

Kings and Queens

King Ahab Queen Jezebel

Repentance Vs. Tolerance

I Kings 16:30-33

³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. ³¹ 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. ³² He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. ³³ Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him.

I Kings 21:25-26

²⁵ (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife. ²⁶ He behaved in the vilest manner by going after idols, like the Amorites the LORD drove out before Israel.)

I Corinthians 15:27

For the scripture says, "God put *all* things under his feet."

King Ahab

- **Marrying Jezebel:** A foreign queen who brought her worship of Baal into Israel, attempting to change the country from worshipping God to worshipping Baal
- **Building an altar for Baal:** Ahab built an altar for Baal in Samaria, the storm god of her native country
- **Making an asherah:** Ahab made an asherah
- **Allowed Jezebel to take Nabot's vineyard.**

Warnings of what not to do.

Warning of a lifestyle that will destroy you.

How can we be cautioned.

Why is this story in the Bible?

It is more than just historical. It is there to shed light on what happens to a person who lives a godless lifestyle.

I. Compromise will destroy you.

I Kings 16:30-31

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A. Unpack

1. Did evil in the eyes of the Lord
2. More than any other of those before him.
3. He was worse than Jeroboam.
 - a. Jeroboam established idol worship.
 - b. Created an alternative worship site.
 - c. Appointed non-Levitical priest.
 - d. Introduced false festivals.
 - e. Did it his way.

B. What led to his downfall was his compromise – He married Jezebel.

1. Who is Jezebel?
2. Daughter of Ethbaal – King of Sidonians
 - a. Royalty
 - b. But from a family full of false worship – demonically inspired idol worship.
 - c. Ethbaal – means “living with Baal,” i.e. enjoying the favour and help of Baal.
3. Ahab embraces the practices of his wife and leads an entire nation into the demonic.
4. All hell breaks loose in the Norther Kingdom – literally.

C. Remember this is a **WARNING** to everyone who reads it.

1. Ahab built a temple to worship Baal in Smaria – remember this was an alternate worship site set up by Jeroboam.
2. He set up Asherah poles.
3. This infuriated God.
4. Asherah worship was known for its sensuality and involved ritual prostitution.
5. Priests and priestesses of Asherah also practiced divination and fortune-telling.

D. Jezebel is influencing this the entire time.

Illustration

- Everywhere sexual promiscuity is encouraged and celebrated the devaluation of human life rises.
- When you disobey God in one area it opens the door for disfunction and destruction in other areas.
- We here this in the Abortion issue.
- The same argument is given for both sexual freedom argument and abortion argument.
 - Don't tell me what to do with my body.
 - Don't tell me what to do with my body.

Abortion is just a wrong as the child sacrifices that were offered up to Baal 3,000 years ago. We have just gotten more elegant with our sin.

The word "Baal" is a noun that means "lord" or "owner".

It was used to refer to several deities, including Hadad, and even to human rulers.

However, over time, the word "Baal" came to refer primarily to the Canaanite-Phoenician god of fertility and rain.

- E. She brought a new level of compromise.
 1. Ahab provoked the Lord more than any other.
- F. Married Jezebel – Unequally yoked
 1. Built an altar for Baal - Ahab built an altar for Baal in Samaria, the storm god of her native country
 2. Built an asherah pole.

I Kings 16:34

³⁴ In Ahab's time, Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son Segub, in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken by Joshua son of Nun.

34. In his days did Hiel the Beth-elite build Jericho—(see on Jos 6:26). The curse took effect on the family of this reckless man but whether his oldest son died at the time of laying the foundation, and the youngest at the completion of the work, or whether he lost all his sons in rapid succession, till, at the end of the undertaking, he found himself childless, the poetical form of the ban does not enable us to determine. Some modern commentators think there is no reference either to the natural or violent deaths of Hiel's sons; but that he began in presence of his oldest son, but some unexpected difficulties, losses, or obstacles, delayed the completion till his old age, when the gates were set up in the presence of his youngest son.

But the curse *was* fulfilled more than five hundred years after it was uttered; and from Jericho being inhabited after Joshua's time (Jdg 3:13; 2 Sa 10:5), it has been supposed that the act against which the curse was directed, was an attempt at the restoration of the walls—the very walls which had been miraculously cast down. It seems to have been within the territory of Israel; and the unresisted act of Hiel affords a painful evidence how far the people of Israel had lost all knowledge of, or respect for, the word of God.

Illustration

- Jericho was the first city to be conquered by Israelites.
- Jericho march
- Walls fall
- This city is the LORD's - First fruits
- Joshua – an oath – whoever rises up to rebuild this city -
- Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho I Kings 16:34 – Refused to follow God's commands and as a result the people suffered. He did not use his authority for good things. Hiel's sons died – contrast the story immediately following where the widow woman of God obeyed and made bread for the prophet Elijah and that act of obedience sustained her and her son. Saved his life and probably hers.

All this was because of compromise and disregard for God's commands.

Application

1. Compromise will bring hurt and destruction.
2. No matter how many people cheer you on or agree or encourage.
3. Compromise brings tragedy.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people."

II. Compromise leads to complicity.

I Kings 18:18-21

¹⁸ “I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family have. You have abandoned the LORD’s commands and have followed the Baals. ¹⁹ Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

²⁰ So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. ²¹ Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

III. Coveting is like drinking poison.

I Kings 21:1-7

¹ Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ² Ahab said to Naboth, “Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth.”

³ But Naboth replied, “The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my ancestors.”

⁴ So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my ancestors.” He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

⁵ His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, “Why are you so sullen? Why won’t you eat?”

⁶ He answered her, “Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, ‘Sell me your vineyard; or if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

⁷ Jezebel his wife said, “Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”