That Woman Jezebel

Revelation 2:20-23

²⁰Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest **that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess,** to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

²¹And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

²²Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

²³And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

That Woman Jezebel

Characteristics of Jezebel

- > Brings idolatry into Israel
- > Murderously purges God's prophets
- Stirs up her husband and others to greater wickedness
- > Unrepentant

I Kings 16:29-33 (Jezebel brings official sanction to the worship of Baal in Israel)

²⁹And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.

³⁰And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.

³¹And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that <u>he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.</u>

³²And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

³³And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.

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Now, if you notice, Ahab married Jezebel to strengthen his people. That's exactly what Constantine did. He set up a great big church, and took the altar, and made a big marble, dressed this man up, pope, set him up on there. And he was a living god; he could talk to them, and--and they would tell her about their sins, and that just pleased that old lukewarm church, and away they went. Sure. That's it. Well, but that didn't please that man who was borned again, when they take that and then bring in pagan ceremonies of saying prayers. What did they do? They've taken down Jupiter and put up Peter. They took down Venus and put up Mary. And it brought--it brought paganism into the Christian ranks.

79 And when Ahab married Jezebel, he did the very same. He brought idolatry into Israel. And what did Jezebel do? She killed every prophet she could get her hands on. Is that right? So did the popes. Every true Christian they could get their hands on, they killed them.

But there was a star of that age, old Elijah. Oh, yes, sir. He wasn't scared to tell them about it. Yes, sir. He was God's star of that age. He got down to one time he said, "Lord, I'm the only one left."

God said, "Now, wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute, Elijah. (Uh-huh.) I done got seven hundred hid out around in yonder. See? You don't know where they're at. They're out there, the

Pharisees, Sadducees, Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, but I--I'll get them out of there; you just wait. See? I've got them out there. There's... They're--they're--they're Mine, and they'll not bow their knee to Balaam yet." But old Elijah was the voice of God in that day. He sure was the very type of the voice of God at the first coming of Christ, and it'll be the type of the voice in the second coming of Christ again, according to the Scriptures.

Now, we find out that this little Jezebel, when she got over there, she was really going to cut down all of the altars of God and put up her own altars. And she had Israelites bowing before an idol. That's exactly what Constantine did when he formed the Catholic church. He brought paganism over into the--the Christian church, and had Christians bowing to idols. That's exactly the dark age again: dark age of Israel, dark age of--of the church: bowing to idols. And Elijah was the star in his day.

I Kings 18:4, 13 (Jezebel tries to purge God's prophets from Israel)

⁴For it was so, when <u>Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD</u>, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

¹³Was it not told my lord what I did <u>when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD</u>, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

I Kings 19:1-3, 12-14, 18 (Elijah is afraid he's about to be the victim of Jezebel's next purge)

¹And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

²Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So 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.

³And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

¹²And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

¹³And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

¹⁴And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

¹⁸[And the LORD said unto him,] Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

I Kings 21:5-7, 15 (Jezebel stirs up her husband to greater wickedness)

⁵But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? ⁶And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

⁷And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

¹⁵And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.

I Kings 21:23-29 (Ahab repents at Elijah's final judgment, but Jezebel never repents)

²³And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

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²⁴Him 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.

²⁵But 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.

²⁶And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all things as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

²⁷And 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.

²⁸And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

²⁹Seest 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.

The daughters of Jezebel

In the Old Testament, Athaliah married Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram, and brought idolatry into the kingdom of Judah, which had been much more God-fearing than the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

When you see a diagram of the genealogical lines of Israel and Judah, it's as though Satan is attempting to strangle the true vine by wrapping his false vine around it.

Characteristics of Athaliah (like mother, like daughter, Ezekiel 16:44)

- > Brings idolatry into Judah
- > Stirs up her husband and others to greater wickedness
- > Murderously purges any heirs to the throne to solidify her own rule
- > Unrepentant

II Kings 8:16-18, 25-26 (political marriage unites Judah with Israel, and Jezebel's daughter introduced idolatry in Judah)

¹⁶And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign.

¹⁷Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

¹⁸And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: **for the daughter of Ahab was his** wife: and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

²⁵In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel did Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah begin to reign.

