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# Elijah flees; God reveals his glory

Week 4 - 1 Kings 19:1-18

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## Jezebel

“Jezebel has stamped her name on history as the representative of all that is designing, crafty, malicious, revengeful, and cruel. She is the first great instigator of persecution against the saints of God. Guided by no principle, restrained by no fear of either God or man, passionate in her attachment to her heathen worship, she spared no pains to maintain idolatry around her in all its splendour. Four hundred and fifty prophets ministered under her care to Baal, besides four hundred prophets of Asherah, which ate at her table” *Easton’s Bible Dictionary*

King Ethbaal was a priest of Asherah, who murdered his predecessor King Pheles, and made his own way to the throne and kingdom. [Tyrian Annals of Menander]

Pattern from which Jezebel came: one which drew from demonic forces, one which ruthlessly sought power and control, seeking to destroy and tear down legitimate authority and anything that stands in the way of their objectives and ends.

## Revelation 2:18-23

**18** “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. **19** I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

**20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.**

**21** I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. **22** So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. **23** I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

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## Characteristics of Jezebel spirit

1. Hatred for genuine spiritual authority, particularly the prophetic - the defining hallmark. (It may not be obvious this hatred is there because of other characteristics)
2. Seeks to undermine and ultimately destroy godly leadership.
3. Highly manipulative; excels in leading others astray, campaigning, building a following and gaining supporters to its cause.
4. Often appears highly spiritual. It offers spiritual leadership which is negative and destructive to all who become entangled in it.
5. Powerful and very intimidating, difficult to confront, great at engendering fear in others and loyalty out of fear. Creates an atmosphere of anxiety and insecurity, disproportionately affecting leaders.
6. Often sexual immorality is linked with this issue, seduction may be used, boundaries blurred, loose living encouraged, even affairs engaged in. The Jezebel spirit leads believers out of relationship with God and into compromise.
7. As with all the enemies schemes, lies, accusations, confusion, division and all round destruction follow when the problem is not addressed and repentance does not occur.

**19:3**

**Why was Elijah afraid/worn out/suicidal?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Elijah follows the pattern of Abraham and Moses

### 1 Kings 19:3-4a

Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, **he left his servant there, 4** while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness.

### Exodus 24:1-2

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to the Lord, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, **2 but Moses alone is to approach the Lord**; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."

### Genesis 22:5

**5** He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

## Parallels with Christ

### 1 Kings 19:7-8

**7** The **angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him** and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." **8** So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled **forty days and forty nights** until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

### Matthew 4:1-2, 11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit **into the wilderness** to be tempted by the devil.  
**2** After fasting **forty days and forty nights**, he was hungry...  
**11** Then the devil left him, and **angels came and attended him.**

### 19:9 - God's call to Elijah to reassess...

...And the word of the Lord came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

### Genesis 3:9

**9** But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

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19:11-14

**Exodus 16-19**

16 On the morning of the third day there was **thunder and lightning**, with a **thick cloud** over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was **covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire**. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and **the whole mountain trembled violently**. 19 As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

19:12

After the fire came...

...a gentle whisper (NIV)

...a sound of sheer silence (NRSV)

...a still small voice (NKJV)

Hebrew is literally something like 'a thin subdued voice/sound'

**19:15 - Elijah's recommission**

15 Then **the Lord said to him: "Go**, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael *as* king over Syria...

**Matthew 28:16-19a**

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. 17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

18 And **Jesus came and spoke to them, saying**, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 **Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations...

**John 20:19-21**

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again **Jesus said**, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, **I am sending you.**"

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**Acts 1:6-8**

**6** Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

**7 He said to them:** “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**”