 16:18**)
- Jehu's response to this hostile reception was; Who is with me? Who? When two or three court officials looked out, he commanded; Let her drop! In the violence of the fall, her blood splattered the wall and the horses, and she was trodden underfoot, presumably by the horses.
- Shortly thereafter when men came to bury this daughter of a king, why, they found the scavenger dogs had already practically disposed of her, just as the word of Yehowah that he spoke by means of his servant Elijah had foretold, leaving only the skull, the feet, and

**the palms of her hands as evidence that all that Yehowah says comes true.**

- **At that he raised his face toward the window and said; Who is with me? Who? Immediately two or three court officials looked down at him. (2 Kings 9:32)**
- **So he said; Let her drop! Then they let her drop, and some of her blood went spattering upon the wall and upon the horses, and he now trampled upon her. (2 Kings 9:33)**
- **After that he came on in and ate and drank and then said; You men, please, take care of this accursed one and bury her, for she is the daughter of a king. (2 Kings 9:34)**
- **When they went to bury her, they did not find anything of her but the skull and the feet and the palms of the hands. (2 Kings 9:35)**
- **When they returned and told him, he went on to say; It is the word of Yehowah that he spoke by means of his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying; In the tract of land of Jezreel the dogs will eat the flesh of Jezebel. (2 Kings 9:36)**
- **And the dead body of Jezebel will certainly become as manure upon the face of the field in the tract of land of Jezreel, that they may not say; This is Jezebel. (2 Kings 9:37)**