

Revelation 2:18-29 (NIV) "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 prophetess. 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. ²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): ²⁵ Only hold on to what you have until I come.

²⁶ To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations-- ²⁷ 'He will rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery'-- just as I have received authority from my Father.

²⁸ I will also give him the morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 2:18-29 (NIV) "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.

Words from Jesus

Again... eyes like blazing fire (penetrating)... feet like burnished bronze (He's been thru the fire/tested/approved).

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.

Jesus' intimate knowledge (their deeds, love, faith, service, perseverance)

Remember, Jesus knows your deeds or not, love or not, faith or not, service or not, perseverance or not)!

All of that so much so, that he knows they're doing more than they did at first.

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

"I HAVE." I hold something against you that I take very personally.

ISRAEL'S CURRENT WAR. According to *Reuters News Service*, a "careful campaign of deception" enabled "the worst breach in Israel's defenses since Arab armies waged war in 1973." The attack followed two years of subterfuge that kept Hamas's military plans under wraps while convincing Israel it did not want a conflict. According to a source near Hamas, Israel was led to believe it was containing Hamas by providing economic incentives to Gazan workers. All the while, the group's fighters were being trained and drilled, often in plain sight.

Hamas even constructed a mock Israeli settlement in Gaza where they practiced a military landing and trained to storm it. They even made videos of their maneuvers. At the same time, they convinced Israel that they were more concerned about ensuring Gaza workers had access to jobs across the border. An Israeli army spokesman said, "They caused us to think they wanted money. And all the time they were involved in exercises/drills until they ran riot."

THIS IS HOW SATAN WORKS – He seeks to convince you he's with you...when he's not. He prepares, schemes, draws in the people to help him carry out his plan, then when ready, attacks!

Jesus declares to Thyatira a weakness – "I have this against you!" You're not doing what I instructed you to do!

YOU TOLERATE JEZEBEL – Permit, give her freedom, let her have influence in the church without dealing with her/that evil spirit!

She... calls herself a prophetess (self-appointed, supposedly **inspired woman**) who seeks to influence others—supposedly for righteous purposes, but her works discourage, divide and seek to destroy. Her influence is NOT fruit of the Spirit – but divisive—sets people against one another.

She either teaches or leads people into false doctrine or compromised living, including sexual immorality thru her subtle seductions. The word for sexual immorality is “porneuo” and means the indulging in unlawful lust—which includes physical, but also spiritual fornication (giving yourself to something/someone other than Jesus).

Psalm 106:39 (NKJV) Thus they were defiled by their own works, And played the harlot by their own deeds.



Thyatira renowned for its trade guilds or unions, the center of much of the city's social and business life. **To not attend** these might affect their employment and relationships with their neighbors. Many of the socials became drunken and had immoral parties. Believers who were present became attracted to the opposite sex and caught up in the immoral affairs just like everyone else.

In Revelation 17:2 (NIV) it says, “With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.” Possibly sexually...but surely her wicked ways.

Believers wanted to “belong,” so they put jobs and human acceptance before God. This included social drinking and dance, participating in the activities of their co-workers. The end result was bound to happen: **immorality**. **The false** teaching of Jezebel that believers need not separate themselves from the world, led to a compromised, weakened church. Jesus hated this and wanted the pastor to inform the church that they must repent... or else!

JEZEBEL IN REVELATION 2 WAS NOT THE JEZEBEL OF THE OT. BUT THE SAME SPIRIT IN OPERATION.

STORY OF JEZEBEL IN 1 KINGS 21.

King Ahab sought to obtain a vineyard for his own vegetable garden. Naboth didn't want to part with his **inheritance**. When his wife Jezebel saw him sulking because he couldn't get what he wanted, Jezebel, **disgusted at him**, said she would get it for him. Ahab's weakness opened the door for the evil that Jezebel then pursued... When she was told she couldn't have what she wanted, she sought revenge. She wrote letters in Ahab's name (usurping his authority—she made him speak in her behalf), saying, **“In her letters she commanded: “Call the citizens together for fasting and prayer, and give Naboth a place of honor. ¹⁰ And then seat two scoundrels across from him who will accuse him of cursing God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death.” 1 Kings 21:9-10 (NLT2)**

In the pretense of religion/righteousness, she ordered a day of fasting (She acted like a God-follower—yet followers don't set people up to take them down). This letter was sent to elders/nobles in Naboth's city (those who had jurisdiction or authority over Naboth). **In the cloak** of justice—acting as if hers was a righteous cause—she bribed 2 men to be false witnesses (people who only took her word for it) to join her in her cause). They used the false pretext of a religious fast, showing concern that some criminal was loose in the city (cursed God and king).