²⁶Two and twenty years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel.

²⁷And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, <u>and did evil in the sight of the LORD</u>, as did the house of Ahab: for he was the son in law of the house of Ahab.

II Chronicles 22:2-4 (Athaliah stirs up wickedness in her husband and sons)

²Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.

³He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.

⁴Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.

II Chronicles 24:7 (Athaliah breaks up the Temple worship and dedicates the holy instruments to Baal)

For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

II Kings 11:1-3 (Athaliah attempts a purge of the seed of David so she can claim the throne of promise)

¹And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

²But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain.

³And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

In Revelation 2-3, we read allusions to the Old Testament Jezebel. Remember that in Revelation 1:3, John calls his book a *prophecy*. The message to the church of Thyatira thus prophecies a Jezebel-like spirit among the churches. And like the Old Testament Jezebel, this Jezebel of the New Testament also has daughters.

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109 Now, she had children. Did the real Jezebel have children? Yes, sir. Listen.

... I'll kill her children...

What? The Catholic church, her children is the Protestant denominations. See, it's exactly, 'cause they're doing the same thing: baptized right into her by their freak baptism, unscriptural baptism; shaking hands for the Holy Ghost; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost instead of the Jesus Christ. And just doing everything contrary to the Bible, still. And they walk right into it.

Her daughter was called Athaliah, A-t-h-a-l-i-a-h. She had her... She, Jezebel, had Athaliah married to Jehoram, the son of king of Judah, and soon the altars of Baalim was standing in Jerusalem. Now, you don't have to go to the history for that; that's Bible. See? Her daughter, Athaliah, married Jehoshaphat's son, which was Jehoram. And her daughters did the same thing she did.

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- Mhat is, what kind of a death is her children to be killed with? You see they're dead now, spiritually dead. They have no revelation. They know their organization; they know their catechism; they know their doctrine of the church; but when it comes to knowing God, some of them don't know no more about It than a Hottentot would know about an Egyptian knight. That's right. When it comes to really knowing the Holy Spirit, wondering, call--wanting to call the Spirit of God a soothsayer, a devil, of the discerning spirits, and things like that, and casting out evils. "Why, he don't belong to our organization. That group, oh, brroo [Brother Branham illustrates.--Ed.]." See, they just don't know. And then tag It with a name of Jesus Only, or some kind of a holy-roller, or--or some kind of a thing like that. Just don't know...
- And the hour is close at hand when that thing's going to be exposed. That's exactly. God will do it as certain as I'm standing behind this pulpit, 'cause He'll jerk His children out as certain as I'm standing right here. God in heaven knows that. You believe me to be a prophet of the Lord, a servant of the Lord, you listen to me. She's close at hand. Yes, sir.
- Her children will be killed with spiritual death. Look at them: cold and formal. Look at the... Look at our... We don't have to talk about Baptists and Presbyterians; we know they been dead for years. What...

When Luther had his revival, justification, if he would've... If he'd have kept on, this--this Pentecostal great move now would've been the Lutheran church. The Light would've come by sanctification, as Wesley followed It. See, Luther couldn't follow that. No, sir, they're already Lutherans.

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124 Now, what did Jezebel do? Married her daughter into the other rank of Judah over there, over into Judah. Now, watch the spiritual application. Maybe I can draw it out. Here, watch this real close now.

Here's Jezebel and Israel. But here's Judah, a different type over here, another one; this was Jehoshaphat over here. All right. Now, this here was Ahab; now, here's Jezebel right in here. Now, she come through here and caused all of Israel to go to idolatry.

That's exactly what Catholic church did back in her days when Constantine united the Nicolaitanes (the cold formals up in here) into the--to the--the church and to paganism, and made a pagan form of Christianity. I don't want to hurt your feelings, Catholic people, but I'm responsible 'fore God. That's all the Catholic church is, is a pagan form of Christianity: superstitions, and idols, and everything else (That's exactly right.), just a pagan form. Now, that's true. If I was dying in this minute, that's the truth. And the Protestants right in the same thing, just in another category.

