AHAB – THE REAL PROBLEM

Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made a wooden image. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him. (1Kings 16:30-33)

Characteristics of Ahab (for Biblical basis see 1Kings 16:29 through 2Kings 9:37 and tape of 6/15/03)

- **Apathetic** – has handed over responsibility and authority to Jezebel
- **Confused** – because he has surrendered his “manhood” and “headship” responsibilities
- **Defeated** – beaten down into submission
- **Disgusted** – totally fed up with his life and his circumstances, but powerless to do anything about it
- **Fearful** – Ahab fears Jezebel, but fear is the underlying need that Jezebel fulfills – a typical “double-bind”
- **Frustrated** – the Ahab man is constantly frustrated because his needs become secondary and only are fulfilled if Jezebel decides to do something about it for him
- **Hateful** – Ahab hates himself and hates his Jezebel and, therefore, hates everything and everyone
- **Hopeless** – once control and authority was handed over to Jezebel, he is a puppet at her command which leaves him feeling helpless and hopeless
- **Indecisive** – can no longer make decisions; has ceded that right to Jezebel and is afraid to come against her
- **Irresponsible** – enjoys not having the weight of responsibility, which makes Ahab conscienceless
- **Lazy** – it’s always someone else’s responsibility, which gets to be a way of life for Ahab
- **Lustful** – as a counterfeit of the love he doesn’t’ receive from his Jezebel
- **Rationalization** – can always explain things away, especially in his own mind
- **Rejection** – a root cause of Ahab tendencies which Jezebel at first seems to fulfill, but which later turns into loss of self, another form of rejection
- **Spiritual blindness** – the Jezebel and Ahab spirits are so anti-Christ that it is very difficult for the light of Truth to penetrate the darkness
- **Suicidal** – if Ahab does not find an outlet for his pent up anger, frustration and hatred, he may turn on himself
- **Wounded ego/spirit** – Ahab’s self-esteem and self-worth are extremely low which can cause him to do things to feed his pride which will manifest in settings outside Jezebel’s influence

Ahab Opens the Door for Jezebel

- While Jezebel is more visible, she cannot attain power and position unless an Ahab man allows her to do so
  - “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.” (Revelation 2:20)
The primary reasons Ahab does so are **cowardice** (he’s afraid to do what he wants done); **fear** (he thinks he might fail); and **image** (he wants to be seen as good to protect his position of authority).

This pattern has been with us since the very beginning with Adam and Eve playing these roles in the complicity with the Devil:

- **Adam was not deceived**, but the **woman being deceived**, fell into transgression.

Adam **allowed** Eve to go first so he could see what happened; when she didn’t “**surely die**” right away, he then **deliberately sinned** whereas Eve was simply **deceived**

- **Then the serpent said to the woman**, “You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:4-6)

According to Richard Ing in his book, Spiritual Warfare, “**It was Adam’s failure** to love and protect Eve that **led to this curse**. To protect the women against Satan, we men are called to love and provide spiritual protection or coverage for them. Failure to do so will leave our women exposed to the devil, and **men will be judged**.”

What Adam and Ahabs in general don’t realize at first is that **abdicating their authority to Jezebel** in a “small thing” opens the door for her to **fully usurp** all his power and authority

- **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.’” 7 Then Jezebel his wife said to him, “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.”’ (1Kings 21:4-7)

Ahab men become “**cry-babies and pouters**” when they cannot get what they want” according to Richard Ing in “Spiritual Warfare” who also says that “**behind every Jezebel woman is an Ahab man**”

“**There is a spirit** which works with Jezebel. The effect of this demon is that it floods the soul of a man with weakness and fear. Its name is Ahab; his nature is ‘one who gives his authority to Jezebel.’ The man feels almost **drugged** in his struggle against Jezebel.” (Francis Frangipane, The Jezebel Spirit)

Jezebel requires a man with a **position of authority** (e.g. husband, pastor, leader) to **open the door** for her to take over his authority and power

- Jezebel does this in many ways, from using her **feminine charms to flatter or even seduce** the man of authority, to **manipulating** him into a position where he **hands over** some of his authority out of fear or a desire to keep his image clean (i.e. allowing Jezebel to do the dirty work)

The **“headship”** of the man is actually a result of the **curse** that God placed on women as a result of the fall in the Garden of Eden

- To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and **he shall rule over you**.” (Genesis 3:16)

Men didn’t get off any easier from the curses of God:

- **Cursed is the ground** for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the **sweat of your face** you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:17-19)

