Most Bible scholars would agree that Jezebel is considered to be the wicked woman in Scripture. Her name is used in Revelation 2:20 in comparison to great evil. This was a time when Hebrew men married women of other religions and allowed their new wives to corrupt their faith with false religions and idols.

For some this spirit/attitude led them into corrupted ideals. These corrupted ideals could only be established and maintained through methods of power and control. Later in this article we will see how this has severely impacted us in our day and time through terrorism.

Jezebel made the greatest effort at converting all of Judaism into her religion of Baal Worship. She methodically eliminated God’s representatives in Israel; threatened to have the Prophet Elijah killed; believed Kings and Queens had absolute power to whatever they wanted; and, used her cunning to take control of a King and his nation. This article is to help you better understand the insidious nature of those who would attain their goals at your expense.

In the insect world of predators the Portia spider is a master predator whose chief weapon is deception. To begin with, says Robert R. Jackson in National Geographic (Larson 2004) the spider looks like a piece of dried leaf or foliage blown into the web. When it attacks other species of spiders, it uses a variety of methods to lure the host spider into striking range.

Sometimes it crawls onto the web and taps the silken threads in a manner that mimics the vibrations of a mosquito caught in the web. The host spider marches up for dinner and instead becomes a meal itself.

The Portia spider can actually tailor its deception for its prey. With a type of spider that maintains its home inside a rolled-up leaf, the Portia dances on the outside of the leaf, imitating a mating ritual. The Portia spider moves as quickly as the wind blows and is sometimes called the jumping spider.

Jackson writes, “Portia can find a signal for just about any spider by trial and error. It makes different signals until the victim spider finally responds appropriately – then keeps making the signal that works.” Deception is a powerful adversary when used against the unsuspecting and unprepared.

In Shakespeare’s story the Merchant of Venice, we again see the same name, Portia. In this case the malevolent character named Portia is less a deceiver and more an avenger of cruel injustice. She does not offer justice or love as she condemns Shylock to poverty and forced conversion. In this story Portia has been embraced as an ideal of female skill, wit, and learning who commands authority as both lawyer and judge in a man’s world.

Satan’s Portia goes by the name Jezebel. She embodies all that is wicked, cruel, and deceptive in our world.

Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, King of Tyre (1Kings 16:31) and wife of Ahab, seventh King of Israel who reigned B.C. 919-896. In obedience to her wishes, she caused a temple to be built to Baal in Samaria itself; and an oracular grove to be consecrated to the goddess Astarte. (See 1Kings 18:19)

Jezebel deceptively controlled her husband, Ahab, and 850 heathen priests.

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The Jezebel Spirit
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She was dedicated to getting her way no matter what the cost to others. Committed to her faulty beliefs she was determined to make all of the Hebrews believe in her gods. She systematically eliminated many of God's representatives in Israel while promoting Baal worship.

Her strong convictions and dedication was a major contributing cause to the downfall of Judah, the northern kingdom of Israel, through idolatry. (1 Kings 16:31 – 2 Kings 9:37) Her name is used in the Bible as an example of people who completely reject God. (Revelations 2:20, 21)

A spirit of Jezebel is a rebellious, deceptive spirit or attitude of witchcraft that imposes a controller's will onto others through manipulation, pride, and self-promotion. We can say that rebellion is as witchcraft because it agrees with Satan's view of things, in opposition to God's view.

To the victim it is as if they have been violated by rape or as in the case of the Portia spider, eaten alive. The victim's value has been stripped away and their capabilities to make decisions for themselves are taken from them. The spirit of witchcraft sets itself up as a higher authority at the expense of others. It is prideful and arrogant to think that God should accept our rebellion as we place our will above His. "You are not your own; you were bought with a price..." (1Corinthians 6:19b-20a).

People manipulate, that in itself does not make them a witch. A witch is someone who has made a covenant with Satan and practices incantations, magic, hexes, and potions.

Manipulating suggests that a person is masking their true intentions. When done on a regular basis, especially for the purposes of deception and elevating one's own self in order to rule in stature or influence, it becomes a type of witchcraft or a spirit of witchcraft – one does not have to make a covenant with Satan to have an attitude of witchcraft.

The deceiver who is wielding this type of Jezebel spirit will most often take control by usurping authority – achieving a position without having earned the rank of the position. When they take control by legitimate means it usually involves unrighteous expression of the legitimate authority.

For example; a church pastor who is using power and control tactics such as intimidation or emotional shaming to maintain control over his flock – A church Elder or Secretary who taints the pastors' perspectives of the people in his church – Or, it could be an elected official who uses slander and exaggerations to eliminate those who pose a threat to his authority. Sadly, these spirits – attitudes – are all around us. If we take a good look they will be more easily recognized.

The spirit of witchcraft is a spirit of bondage, bitterness, fear, and pride – it is an antichrist spirit. Therefore, the focus of its attention is always to tear down the believer's freedom in Christ. It is an attitude of irreverence often masked by showy words of righteous indignation.

