

IV. Thyatira Jezebel

Jesus

Deuteronomy 23:12 ...you shall have a place outside the camp, where you may go out; 13 and you shall have an implement among your equipment, and when you sit down outside, you shall dig with it and turn and **cover your refuse**. 14 For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore **your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you**, and turn away from you.

We are preparing our church for Jesus
Dealing w/things that stink to our Lord

Revelation 2:18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Revelation 3:19 "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the **last are more than the first**. 20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you **allow that woman Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, **to teach and seduce** My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a **sickbed**, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds. 23 I will **kill her children with death**, and all the **churches shall know** that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. 24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. 25 But **hold fast** what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

John writes down Jesus' Words to His Church
Son of God w/Eyes of fire/Feet of fine brass

▪ **Commendation?** I know...

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Your Works | More than ever/Talk of the town |
| 2. Your Love | Oowee-gooee sickening sweet |
| 3. Your Service | On full display for all to see |
| 4. Your Faith | Faith in whatever; i.e. Just believe... |
| 5. Your Patience | So tolerant/inclusive/open-minded/ So corrupt |

▪ **Condemnation:**

1. **Allow Jezebel to Teach**
2. **Allow Jezebel to Seduce**

Thyatira has a big problem w/Authority
Jesus has a big problem w/them...God is a God of Order

1 Corinthians 14:33 ...God is **not the author of confusion** [instability, state of disorder] but [God is the author] of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

God is a God of Order/Authority Structure...
Godhead/Government/Churches/Families

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, **submit to your own husbands**, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is **head of the wife**, as also **Christ is head of the church**; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church** and gave Himself for her ...**32** This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning **Christ and the church.**

- **Husband: Spiritual Head of the Christian family**/Privilege/Responsibility

1 Peter 3 Sarah obeyed God by obeying Abraham

- Sarah obeyed Abe w/out fear. Why? She was obeying God
- Sarah knew full well that her God would deal w/Abe

God created men/woman to complement each other

1 Corinthians 11:11 ... man [is not] independent of woman, nor woman independent of man, in the Lord. 12 For as woman came from man, even so man also comes through woman; but **all things are from God.**

Men would not be here if not for a women
Different roles/Equal in eyes of God

Galatians 3:26 ...you are all sons of God through **faith in Christ Jesus**. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is **neither male nor female**; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus.**

- **God has an Authority Structure**
 1. **Godhead:** Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 2. **Marriage:** Husband, Wife, Children
 3. **Government:** Federal/State/County

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. 2 Therefore **whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God**, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Authority Structure is from God/Good for us

Rebelling against God's Authority Structure is rebelling against God

- **Authority Structure in Church:** Pastor/Elders/Deacons

Issue in Thyatira?

They allowed a woman to teach/Have authority over men

1 Timothy 2:12 ...I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. 13 For Adam was formed first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the **woman being deceived**, fell into transgression.

- No woman Pastors: Not cultural rationale but God's order from creation
 1. Adam formed first...then Eve
 2. Adam sinned w/eyes open...**Eve was deceived**

Genesis 3:13 ... The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- Men black/white/concrete
- Woman spiritually sensitive: Color outside lines
 1. Sensitive to nuances of Spirit
 2. Sensitive to deceiving spirits

2 Corinthians 11:3 ...I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Women may tend to complicate the simple truths of God
Do not permit a woman to teach/Have authority over men

- **IOWs** There are no true women Pastors or elders

Thyatira: Hostile takeover of God's Authority Structure in that church

Genesis 3:16 Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have **heeded the voice of your wife, cursed is...**

Curse for Eve's Rebellion/Adam's Passivity

- **Woman:** Ungodly desire to usurp the role of her husband
- **Man:** Ungodly response to rule harshly over his wife...**then give up**

Result of the Fall: Rebellious women/Spiritually weak men in churches
Jezebel M.O.O. is Hostile Takeover. One of main causes of death to a church

Jezebel Spirit is the spirit of Rebellion

1 Samuel 15:23 ...rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

Jezebel is a spirit of Rebellion against ALL Authority
Exalts herself/Rages when told "No"

- **Teacher:** False-doctrine
- **Seducer:** Tolerant/Inclusive

I loathe to hear our true Lord praised by false lips. They deny the doctrines which He taught, and yet prate about believing Him. It is a shallow trick, but **yet it deceives shallow souls.** [Spurgeon]

In order to understand the Book of Revelation, we must understand the OT. In order to understand the Jezebel spirit in the Church...we must study the woman Jezebel in the OT. [NJC]

1. Jezebel is of the Devil

1 Kings 16:31 And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for Ahab to walk in the sins of Jeroboam I the son of Nebat, that he took as wife **Jezebel** the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and **Ahab went and served Baal and worshiped him.**

- **Ahab married Jezebel:** Lesson? Get to know the family first
- **Jezebel's father:** Priest of Astarte... Phoenician goddess of love sex, fertility, war

Ahab served Jezebel's demon god to please her
Lured away from the Living God to idols by Jezebel...

