

# Jezebel

**Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, priest/king of Tyre and Sidon.**

**She was married to Ahab to ratify an alliance between Tyre and Israel, by which Ohri, Ahab's father, sought to offset the hostility of Damascus towards Israel [880BC].**

**Provision was made for her to continue to worship her native god Baal in Samaria, her new home, [1 Kings 16:31-33].**

**Jezebel had a strong, domineering character, and was self-willed and forceful.**

Jezebel was a fanatical devotee of the pagan god Baal, her staff numbered four hundred and fifty of his prophets, and four hundred prophets of the goddess Asherah, by the time that Ahab was king, [1 Kings 18:19], and she clamoured for her god to have at least equal rights with Yahweh, God of Israel.

**This brought Jezebel in conflict with the prophet Elijah.**

**1 Kings 18:17-24** [New King James] *“Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, ‘Is that you, O troubler of Israel?’ And he answered, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals. Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.’ So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word. Then Elijah said to the people, ‘I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it. Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.’ So all the people answered and said, ‘It is well spoken.’”*

**A battle between Yahweh and prophets of Baal was fought on Mount Carmel. Yahweh’s prophet Elijah triumphed gloriously, [1 Kings 18:25-40].**

**Inspite of this massacre of her prophets, Jezebel was even more zealous towards the worship of Baal.**

Jezebel took the lead in the incident of Naboth’s vineyard with high-handed, unscrupulous action, affecting the whole community as well as undermining the throne of Ahab, [1 Kings 21:1-16].

This action by Jezebel resulted in prophetic revolution and extermination of the house of Ahab, [1 Kings 21:17-29].

**After Ahab’s death, [1 Kings 22:29-38], Jezebel continued to be a powerful influence in Israel for ten years, in her role as queen-mother, throughout the reign of Ahaziah, then during Jehoram’s lifetime, [1 Kings 22:51-53].**

When Jehoram was killed by Jehu, Jezebel attired herself regally and waited for him. She mocked Jehu and went to her prophesied fate with courage and dignity, [2 Kings 9:30-37].

No reference is made to Jezebel by the writer of Chronicles.

**Revelation 2:20** [New King James] *“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.”*

**Indicates that the name “Jezebel” had become a by-word for apostasy.**

**Lessons from the life of Jezebel –**

**It is not enough to be committed or sincere, for it is where our commitment lies that makes a great difference.**

Both Jezebel and Elijah were strong committed people but the direction and outcome of their commitment was totally different.

**We have to ask ourselves to what or to whom we are most committed?**

How will the Creator God evaluate and judge our commitment?