The spirit of witchcraft devalues a believer who is made in God's image. It shows disrespect to God's sovereignty and the human will because it is God who gives us the gift of free will. It is the spirit of witchcraft or Jezebel that tries to steal away the gift so it can never be used for the glory of Christ.

Once in a position of influence, the Jezebel spirit will usually first set out to "...cut off the Prophets of the Lord..." (1Kings 18:4 KJV) This basically means that they will...
systematically attempt to eliminate those with similar influence until the Jezebel’s influence becomes undisputed. The biblical Jezebel or the modern day version of the spirit of Jezebel is committed to only one thing, **getting what they want.**

The spirit of Jezebel as used in the secondary spirit of witchcraft will cause others to be sacrificed like pawns in a chess game. It is done in order to accomplish their goals at the expense of others.

Because they are experts at manipulation they can deceive even the very elect. In other words, on the surface they can be very convincing, often using scripture to make their points.

They know that most Christians are not experts at knowing the scripture. They will speak a truth with a slight twist that leads victims away from the Truth and into deception and discord.

**Warning** – always confirm what you hear with the Word of God and in the context for which it was written.

There are some Christians who start off with good intentions – such as some formerly prominent televangelists – to be laborers for Jesus. However, once this spirit of Jezebel takes root, their thinking turns faulty as they rationalize and act upon the lie.

The deception is usually by others with the same spirit who are a close relation such as a spouse, parent, relative, friend, or respected peer. Those with this spirit exercise their will in such a way that it supersedes God’s in their own life.

The rebellion blinds them to the intent of God’s plan. Their manipulation spreads from home to work to church. In order to maintain and protect the compulsive need for control, the Jezebel spirit leaves their victims spiritually and emotionally weak, dazed, confused, and unsure of exactly what they believe.

There is a danger to both the teachers and the lambs under those with this rebellious spirit. Over time, the chipping away of God’s truths leads to the weaker Christians becoming deceived as they chase after false teachers.

**DYSFUNCTIONAL SYSTEM OF A JEZEBEL SPIRIT**

The following are the negative ways in which unhealthy people either knowingly or unknowingly maintain control in forestalling their own fears through the unfortunate expense of others.

1. **Power & Control:** Those with a spirit/attitude of a Jezebel will follow the rules of Power & Control. Like a principality of darkness, Power & Control is a major defense strategy to maintain control of others’ interactions, feelings and personal behavior.

When the Jezebel’s security feels threatened, they take action utilizing one or more of the following eight characteristics:

a. **Intimidation:** Making others afraid by the threat of power.
b. **Emotional abuse:** Shaming, put-downs, criticism, humiliation, unearned guilt, playing mind games.
c. **Isolation:** Controlling who one sees and talks to, what one reads, where one goes, limiting outside involvements.
d. **Minimizing, Denying, & Blaming:** Making light of the abuse and not taking one’s concerns seriously, saying the abuse didn’t happen, shifting responsibility for abusive behavior. Whenever things don’t turn out as planned, blame others. Blame maintains the balance in a dysfunctional system when control has broken down.
e. **Using Children:** Making one feel guilty because of the children, using the children to relay
messages of disapproval to the parents.

f. **Using Male Privilege**: Treating women like servants, making all the big decisions, using the Bible to justify abuse of women.

g. **Using Economic Abuse**: Making one ask for money, determining who works where, requiring all or most of the income earned to be given for the sake of the family or group.

h. **Using Coercion and Threats**: Making one do illegal things, making or carrying out threats to hurt one, threatening that the family/group will end if one does not comply with the rules.


2. **Perfectionism** – Perfectionism is a measurement that is being imposed. No one will ever meet the perfectionist standards of an idealistic Jezebel. Expectations are too high and it leads to fear and avoidance those who are imposing the standards.

3. **Denial of the Five Freedoms** – Each freedom has to do with a basic human power:
   a. power to perceive;
   b. think and interpret;
   c. feel;
   d. want and choose;
   e. imagine

The Jezebel’s perfectionist rule within the family or church prohibits the full expression of these natural powers. The perfectionist rule says that one shouldn’t perceive, think feel, desire, or imagine as individuals. One should only do these within the perfectionist ideals which are to maintain the balance of the dysfunctional family/church/group.

4. **No-talk Rule** – In the Jezebel’s family or group, this rule prohibits the full expression of any feeling, need, or want. The members want to hide these feelings, needs, and wants. One becomes afraid to speak of their needs and discontent.

5. **Don’t Make Mistakes** – When one reveals their mistakes, one is revealing one’s flawed and vulnerable self. Acknowledging a mistake opens one up to scrutiny. Within the Jezebel family the perfectionist covers up their mistakes and when another makes a mistake, that one becomes shamed.