God’s **original plan** for men and women was for them to be “**helpmates**” and to be “**comparable**” to one another – not for **either** one of them to **rule oppressively** over the other
And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Husbands are supposed to love, protect and nurture their wives as the means to undo the curse of “rulership”

- Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:22)

The problem in the world, church and families today is not women taking over authority, but rather men either giving it up or using it oppressively

- 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. (1Kings 21:25)
- The “selling out” to wickedness comes first; then the Ahab man can be “stirred up” by his wife

Ahab in the Home

- The Ahab husband of a Jezebel wife will either be:
  - Fearful in all his other relationships in life, rendering him weak, wimpy and wishy-washy
  - Or he will have a resentment and hatred toward women in general, which can lead him to become an abuser – physical, sexual or emotional

- The man who cannot govern his household in godly, protective authority will not be able to exercise spiritual authority elsewhere in a godly manner
  - The Ahab husband needs to repent of his fears and firmly, but lovingly, set his home in order
  - The man wins the war against Jezebel not by conquering her but rather by assuming his rightful role in a Christ-like manner

Headship in the home is simply the man taking loving responsibility for the condition of his home

- No home will have peace if the husband has ceded his authority to his wife
- However, the Ahab husband will usually desire peace at any cost, cementing unholy alliances with the Jezebel spirit

- “An individual under the influence of an Ahab spirit, often makes truces instead of covenants, thus prostituting rather than sanctifying relationships. But how can you have a truce with someone whose goals is to destroy you? Nevertheless, an Ahab spirit will always sacrifice the future good for the sake of peace today.” (John Paul Jackson, Unmasking the Jezebel Spirit)
  - Secretly, the Ahab husband despises and hates his wife’s Jezebelic domination, meanwhile becoming more and more reclusive, sluggish and repressed
  - Because of his anger, he may turn to flirtatious acts, pornography, cybersex, voyeurism or other ways to alleviate his emotional and relational pain

- The Jezebelic wife will use the marriage bed as another tool
  - She rewards his obedience with sexual gratification, but withholds it if he rebels
  - Her ultimate goal is toemasculate her husband and render him weak, powerless and submissive

- When she has fully usurped his role as head of the household, corruption and strife can only follow
  - Even the “partial” Jezabels who seek to live a “godly life” undermine the prescribed order of the home, leading to all kinds of conflict and ongoing arguments
Such “partial” Jezebels are “double-minded” (more accurately double-souled) and are “unstable in all [her] ways,” according to James 1:7 causing the household to like a wave tossed too and fro on the sea.

- The “worldly” Jezebel will seek to humiliate her husband in public
  - But the more “godly” Jezebel will allow him to appear to be in charge to the outside world, exacting an even steeper price from him at home as her just due

- Eventually, the “godly” Ahab will become so brow-beaten that he will give up all attempts to remain “spiritual” and to keep up appearances and sink into the couch in front of the TV (or drugs, alcohol, etc.)
  - Then, his Jezebel wife will proclaim to the world what a “loser” he is and how he has failed to meet his obligations and responsibilities as “head of the household”

Ahab in the Church

- Working together, the Ahab pastor and the Jezelb “prophetess” will form a co-dependent relationship and feed off each other in order to accomplish each one’s goals – which is usually to enlarge or entrench a “power base” – it’s all about power and control
  - When Jezebel is not around, the Ahab pastor will tend to be overly harsh and control-oriented in general, and toward females in particular – quick to put them “in their place”

- Many pastors will embrace a Jezebel because she appears to have a “prophetic anointing” and leadership skills (she’s usually aggressive, not assertive, as true leaders ought to be)
  - As the Jezebel begins to more openly manifest her controlling, destroying nature, the pastor will either convince themselves that they will be able to spiritually “mature” her or attempt to ignore it if they are indecisive and non-confrontational

- Pastors often have few “friends” within the church – a role that Jezebel loves to fill
  - Initially, she offers a sympathetic ear and words of encouragement; eventually, these words become outright flattery accompanied by flirtation and seduction
  - With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter…he did not know it would cost his life. (Proverbs 7:21-23)

- For many Ahab pastors, it seems unbelievable that such a “spiritually mature” and “gifted” person could have anything but the highest motives
  - In some instances, pastors find themselves lacking the mental sharpness to overcome the persuasive arguments of a Jezebelite
  - Over time, it becomes more difficult for the Ahab pastor to recognize that this individual operates with a controlling spirit that seeks to conquer the pastor and divide the church