- The Jezebel spirit is of the Devil and is...

2. Jezebel is Rebellious/Religious

- **Rebellious:** Loud/Unashamed

...imagery of the stubborn cow; she chafes at restraint and revolts against the rules of proper society. [Waltke]

- **Religious:** Form of godliness w/no fear of God/Judgment

[Jezebel]... was not against religion, just against the moral code of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. She favored a god who would receive her peace offerings while she lived as she pleased when it came to her sexual desires. [Guzik]

No Shame/No Blushing/No Fear of God

- She is of the devil
- She is both Rebellious/Religious and **3 ...**

3. Jezebel is Dangerous

IOWs She is not bluffing when she threatens God's people

1 Kings 18:4 ... Jezebel **massacred the prophets** of the LORD

Method of destruction: Reducing men to a crust of bread by sex then humiliation
Pastors, Fathers, Young men

- Convinces her prey to disregard the future of family, church, reputation, eternity

Proverbs 9:17 Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” ¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the **depths of hell.**

- Of the devil
- Rebellious/Religious
- Dangerous: Not bluffing and **4 ...**

4. Jezebel is VERY Intimidating

IOWs Come against me and you will suffer...

1 Kings 19:1 ...Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets [450 false-prophets of Jezebel] with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So let the gods do *to me*, and more also, **if I do not make your life** as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.” ³ And when he saw *that*, he arose and **ran for his life**, and went to Beersheba, which *belongs to* Judah, and left his servant there.

Elijah ran for his life. Ran away from Jezebel?

Spirit of Jezebel/Rebellion is extremely powerful/intimidating [Blowfish]
If a congregation is not prepared for her they will cease to exist. She will come

Matthew 17:21 [Disciples: Why can't we to cast out this demon] **21...this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.**

Intimidating: Why are so many apologizing after speaking hard truth?
 The spirit of Jezebel is the intimidation behind the apology

- Of the Devil
- Rebellious/Religious
- Dangerous
- Intimidating: Come against me you will die *badly* and **5th ...**

5. Jezebel is an Opportunist

If you men won't/can't do it...I will

1 Kings 21:4 [King Ahab asks Naboth for his vineyard, Naboth says no] So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And **he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.** ⁵ **But Jezebel** his wife came to him, and said to him, “Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?” ⁶ He said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

Q. How is the Spirit of Jezebel able to thrive? **A.** By weak men leaving a vacuum
 Intimidation of Godly men leads to fear/discouragement/men giving up [curse]

Spiritually weak men leave a vacuum for Jezebel to usurp God-given authority
 IOWs What Ahab would not do...Jezebel was be happy to do to gain dominance

1. Of the devil
2. Both Rebellious/Religious
3. Not bluffing: Set on destroying churches by taking down authority
4. Intimidating: Come against me you will die badly [apologize]
5. Opportunist: If you men won't do it I will

Jezebel attempts to usurp control by Hostile-Takeovers of churches

1 Kings 21:7 [Then Jezebel said to Ahab...] "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 8 And **she wrote letters in Ahab's name**, sealed them with **his seal**, and sent the letters to the **elders and the nobles** who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. 9 She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; 10 and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." **Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.**

Usurp church leaders' authority
Destroy the congregation

- God does not like Jezebel...

1 Kings 21:23 ...concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, '**The dogs shall eat Jezebel** by the wall of Jezreel.' ²⁴ The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field." ²⁵ **But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife stirred him up.**

- Ahab sold himself to Jezebel for sex, Thus...
- Jezebel now able to control him/ "stir him up" to do wickedness

Stirred-up: Lit to incite, allure, instigate, entice. From rt. Thorn bush
Men, are you allowing yourselves to be "stirred up" by the internet, movies, thought-life

Spirit of Jezebel can be Vanquished. How?
God's anointed acting as God's anointed in the anointing of the Holy Spirit

- **Jehu:** Gods anointed taking responsibility...

2 Kings 9:6 [The servant of Elisha] poured the oil on [Jehu's] head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: '**I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.**' 7 You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel."

Anointed: Empowered w/God's authority to do God's will in God's power...
Stepping-up to challenge of dealing w/rebellion in the Church
Courage to break through intense intimidation/threats...Enter Jehu

2 Kings 9:30 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, **Jezebel heard of it**; and she put **paint on her eyes and adorned her head**, and looked through a window. 31 Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" 32 And he looked up at the window, and said, "**Who is on my side? Who?**" So two or three eunuchs looked

out at him. 33 Then he said, **"Throw her down."** So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he **trampled her underfoot**. 34 And when **he had gone in, he ate and drank**. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." 35 So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the **skull and the feet and the palms of her hands**. 36 Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; 37 and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, **"Here lies Jezebel."**""

Jezebel: Emasculator. Murderer. Intimidator. Godless. Haughty. Demonic. Humiliator. Rebellious. Power hungry. Despiser of authority. Out of her lane. Not saved.