6. **Distrust** – Trust can only be developed through intimate bonding relationships. Within a Jezebel’s family/group there can be no intimate bonding because of distrust. No family member can truly depend on the other because of unreliability.

In responding to this dysfunctional system, we only need to read Scripture:

“Love does not insist on its own way... Love never fails... For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.”

(1 Corinthians 13:5 (RSV); 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 13:8; John 3:16 KJV)

**SEVEN SINS OF A JEZEBEL**

Jezebel spirits can most often be identified as having certain character traits. Here are seven most commonly seen traits in those who regularly display a Jezebel spirit: **Shamelessness, Magical Thinking, Arrogance, Envy, Entitlement, Exploitation, and Bad Boundaries.**

**Shamelessness**: The Jezebel never developed healthy shame. Shame has been bypassed during their childhood. On the inside they are full of shame, but they cannot bear to see it. They appear to be shameless as though they lack a conscience. They hide behind a protective barrier of denial, coldness, blame, or rage. Shame is directed outward and it is never their fault. They may appear coolly indifferent or unethical.

The shamelessness in a Jezebel spirit may initially be seen by others as emotionally shallow, thick-skinned, confident, and aloof. They may become exposed by their overreaction to a minor slight or stress event.
The Jezebel Spirit
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At these shame-sensitive times they are exposing the truth that under the façade of shamelessness there lurks a deep pit of shamefulness. *The Jezebel spirit has an inability to process shame within themselves.*

The Jezebel cannot tolerate their shame when they are among others who are better, brighter, more attractive or successful, or having anything better going for them. *The Jezebel’s goal is to stay ego-inflated.*

Magical thinking (explained further below) becomes a tool to help the Jezebel dissociate from the reality of their imperfections. Jezebels depend on their fantasies to insulate them from inner emptiness. “Hell hath no fury like a Jezebel whose fantasy is being threatened by your standing in their way.”

This is what can make a Jezebel spirit develop a strong flattering spirit. They are masterful in the art of flattery. This helps them maintain the illusion of their fantasy bubble. You may be flattered with accolades of being the most wonderful person in the whole wide world. But, threaten their fantasy, and you suddenly become a detestable roach that they want to squash.

The Jezebel’s fantasy world becomes bait, luring those who want to share in the flight of imagination and specialness. This is a superficial charm of the Jezebel which draws the unsuspecting with an intoxicating allure. Their initial charm helps them to quickly build a loyal following. This makes it all the more difficult for the spiritually attuned to be taken seriously as they herald the warning bells.

The projection of shame onto others is another way the Jezebel uses shamelessness. It is used to protect the Jezebel from feeling shame. In the Jezebel’s eyes the shame is all yours as they dump their’s off onto you.

*Magical Thinking:* As shame builds in the early life of the developing spirit of Jezebel, experiences can no longer be taken in stride. The feelings of inadequacy and shame have to be walled off. This wall that is being built within the soul must be justified in the mind of the budding Jezebel.

Intense negative emotions are being tapped into each time someone does something better, is seen as more attractive or capable.

To protect themselves from these distressing feelings, a deliberate barrier of protection is constructed. This insulation of protection is between the intensely negative part and the conscious awareness part of the soul.

The emerging spirit of Jezebel rationalizes why they are not the way they feel. They begin to believe the self-muttering lies being generated. As they begin to believe these faulty beliefs and rationalizations about themselves, a fantasy forms. This fantasy helps them see themselves as “special” and an exception to the natural order of things.

The more severely damaged from childhood they have been, or perceive themselves to be, the greater effort is required to make a more all-embracing fantasy of “magical thinking.”

Clinically, one may call the state of magical thinking as sincere delusion. It’s not an actual delusional state of mind. It’s not an actual delusional state of mind. But, when one begins to believe the lies they say to themselves, they are no longer in a state of reality.

*Arrogance:* In her book, “Why is it always about you?” Sandy Hotchkiss writes, “... behind the mask of arrogance is a fragile internal balloon of self-esteem that is never satisfied with being good or even very good -- if they are not better than, then they are worthless. Value is always relative, never absolute.
From their point of view, if someone else’s stock goes up, their’s automatically goes down. Conversely, if they’re feeling deflated, they can re-inflate themselves by diminishing, debasing, or degrading someone else.

The Jezebel spirit is often bossy, judgmental, idealistic, perfectionistic, and power-hungry. They hide their insecurity with a mask of arrogance and behavior of power and control. You can always tell when a Jezebel spirit feels threatened, because they will immediately go on the offensive. Their attacks can be cruel and relentless.

The smarter the person with the Jezebel spirit, the more they like to compete with others. They are confident they can outwit even the best of people. However, when threatened by someone who is of equal or greater intelligence, they will immediately go on the offensive.

Those who are more insecure may cunningly flatter you with a series of questions in order to get more history about you. They begin to look for flaws or weak spots in the history that you’re giving. They will even take time to look up information that you have spoken of regarding yourself. Their hope is to find something they can use against you later.