Now, watch what Jezebel done. Then, you see, the--the devil... She was so surrendered, she took her daughters. She had a daughter born here, and this daughter goes over here to this great holy man, and takes and marries his son, and brings the same thing over in here from Jehoshaphat, over in this part. Now, the real Nicolaitanes, the Nicolaitanes, the cold formals that wanted that organization, they married into it here. And now, notice the same thing. They took Jezebel here (the Catholic church), and down here she takes her daughter (her organizations) and marries it right into them down there, and does the same thing to them. "Kill her children with death," spiritual death. Organize themselves to death, and the first thing you know, all the Spirit's gone.

257-2 SARDISEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.7

The Jezebel of Thyatira was in no mood to give up her hold upon the people, and thus we see her daughter Athaliah raise her head in the Sardisean Age with the hopes that she would be able to strangle the true seed by her schemes of organization.

The unrepentant Jezebel of Thyatira becomes the Great Whore of Revelation 17.

In Revelation 2, Jezebel of Thyatira is described as a self-proclaimed prophetess, seductress, and adulteress, who is given opportunity to repent, yet refuses. She re-appears in Revelation 17, giving an alarming illustration of the corrupting power of sin when we repentance is refused. She is now described as "the great whore," and all the further characteristics are merely continuations of the traits we saw in Jezebel in the Old Testament.

Revelation 17:1-6

¹And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of <u>the great whore</u> that sitteth upon many waters:

²With whom the <u>kings of the earth have committed fornication</u>, and the inhabitants of the earth have <u>been</u> <u>made drunk with the wine of her fornication</u>.

³So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

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⁴And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:

⁵And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, <u>BABYLON THE GREAT</u>, <u>THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH</u>.

⁶And I saw the woman <u>drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus</u>: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Other Bible references to this beast

Daniel 7:1-7, 15-26

- > Daniel sees four beasts rise up from out of the sea (a lion, bear, leopard, and then a mysterious beast with great **iron** teeth and 10 horns; the last beast destroyed everything in its path (v.7).
- > The last kingdom will be different from the first three kingdoms (v. 19 & v. 23).
- > The last kingdom would make war with the saints(v.21, 25)
- > The last kingdom is also known for changing times and laws (v.25). Julian and Gregorian calendars

Daniel 2:40-43

- The vision in Daniel 7 is actually the second prophecy of coming world kingdoms in the Book of Daniel. The first is found in Daniel 2, where Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of an image made of four different metals. The fourth kingdom would be <u>strong</u> as <u>iron</u> and <u>break everything in pieces</u> (similar to the 4th beast in Daniel 7).
- Noteworthy are the image's feet and toes, which were made of iron mixed with clay.
- The iron and clay symbolize Romanism and Protestantism mixed together.
- At the end time, the image Nebuchadnezzar saw was smitten in the toes. Bro. Branham underscored that the iron and clay mixture pointed to the mixture of Protestantism with Catholicism (see excerpted quotes below).
- In a speech at the UN, Nikita Khrushchev stood up and banged his shoe on his desk as he railed, "We will bury you!" Bro. Branham noted this unusual happening was a signal that we are living in the time of the feet, where those ten toes would be smitten by "stone cut out of the mountain without hands" (2:35, 45)

"And in there, there was iron and clay, and they wouldn't mix together: Protestant and Catholicism under the same Gentile domination." (7 Church Ages, 1954)

"And how that in the Roman they'd have the two different churches amongst the Gentile. One would be Catholic and one Protestant. The iron of the Roman Catholic church and the clay of the Protestant." (Handwriting on the Wall, 1956)

"Now, notice in here at the end of this age... Now in Daniel 2:34-35, [Daniel] watched this image with great consideration. And he watched it until a Stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and It rolled down and smote the image in the feet and broke that.... It never hit it on the head now; hit it in the feet. That was the end time, them ten toes.

THE.RESTORATION.OF.THE.BRIDE.TREE JEFF.IN V-3 N-15 SUNDAY 62-0422

Them ten toes run in every kingdom under the earth.... There's an iron curtain; there's a bamboo curtain; and there's a purple curtain. Brother, don't you fear none of the rest of them, but watch that purple curtain.