- It takes a courageous pastor to confront a Jezebel spirit
  - Sometimes, in order to avoid the dreaded confrontation, the pastor will simply abolish all prophetic gifts or ministries in the church
  - Worse, the pastor may choose to “use” the Jezebel to accomplish his own hidden agendas of control

- If the pastor won’t confront Jezebel, someone(s) need to do so, because Jezebel defiles everything she touches, destroying the true anointing and replacing it with counterfeits from the Devil
  - When a Jezebel spirit has become entrenched in a church, it becomes very difficult to dislodge – the longer it remains, the more difficult it is to remove
  - Jezebel’s ultimate objective is to bring down the church while maintaining her outward façade of hyper-spirituality
When Jezebel has become entrenched in the church, the pastor will need to prayerfully build a case with witnesses on specific issues.

- Until then, a spirit of Jezebelic confusion and audacity acts as a smokescreen through which the Jezebelite will emerge unscathed while the pastor is left embarrassed and likely undermined in the eyes of the board and the congregation.
- Because the past doesn’t clearly remember word-for-word what was said, Jezebelites will twist or give “new” meanings to their previous words and prophecies.

The pastor who continues to allow the Jezebel to operate unimpeded within the church will become subject to strong delusion, heavy depression and indecision in even the smallest matters.

- Then their churches will face a spiritual famine that will cause people to leave in droves, not really understanding why.

To overcome a Jezebel spirit in the church, the pastor and leaders must address all rebellion and usurped authority committed by their church members.

- For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”

The pastor who can overcome the Jezebel spirit in the church is offered great rewards:

- To him I will give power over the nations—’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; and I will give him the morning star. (Revelation 26-28)

**Ahab in the World**

Unfortunately, in order to crack the “glass ceiling” in business and governmental organizations, women have had to become overly aggressive and/or greedily seductive (opening the door to the Jezebel spirit).

- When an Ahab leader teams up with a Jezebel woman they can become a formidable force – often appearing to be “right-minded” on the surface, but given over to unrighteous policies and behaviors.
- There are many men who wish to be leaders, but who have been beaten down by their mothers, wives and the world in general.
- Since they are too weak to accomplish their goals on their own, teaming up with a Jezebel often appears to be the best way to get ahead.

However, in giving in to the Ahab and Jezebel spirits, these “leaders” unwittingly have opened themselves up to further penetration and eventual domination by that crafty serpent of old, the Devil.

- Then they become blinded to spiritual truths and become the Devil’s victims of “tolerance” and “feel-good” agendas.
- The real Ahab allowed his Jezebel queen to sacrifice children as a form of worship and a means to acquire more power.
- So too are these spirits the forces behind abortion in the world today.
- The Jezebel spirit is also turning Ahab men into homosexuals as they nurse their wounds and hatred of all things feminine.

- The Jezebel spirit of rebellion leads to witchcraft (in spirit if not in the natural realm) in its unceasing desire for power.
- Thus we have an ever-expanding culture of drugs within our society – and Jezebel women who hear “voices” telling them what to do and giving the false words of wisdom and knowledge.

The Ahab leader, like King Ahab, are double-minded compromisers.
In 1Kings 20, the Syrian army twice came against Israel and both times King Ahab consulted the prophets who said God was going to give a mighty miracle to Ahab and defeat the Syrians. Still, he went back to worshipping Baal and Ashteroth.

So too do many of today’s double-minded men go to church because it’s politically correct or for personal reputation, not because they love God.

They want God’s miracles but still refuse to call upon him as Lord and Savior.

All of this in turn leads to the Anti-Christ spirit which now drives most of our governmental institutions – just as foretold in the Book of Revelation.

The coming “one-world government” prophesied in Daniel 7:7 – 8:24 and Revelation 13:12 is being build on a foundation of the Anti-Christ spirit.

This is leading to more and more persecution of Christians in both obvious and subtle ways even as the world is calling for more “tolerance” (i.e. no claims of absolute truths)

The Biblical Solution

The Bible tells us what must happen even as the Elijah Spirit is being poured out on all flesh, heralding the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. (Malachi 4:5-6)

Only when men (fathers) assume their rightful roles and responsibilities and reconcile with their children under God’s influence will we avoid the “curse” of that coming “great and dreadful day of the Lord.”

We know that this will not happen to all fathers – perhaps not even to most fathers – but we must seek to turn the tide in order to “prepare ye the way of the Lord” (Matthew 3:3)

And this can only be fully accomplished through prayer and fasting.