- **Jezebel in the World:** Rebellion against God's Authority/Design/Purpose
 1. Feminism/Lesbianism/Homosexuality/Passive men being followers
 2. Condoning Sexual Promiscuity
 3. Praising courage of a perverse lifestyle
 4. Transsexuals/Transgender in Military [no regard to morale]
 1. Rebellious Protests: Demonic rants
 2. Abortion promoted: Usurping Prince [originator] of Life

Speaking at a #ShoutYourAbortion event in Seattle, WA, actress Martha Plimpton told the crowd: Seattle has some particular significance for me for lots of reasons. I've got a lot of family here, some of whom are here in the audience tonight. I also had my first abortion here at the Seattle Planned Parenthood! Yay! [wild applause] Notice I said 'first.' I said 'first.' And I don't want Seattle — I don't want you guys to feel insecure, **it was my best one**. (more applause) Heads and tails above the rest! If I could Yelp review it, I totally would. And if that doctor's here tonight, I don't remember you at all, I was 19 but I thank you nonetheless.

Legitimizing Insanity/Self-harm
Continuing to do/condone what is destructive and joy robbing

- Jezebel in the world
- **Jezebel in the Church**
 1. Feeling/Emotion based...rather than Scripture based teaching
 2. Lack of Spiritual Discernment
 3. Discounting God given order, authority, design
 4. Woman "pastors/elders" even Lesbian/Homosexual leaders?
 5. Authority of Scripture questioned and/or denied **"...did God really say?"**

Romans 1:18 For [these things] the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

- **Result:** Degradation of Nation, Society, Individuals...

Romans 1:32 ... knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same **but also approve** of those who practice them.

That is the result of allowing the Jezebel spirit to be exalted in a church

This spirit of Rebellion is prevalent in churches today [Most?]

- **Authority Questioned** I call myself a prophetess
- **Immorality Encouraged** Come as you are/No repentance
- **Idolatry Endorsed** Extra-biblical paraphernalia/other gods

21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.
22 Indeed I will **cast her into a sickbed**, and those who commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, unless they repent of their deeds.

Jezebel cast her into a sickbed/Followers into the Great Tribulation

- Followers go into GT:
 1. Unsaved Lukewarm churches
 2. Unsaved spiritually weak men
 3. Unsaved rebellious women

²³ I will **kill her children with death**, and all the churches shall know that I am **He who searches the minds and hearts**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

I will come to rid the church of all rotten fruit; all rebellion
It will be so elegant all churches will know that it had to be Me who judged

I AM He who searches the minds and hearts...
The One with eyes like a flame of fire

- **Kill her children with death:** Those seduced will take the mark of the beast

24 "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have **this doctrine**, who have **not known the depths of Satan**, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

Jezebel's deep things of Satan: Extra-biblical paraphernalia
Jezebel is the woman that rides the beast as a little girl

²⁵ But hold fast what you have **till I come**. ²⁶ And **he who overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give **power over the nations**— ²⁷ 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father **28** and I will give him the **morning star**.

- **Overcomers Promise 1:** Ruling w/Jesus in Millennial Kingdom
- **Overcomers Promise 2:** Jesus the Morning Star rising in our hearts

*Blessed assurance Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine.
Heir of salvation, purchase of God. Born of his Spirit. Washed in His blood*

²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**."

Q. How is Jezebel destroying so many churches?

A. Men are not being men/Women fill the void/Leaders not calling it sin

Application: Cowering from, usurping, perverting and/or changing God's Authority Structure is damnation to the world, destruction to families and death to any church who allows it. IOWs Men be Men/Woman be women.

Men: Protectors/Providers/Spiritual Leaders

Understanding/Decisive with Fortitude to Endure Intimidation. Loving

Men are exhorted to get up and take the lead. Know the Word. Love your wives. Step up and into your calling within the church, unlike Ahab who melted into his couch losing his dignity, his soul and more in the process...

Deuteronomy 23:1 He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation **shall not enter the assembly of the Lord.**

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, **be brave, be strong.** 14 Let all that you do be done with love.

1 Corinthians 16:13 [NASB] Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, **act like men, be strong.** 14 All that you do must be **done in love.** [Step up today]

Women: Supportive/Faithful/Prayerful/Humble/Modest/Wise/Respectful

Women are exhorted to be the exact opposite of spiritually ugly cows of Bashan; the godless arrogant women who were oppressing/crushing/domineering. Not a good look

1 Peter 3:3 Your adornment must not be merely the external—braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or putting on apparel; 4 but it should be the **hidden person of the heart**, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

He who has an ear
Let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches