

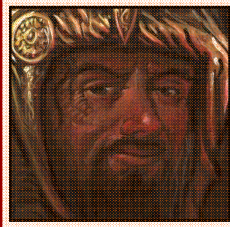
Jezebel's Husband Ahab: King of Israel



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When Ahab, the son of Omri began to reign as King over Israel, "he did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him" (1 KINGS 16:30).



He also took to wife Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians, who influenced him to serve Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. Ahab also made a grove and provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger more than all the kings of Israel that were before him. "...there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up" (1 KINGS 21:25).

Jezebel slew the prophets of the Lord, but the prophets of Baal ate at her table. Later, after Elijah the prophet slew all the prophets of Baal with the sword, Jezebel sent him a message saying, "...let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time" (1 KINGS 19:2).



But that "time" never came because God protected Elijah. Later, when Ahab lusted after Naboth's vineyard, Jezebel had Naboth murdered to fulfill a promise made to her covetous husband: "...I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite" (1 KINGS 21:7). Jezebel also committed many whoredoms in Israel and practiced witchcraft (2 KINGS 9:22).

So God sent Elijah the prophet to King Ahab while he was taking possession of Naboth's vineyard, saying, "...Thus saith the Lord, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?...In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine...And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat" (1 KINGS 21: 18-29).

Despite all the wickedness which King Ahab had done, consider what he did when he heard these words from Elijah the prophet:

"And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those WORDS, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. And the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house" (1 KINGS 21:27-29).

Pharaoh refused to humble himself before God to let the children of Israel go, and he perished in the Red Sea. (EXODUS 10:3). Belshazzar refused to humble himself before God, and he lost his kingdom and his life (DANIEL 5:22).

"For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased: and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (LUKE 14:11).

What about **YOU**? Have you "humbled yourself" before God with your whole heart? Have **YOU** "rent your clothes" and "put on the sackcloth" of "humility?" Do you remember a time when your heart was broken with godly sorrow for being a sinner?

Some of you may have very little time left on this earth and Satan would have you to delay this matter of repentance just a little longer. You've heard the gospel, and you know in your heart what you ought to do.

"Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud" (PROVERBS 16:19). "A man's pride shall bring him LOW: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit" (PROVERBS 29:23).

The Word of God convicts the heart, and when King Ahab heard the **WORD** from Elijah the prophet, he **humbled** himself before God. His wife, Jezebel, is in Hell awaiting judgment. Some of your relatives may be waiting there too. What about **YOU**?

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