Temperaments can also play into this area of arrogance. The more extroverted choleric or sanguine temperaments will become more openly competitive in reaffirming their superiority. The more introverted, melancholy temperaments will seek admiration and superiority in more covert and manipulative ways.

Because the Jezebel spirit is generally unable to sustain a sense of superiority on their own, they must heavily rely on others for the attention. That is why controlling one person is never enough for a Jezebel. They need a supply of people. They use the close people in your life to increase their supply.

Your family, friends, coworkers or organizational members all become targets to increase their supply. Victims of Jezebels are often surprised to later learn how deeply the Jezebel infiltrated into their personal lives. At times, the victim begins to feel that their identity has been stolen away by the Jezebel – this can apply to an organizational identity or a personal one.

The harm this arrogance inflicts on organizations or people is mainly done to hide the Jezebel’s exaggerated sense of inferiority.

Arrogance and superiority are tools Jezebel uses to transfer their imperfections onto others. This is borne out of their rational fear of being worthless and becomes displayed through arrogance. The more important they can feel, the less trepidation in their heart.

**Envy:** In order to maintain the fantasy bubble of superiority, the Jezebel must feel more powerful and more important than others around them. This becomes threatened when someone else appears to have something that the Jezebel is lacking. With a contemptuous demeanor, the Jezebel begins to shame those who have what they do not.

For example, a person with the Jezebel spirit may be riding in your brand new car, feeling envious because they can’t afford one. They immediately bring up a comment denigrating your new possession. “Is this the same model that they’re recalling because of faulty brakes?”

Envy can cause someone with the Jezebel spirit to exaggerate in being helpful. This can make them appear to be very useful to someone who is in power or to an organization. This tool of people pleasing is a way for some with the Jezebel spirit to get their foot in the door.

As their web of networking expands, they’re ready to spring their trap. Through artful seduction and deception, power and control is drawn from the leader that once felt secure and safe.
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**Entitlement:** A Jezebel spirit does not seem to understand the concepts of mutuality and reciprocity. They display unreasonable expectations of particularly favorable treatment and automatic compliance. They feel they are entitled to have whatever they want, do whatever they want, whenever they want.

This is because of the fantasy bubble in which they are living. They see their needs as greater than anyone else’s. They may seem interested or uninterested in your requests, but rarely will they act on them. On occasion, to keep you in their supply line, they will feed you a few crumbs.

Your job however, is to meet their needs. So, Jezebel spirits are likely to see others as objects that are there to meet the needs of the Jezebel. Any failure in meeting their needs can result in triggering anger and self-righteous indignation. A more aggressive Jezebel can become violent during these periods.

Jezebels have trouble controlling their aggressive impulses. Their anger or rage can intensify during power struggles. During these times of intense arousal they can whip themselves up into an aggressive frenzy, acting just like a child who is having a temper tantrum.

**Exploitation:** A person with a Jezebel spirit takes selfish and unfair advantage of others. They typically exploit without much thought. The Jezebel exploits as if they have a moral right.

Because of their need for superiority, the Jezebel spirit can only have unequal relationships. This means that the one in relationship with the Jezebel is the only one investing into the relationship. The investment can be spiritual, emotional, physical, social or all of the preceding.

A victim’s intrinsic value decreases proportionately with the increase of the Jezebel’s value. Or, to put it simply, once you’ve been sucked dry by the Jezebel emotionally or materially and you have nothing more to offer them, they throw you away.

**Bad Boundaries:** Do you know what makes up who you are? Each one of us is made up of spiritual, emotional (mind, will, intellect, thoughts, beliefs), and physical (brain and body), dimensions. There's an additional dimension which has to do with the space that we take up in our environment – the social dimension. All of these components make up our sense of “Self.”

Recognizing where our sense of self begins and ends along with the recognition of where others begin and end are the boundaries of our lives.

“They define what is me and what is not me. A boundary shows me where I end and someone else begins, leading me to a sense of ownership. Knowing what I am to own and take responsibility for gives me freedom. Taking responsibility for my life opens up many different options. However, if I do not “own” in my life, my choices and options become very limited.”

When a Jezebel or anyone else, takes selfish and unfair advantage of my space, they are essentially violating my boundaries.

Boundaries help to “guard our heart with all diligence.” In Matthew 7:6, Scripture tells us that we are to guard our treasures and not to cast our pearls before swine. Boundaries help us to keep the good stuff in and the bad stuff out.

Even God differentiates Himself from others teaching us that He has boundaries. He limits what He will allow and confronts what He does not allow. “He guards His house and will not allow evil things to go on there. He invites people in who will love Him, and He lets his love flow outward to them at
When boundaries are violated, exploitation occurs – intentional or not. God is teaching us by example the importance of establishing and maintaining safe boundaries from the potential exploitation by selfish individuals such as those with the Jezebel spirit/attitude.

