



VILLAINS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION GUIDE

Every story of intrigue has a villain - those people who plot and scheme treachery in a feeble attempt to thwart noble plans and pursuits. In this series, we consider some of the most insidious n'er-do-wells, who because of their influence, cause strife and destruction against the people of God. Can God's people overcome these forces of evil or will the causers of catastrophe prevail?

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JEZEBEL THE MALICIOUS

In this series, we shied away from naming kings and queens as villains, instead categorizing them simply as "evil kings" or "evil queens." We made an exception with Jezebel because of her conniving and malicious schemes. She was a dark-hearted snake masked by a pretty face who used her influence with King Ahab to carry out horrible acts of violence. God, however, will not be mocked.

QUESTIONS

- Is it good to study the villains of the Bible? What do these people reveal about our own hearts?
- Not many people name their precious baby girls Jezebel - in fact, it wasn't until 1980 that the name even made a blip on the screen! Let's learn why this is...
- What was happening in the kingdom at this time?
- Who was Jezebel? She wasn't an Israelite. Was it lawful for Ahab to marry her? (1 Kings 16:31) Why was she so evil? (1 Kings 18:13)
- Explain why Baal worship was so evil, and why Jezebel's promotion of this religion was so insidious. Why was this worship so appealing that the Israelites would be snared into its trappings.
- Other than killing God's prophets, two other atrocities were committed by Jezebel - the chasing after Elijah after the Mt Carmel incident, and the siege of Naboth's Vineyard. Let's discuss.

- Finally, Jezebel gets justice she deserved. (2 Kings 9:30) Let's discuss the significance of her death.
- What lessons can we learn from Jezebel? Does this reveal anything about God's character?

SPRINGBOARD VERSE

1 Kings 16:31 NIV He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him.