Revelation 13

- As in Daniel 7, this beast comes up out of the sea, has ten horns (also seven heads), and has qualities of a lion, bear and leopard. This is the 4th beast of Daniel 7, and it is anointed by the dragon (Satan)! (vv. 1-2)
- > This mysterious beast survives a mortal wound. In Revelation 17:8, this same beast is described as the beast that was, is not, and yet is. Both of these references point to the death of pagan Rome, and its resurrection as papal Rome. (v.3)
- > As in Daniel 7, this beast also makes war with the saints for 3 ½ years.
- ➤ Revelation 13 also describes an innocent-looking image to the beast, which successfully deceives the world into worshipping the more diabolical looking seven-headed beast with the ten horns (vv.11-15)
- > The mark, or number, of the beast is 666 (vv.16-18)

Clues to Jezebel's identity

- > The seven heads of the beast are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth (Rev. 17:9)
- > The woman is "that great city," which rules over world leaders
- > The number of the beast is the number of a man (Rev. 13:18)

666

One of the Pope's titles is *Vicarius Filii Dei*, Latin for *Vicar of the Son of God*. This title first appears in an 8th century document called The Donation of Constantine, which the Vatican drew up to convince Frankish kings to accept the Pope's authority. For several hundred years it was used to this purpose with varying success. Seven hundred years later, it was proved that the Vatican forged the document simply to convince kings to cede them their land!¹

That the document is a forgery does not negate the significance of the title Vicarius Filii Dei. That this title was included in the forgery actually just attests that this was common teaching of the church. Up until the 1940s, the Catholic Church continued to affirm that this title belonged to the Pope.

In the weekly Catholic publication *Our Sunday Visitor*, editors responded to questions in 1914 and 1915 about the *Vicarius Filii Dei* title, confirming that it belonged to the Pope. Mysteriously, in 1941, the editors completely reversed themselves on this, and the 1914-1915 issues have completely disappeared from the publication's archives. However, some copies survive on microfilm in a few university libraries (see slides).

¹ Joshua Mark, "Donation of Constantine," *World History Encyclopedia*, https://www.worldhistory.org/Donation_of_Constantine/, Published July 1, 2019, accessed May 1, 2023.

What's the point?

Prophecy is not a crystal ball through which we know everything that is coming ahead. The disciples heard many prophecies from Jesus, and they always had things figured out wrong. An incorrect, "crystal ball" view of prophecy encourages people to connect all the dots and explain everything. In this case, prophecy actually leads people to fear, even though prophecy is given with our peace in mind!

Luke 18:33-34

³³And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

³⁴And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.

John 12:16

These things understood not his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

A correct view of prophecy glorifies God as God, and lets Him interpret His Word by bringing it to pass. When we recognize the sovereign God on the throne, prophecy helps us to ride out all storms with peace. We may not be able to explain everything ahead of time, but our peace isn't grounded in our explanations, but in our God.

AND.WHEN.THEIR.EYES.WERE.OPENED.THEY.KNEW.HIM_ TAMPA.FL THURSDAY_ 64-0416

103 Yet, they claimed to be His disciples. They claimed to believe that they had believed every Word that He had--He had said. They believed all the Bible. And here was the--here was the Messiah, the God of the Bible, standing there in identification, identifying the very written Word. And they were supposed to be believers of that Word. And Him referring back, and telling them that. "You remember what was said about this; and what was said about this; and how Jesus must do this; or how the--the Christ must do this; and how then all these things?" And yet they didn't understand It. They didn't know. What was it? They knowed the Word, as far as the letter was, but they didn't understand the Word when It was literally interpreted.

That's what it is today. Every man has got his own interpretation. When, God condemns the whole thing. God does His own interpreting. If God said He'll do a thing; when He does it, that's the interpretation thereof. God interprets His Own Word.

There He was, standing there, His Own interpreter.

Hallelujah! He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does His Own interpretation. Doesn't need any seminary, or any ministers, me, you, or no one else, to interpret Him. He promised it, then He turns around and does it. That settles it. That interprets itself.