There are times when we may allow someone to infringe upon our boundaries. For example, I may loan you $10 with the expectation that you will repay me in one week. As the weeks go by however, I received no repayment. I could choose to be confrontational in seeking reimbursement or merely forget about it.

**Suffering:** At this point I feel that I should give a quick reminder regarding the Biblical principle of **Suffering.** Whether it be through persecution, testing, trials, or tribulations we will go through suffering. We are supposed to go the extra mile when dealing with others. Part of the purpose for doing so is to demonstrate God’s love and respect of others. However, there are those who would take advantage by abusing God’s love that is given through His believers. Those who serve God faithfully while they are experiencing suffering will take on a different attitude about sin. The powerful grip of sin no longer controls them (1Peter 4:1).

Suffering does not mean that we should allow others to violate us if it is within our power to act. If we are harmed after doing good things, we are to have faith that Christ suffered along with us. When we are powerless to act, God will make right the wrong. “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats nor be troubled.’ ...Be ready to give defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.” (1Peter 3:13-17 NKJ)

In both possible situations my boundary was violated. In one case I allowed it, while in another I stood my ground and made it clear that reimbursement was expected and perhaps even established some consequences.

In either case I've been selfishly and unfairly taken advantage of leading to a violation of my boundaries. Being passive and allowing boundary violations to happen over and over again will only lead to greater exploitation, as most parents learn with their testing children.

Violation of boundaries, whether permitted or not, damages our sense of Self. Allowing someone to take advantage of me, however slight, over a period of time can cause me to lose my sense of identity, not to mention my patience.

Poor boundary definitions can prevent me from distinguishing myself as separate from another individual. This leads to an abnormal enmeshment with unhealthy people and life-styles.

Children begin to develop the sense of separate identity often times between the ages of three to six. Within a dysfunctional family dynamic a child is not allowed to become a separate individual. The child's boundaries are constantly being violated by the controlling or neglectful parent.

**WITHIN THE JEZEBEL’S FAMILY**

“Villainy wears many masks, none so dangerous as the mask of virtue.” Virtue is the mask most often worn by the Jezebel within the
family. Powerlessness, helplessness, and confusion are common intense negative emotions found within their families.

Dysfunctional family dynamics are hidden behind a façade of a superior family. The reason for this is that a Jezebel lacks the internal emotional mechanisms to have healthy relationships. In their home, the Jezebel rules the roost. The only exception is when there are two Jezebels married to each other.

You will not find a lot of happy faces in these homes. Who likes to be criticized, shamed, and condemned almost every day of the week? To not reflect the idealistic expectations of the Jezebel is to instill their wrath.

Within these homes the children are prisoners of the soul – they can only fantasize freedom. They have no rights befitting their family position, only the rights bequeathed to them to meet the needs of the Jezebel.

The family is the Jezebel’s primary source of supply. The marital partner and children become entitlement objects. Objects have no rights and exist to meet our needs. We will care for our objects to the point that they are meeting our needs. If they require too much attention or are constantly breaking down, we throw them away for another.

Fortunately, you can’t throw away a child without drawing a lot of bad attention. Unfortunately, if the marital partner does not meet the Jezebel’s expectations, out they go in a vicious divorce. The Jezebel will usually portray themself as a poor victim of the partner’s lack of integrity and responsibility.

Children are motivated to identify with the Jezebel by treating the uncooperative child as a “black sheep.” This child no longer feels special and questions if there is something wrong with them. Eventually, the child feels different than the rest of the family, accepting the black sheep label.

There are, however, a few families made up of all Jezebels, but one. When two Jezebels find one another in marriage, their children have no chance. To survive the children take on the identity of the strongly paired parents. But, all the children are not necessarily strong enough to maintain the exceptional pretense of perfection.

The child who does not meet the idealized perceptions of the Jezebel parents will be picked on by the entire family. The child is bullied by the parents and siblings. In some families it can get so bad that it resembles a shark feeding frenzy as they gorge themselves on their own wounded.

Children who fall in line and identify with the Jezebel have a higher probability of becoming one in adulthood.

Some children who are bullied may become adults who will be “passive Jezebels.” It is important to note that not all children raised by a Jezebel spirit will take on the same spirit/attitude. Certainly, most if not all will suffer lasting emotional/relational damage to one degree or another.

**HOW DO YOU SPEAK TO A JEZEBEL?**

“Very Carefully!!!”

An individual with the Jezebel Spirit is often seen attaching themselves to the pastor or an authority figure. For this reason, it becomes extremely difficult, if not impossible for anyone other than the pastor or authority figure to deliver the church or organization from this destructive spirit.

Most Jezebels have been damaged in early childhood. This means that they are emotionally and relationally underdeveloped. When they are upset, they relate like a small child. Think of the person as a “two-year-old.” If you are going to get anything across to them, you must speak like a parent to a child, with loving firmness and fairness.

I often use the acronym SET. “S” stands for Support, “E” Empathy, and “T” Truth. Support – “I am not your enemy.” Empathy – “I understand how you could be upset by this.” Truth – “But the reality is that when you yell people will pull away.”
As parents we should not allow our children to draw us into power struggles. When speaking to a Jezebel they will do their best to provoke you. Say what you have to say with loving firmness and don’t feel like you have to have the last word. Believe me; they won’t give you the satisfaction of having the last word.

“We have already discussed that. I’m not going to debate it with you.” Walk away if you have to. They may pitch a temper tantrum like a two year old, but the healthy parent doesn’t give in to the tantrum. When the Jezebel knows that you mean “No,” they may test you, but they will be more respectful of you in the future.

Confronting this spirit without a well-thought-out plan will be met with stern condemnation. Once the Jezebel spirit has become stronger than the one they are targeting it is as if the “strongman” has been stripped of his armor – “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils...The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” (Luke 11:21-22; John 10:10 NIV)

HOW DOES THE SECULAR WORLD SEE THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT?

In the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual (DSM-IV-TR) there are “clinical” descriptions of psychological and emotional disorders. Toward the end of the manual are listed Personality Disorders. A personality disorder is when someone’s character has become significantly distorted from what is considered culturally normal.

The defense mechanisms of these individuals have become abnormally hypersensitive and inflexible. It is within these personality disorders that the “World” might identify a Jezebel spirit in secular terms.

As a former psychiatric unit therapist, psychiatric assistant, and instructor, I am very familiar with the clinical characteristics of these disorders.

Within the listing of Personality Disorders there are the A, B, & C, Clusters. Within my own experiences I have most often seen Jezebel characteristics found in the Cluster B grouping; Borderline Personality Disorder, Histrionic Personality Disorder, Narcissistic Personality Disorder, and Antisocial Personality Disorder. I also see Obsessive Compulsive Personality Disorder in some Jezebel Spirits.

Below are highlights of these personalities and should not be considered as being complete descriptions.

**Borderline personality** is described as having an all-encompassing pattern of unstable relationships, poorly defined sense of self, damaging mood swings, and very poor self-control. These characteristics will usually begin early in life.

**Histrionic personality** is described as having an all-encompassing pattern of exaggerated emotions, with a sweeping need to be the center of attention in all venues of life.

**Narcissistic personality** is described as having an all-encompassing pattern of an overly inflated sense of self, exaggerated behavior, and need to be admired. They are lacking the means to understand or sympathize with others.

**Antisocial Personality** is described as having an all-encompassing pattern of disdain for authority. They believe they are entitled to have or do whatever it is they need. They rationalize to themselves why it is alright to lie, cheat, steal, or be violent. They will often act as if they have no consideration for the rights of others.

**Obsessive-Compulsive Personality** (OCP) falls into the Cluster C group of personality disorders. This is not to be mistaken with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder which is an “affective” problem that falls into the area of Anxiety Disorders. OCP is
described as having an all-encompassing pattern of obsessing with being methodical, orderly, and in control. Whatever they fixate on has to be done to their level of perfection. They are Kings and Queens who are to be served.

There is one other personality disorder that I often see in this grouping of a Jezebel spirit. Personality Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified (NOS) is described as having a mixture of the above personalities. There are not enough traits of any single personality disorder to meet the criteria for that disorder.

A severe Codependent person would fall into this category. I often see what I would call a Passive-Jezebel Spirit in this personality area. A passive-Jezebel is one who is highly manipulative. They will display many of the same traits as a genuine Jezebel, but they will behave in a more passive-aggressive or non-confrontational manner in order to get what they want.

All of the above personalities will usually be seen forming by youth or young adulthood. Having any of these personality disorders does not mean that someone has a Spirit of Jezebel. However, if this sadistic spirit/attitude takes root, it will most often do so in someone with one or more of the above listed personalities.

ARE TERRORISTS JEZEBELS?

According to Homeland Security articles, "Terrorism researchers have generally concluded that most terrorists are not initially psychopaths, that most terrorists are not obviously or consistently mentally ill, and that there is as of yet no identified universal terrorist personality pattern."

However, I believe that terrorist leaders, such as Osama Bin Laden, are idealists. The terrorist leader depicts the Jezebel’s lofty goals and rejects practical considerations in favor of the pursuit of their perfect will.

Terror and death inflates the narcissistic bubble of the terrorist leader. The followers have been seduced into believing the ideals of the Jezebel leader to be righteous enough to sacrifice their own lives for the cause.

A terrorist leader has an Antisocial Personality Disorder – aka sociopath or psychopath. They use violence or the threat of violence – kidnappings, bombings, assassinations – to intimidate their targets, often for political reasons.

Most Jezbels that I run across do not appear to have a conscience. Certainly, the terrorist leader evokes terror and death upon innocent victims and justifies it using a political or religious axiom.

They have no feelings of guilt or remorse for their actions. They appear to not have any concern for their own family members, friends, or especially strangers. If they speak of guilt it is an outward mask which hides a cold and ineffectual inward self.

Can you imagine yourself with no shame, guilt, or conscience? What would restrain you from doing whatever you want? When I was in Seminary, a favorite quote spoken by many was "Absolute power absolutely corrupts."

Terrorist leaders with a Jezebel spirit are spin-masters. They will have trouble dealing with reality because of the fantasy bubble which insulates them from "Truth."

They have to justify their maladaptive and violent behavior because so many are saying they are wrong. Their minds will not allow them to see the "Truth," so they rationalize their lies and "project" their evil self onto others.

Projection is a frequently used defense mechanism of people who can’t face the truth about themselves or their organization. The defense mechanism projects the “badness” onto someone or something else. They see it in the other. Mental illness is the most frequently projected trait; “You are crazy...delusional...psychotic...etc...”
Projection often shifts the blame to others for what the terrorist and/or Jezebel is doing; “Your people massacred the American Indians.” The truth is spun until confusion and doubt is put into the minds of their opponents. What is real becomes harder to distinguish, leading many people to believe the distorted reality – lie – over the truth.

The Jezebel with an Antisocial Personality Disorder has no restraint. They are free to do what they want when they want. They have an intoxicating “secret.” The secret is that they are the only one who knows that they don’t care if they are lying, stealing, killing, or bombing.

A Jezebel terrorist has the ability to sway many people with his propaganda. Add money, religion, and weapons to the mix and you have a psychopathic cocktail empowering the idealistic terrorist leader.

A Jezebel, like a psychopath, has great trouble in experiencing life normally. Combine the Jezebel with a psychopathic personality and you have a malevolent idealist with no self-restraint who, because of a nagging sense of emptiness or superficiality of life, will eventually turn to hazardous, self-damaging, bizarre exploits in order to find something fresh and stimulating resulting in an illusion of satisfaction.

God in His infinite wisdom knew the end times would bring about evil people doing evil things.

In the Parable of the Wheat & Tares (Mt 13:24-30; 37-43) Jesus said that good and evil must grow together to full maturity. The weeds – tares – closely resemble wheat during the growing season. The weeds are poisonous to people. It is not until the final fruit appears that weeds can become distinguishable from the wheat. Farmers wait until just before the wheat harvest to separate the wheat from the weeds.

The terrorists and Jezebels of this world will only be identified fully when Jesus Christ returns. Only when God is ready to bring the fullness of His Kingdom will He separate the good people – believers – from evil people.

Here is what Scripture tells us concerning those who would spread terror.

**YOU ARE A CHOSEN VESSEL, NOT AN OBJECT!!!**

God created us to be social creatures. He knew that it wasn’t good for us to be alone. Bad boundaries began when the Accuser was able to exploit Adam and Eve and it has been passed along to every generation since then.

Adults with a poor sense of self, are prevented from being able to recognize that boundaries are being violated. To the one with a controlling spirit of Jezebel others are seen as objects to meet the Jezebel’s needs. An object does not have needs and therefore peoples boundaries are minimized or nonexistent to the Jezebel. This is how a Jezebel will moralize their own misbehaviors.

In the mind of the Jezebel, there is no boundary between SELF and others. Have you ever noticed how sometimes when you question someone who has violated your boundary they appear annoyed or even puzzled? That is because they have become accustomed to boundary intrusions and think you are making “a big deal out of nothing.”

Whether I have a weak or strong identity, a truly healthy identity can only come about when it is Christ-centered. Having a Christ-centered identity not only gives me a sense of purpose, but it also makes me aware that I am “special.” Feeling special is to know that I am loved.

You are God’s child, whom He created and loves. You were beautifully and wonderfully made. He knows you intimately and perfectly. Scripture assures us that through His Son Jesus Christ, you are known by God who loves you. Through God’s eyes you are seen as acceptable and loveable. Criticism, shame, and condemnation are not coming from the God of your creation. Learn
to recognize the lies and believe what God has to say instead of the critics in your life.

Author John Paul Jackson (2002) writes the following about the spirit of Jezebel:

"In Scripture, the word most often used for witchcraft is the Hebrew word anan, which means to cover or to act covertly. This is exactly what the Jezebel spirit does. Although an individual may not be a practicing witch, nor a mature Jezebelite with the aim of destroying a church or pastor, he or she may still have a spirit of witchcraft.

A person can be a Christian and operate in the spirit of witchcraft without realizing it. This spirit has long been hibernating in the Body of Christ. Sadly, it operates through some of the Lord’s chosen vessels. Even mature prophetic or intercessory individuals can periodically operate under the influence of this spirit, if there are doors that remain open through old wounds. Evidences of these wounds not being healed would include struggling with feeling overlooked, undervalued, or rejected. Or struggling with bitterness, criticalness, and anger...

Such individuals will readily sense an accusing, critical, or judgmental attitude towards them. This will quickly shut the door to any ministry of restoration. To minister deliverance will require great compassion. Remember, ministry succeeds when God initiates it and when His skill and wisdom are present."\textsuperscript{17}

\textbf{Scripture Quotes Relating To Terrorism & The Jezebel}

"Do not be afraid of any man, for judgment belongs to God (Deut. 1:17)...Do not be terrified by them, for the Lord your God who is among you, is a great and awesome God (Deut. 7:21)...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6)..." (See Attachment for a more complete list of Scriptures)

\textbf{WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY OF THE JEZEBEL?}

Too often, the Jezebel spirit is allowed time to thrive in an atmosphere of tolerance. The main message to the church of Thyatira gives us a clear warning from God about the attitude of Jezebel in the church.

"Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira. This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are bright like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze:

"I know all the things you do – your love your faith; your service; and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things. But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman – that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet – to lead my servants astray. She is encouraging them to worship idols, eat food offered to idols, and commit sexual sin. I gave her time to repent, but she would not turn away from her immorality. Therefore, I will throw her upon a sickbed, and she will suffer greatly with all who commit adultery with her, unless they turn away from all their evil deeds. I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve. But I also have a message for the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching (‘deeper truths,’ as they call them – depths of Satan, really). I will ask nothing more of you except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come. (Revelations 2:18-25 NLT)

The message is setting a limit to tolerance. This scripture is telling us that something or someone has been tolerated that should not have been.

The Jezebel of the Bible was a very scheming person. She would stir up her husband, Ahab, into doing evil. She stopped at nothing to get her way.
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.” (1 Kings 20:25 NKJV)

This same spirit that operates in like-minded Christians will steal, kill, and destroy. In the end, God is more powerful and He will have the final Word.

We do not have to tolerate a Jezebel spirit in whatever setting it may be found. Don’t let a Jezebel intimidate or scare you! Hold onto the truth of God’s Word and He will do your battling. When we reject God, we will always be led into ruin. Elijah remained committed to God. Jezebel was committed to herself and her false god. Eventually, Jezebel was eaten by dogs; Ahab repented and God forgave him. (1 Kings 21:23-29)

ATTACHMENT

Scripture Quotes Relating To Terrorism & The Jezebel Spirit

*Text is New International Version (NIV) unless specified.

"...His eyes are on the ways of men. He sees their every step. There is no dark place, no deep shadow, where evildoers can hide (Job 34:21,22)...O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure (Psalm 7:9)...The Lord foils the plans of the nations. He thwartsthe purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations (Ps 33:10, 11)...An oracle is in my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: there is no fear of God before his eyes. For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin. The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; he has ceased to be wise and do good; even on his bed he plots evil; he commits himself to a sinful course and does not reject what is wrong (Ps 36:1-4)...threats...conspiracy...sharpened tongues...ambush...no fear...evil plans...plotting injustice, etc. (Ps 64)...There are six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren (Pr 6:16-19 NKJV)...Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails (Pr 19:21)...Tyranny will be far from you; you will have nothing to fear. Terror will be far removed...no weapon forged against you will prevail (Isa 54:14-17)...In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or Me. I have told you this so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you (Jn 16:2-4)...Savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the Truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard (Acts 20:29-31)...watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naïve people (Ro 16:17-19 NKJV)...Rather we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God (2Co 4:2)...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame (Ph 3:18,19)...For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work (2Th 2:7-12)...If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but...
is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself (1Tm 6:3-5)...But know this: That in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away (2Tm 3:1-5)...In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and imposters will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived (2Tm 3:12,13)...To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him (Ti 1:15,16)...But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber (2Pt 2:1-3 NKJV)...These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage (2Pt 2:17-19 NKJV)...do not let anyone lead you astray...He who does what is sinful is of the devil...this is how we know who the children of God are (1Jn 3:7-10 NKJV)...Do not be surprised if the world hates you...no murderer has eternal life in him (1Jn 3:13-15)...test the spirits...every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God...this is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood (1Jn 4:1-6)...For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist (2Jn 7 NKJV)...do not imitate what is evil but what is good...anyone who does what is evil has not seen God (3Jn 11)...Yet these men speak abusively...like unreasoning animals...wore to them...without fruit and uprooted – twice dead...they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage...scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires (Ju 10-19)...To the Angel of the Church in Thyatira...you tolerate that woman Jezebel... (Re 2:18-29)...but woe to the earth...because the devil has gone down to you...He is filled with fury because he knows that his time is short (Re 12:12)...
9 Johnny Depp spoke this line in the Paramount Pictures horror movie Sleepy Hollow, 1999.