Hypocritically she said the offender must be exposed or God's judgment would fall upon all of them!

Her desired end was to take Naboth out—have him stoned! **She wanted** something she was told she couldn't have, so she was going to do anything she needed to do to get what she wanted.

This is the “Jezebel spirit,” a common demonic spirit that nations deal with, individuals deal with, marriages deal with, and the church deals with. Although Jezebel was a woman in the Old Testament, the demonic spirit that influenced her can operate through females and males.

COMMON TRAITS OF THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT INCLUDE:

Someone who has to have control, so they try to control you... manipulate you.

Wives who try to control their husbands – using their words, and either withholding or using sex to manipulate.

IF MAMA AIN'T HAPPY, NOBODY IS HAPPY... That's NOT the Spirit of God!

Men who try to manipulate by intimidation, guilt, anger, sarcasm.

This is a spirit very familiar to Tammy and me.

We've experienced this in our home church 40 years ago, in our first place of ministry, and in church ministry here in Delphi periodically over the last 33 years.

We also experienced this in our home. When we adopted, the parents, other relatives, & some friends of our adopted kids abused their authority (abuse—verbal/physical and more). Therefore, in the kids' minds, those who were in control hurt them, so no one will ever do that again—I will never be controlled, therefore, I will always be in control. SINCE THEY WERE NOT APPOINTED TO, OR GIVEN AUTHORITY, IT MUST BE MANIPULATED TO TRY TO GET.

As parents, we were responsible for leading them in the ways of the Lord. The problem was we were to lead.

So, the Jezebel spirit resists the leader...works against the leader, has a wicked tongue, justifies herself in all she does...comes across as the righteous one while treating you as the wicked one.

While she tries to brainwash you, she accuses you of trying to brainwashing her, and others.

There is no end to her manipulation. She becomes wicked, undermining and a constant drag on you.

REMEMBER THIS CAN OPERATE THROUGH A MAN OR A WOMAN, or, a demonic spirit that won't leave you alone.

In a family, a person, or a church, when a fresh wave of God's Spirit approaches, Satan enlists and mobilizes opposition. It's as if he senses it—knows it by our preparation, our conversations, etc.

Like your phone... you say something and then begin seeing ads that relate to what you were just talking about.

Jezebel (demonic spirit) hears and responds.

The Jezebel spirit never operates alone. She always has to draw people in—to gain some power/authority she was never delegated to have. She will take a portion of the truth, embellish it, spin it to make it look like something that seems true but is not.

She vilifies her target. Remember, Jezebel must be in control, so she has to tear down anyone who threatens her control... **a child will** tear down and manipulate parent, a husband will try to exercise control over his wife that is not ordained by God, a wife will try to manipulate her husband to give her what she wants or become something she feels he needs to become (MAY BE TRUE, BUT HER METHODS ARE WRONG). **And, a congregation** member will do that to their pastor out of envy or revenge.

This spirit will operate against you. It can make you feel confused, apathetic, like you're in a cloud/a stupor. It can make you feel worthless, even while God tells you that you are of great worth! **Making you** believe the opposite of what is true. When you're battling against that spirit, no matter what you do, it is never enough. **And, the Jezebel** spirit is always right—you are never right. This spirit is happy only when you please it and bow to it. Therefore, you always "walk on eggshells" when around them—you feel like you're required to cater to them.

THIS IS THE SPIRIT THAT OPERATED THROUGH THE TEMPLE OF APOLLO IN DELPHI, GREECE AND HAS HAD A STRONGHOLD IN DELPHI, INDIANA AND OUR SURROUNDING GEOGRAPHY. You see it in our local politics, the school system, etc. And, you're seeing that spirit operating in our national government!!!

IN THE LATE 1970'S **5 CHURCHES IN DELPHI** HAD SPIRIT-FILLED PASTORS: CHURCH OF GOD, CHRISTIAN CHURCH, LUTHERAN CHURCH, METHODIST CHURCH, CATHOLIC CHURCH. THERE WAS A MOVE OF GOD IN THE AREA WITH SALVATIONS, HEALINGS AND MANY TRANSFORMED LIVES. THIS SPIRIT BEGAN TO OPERATE THRU CONGREGATION MEMBERS—OVER A SHORT SOME PASTORS LEFT AS A RESULT OF OPPOSITION, AND ONE GOT CANCER AND IN SHORT ORDER DIED. DON/TERESA MCCALL WAS IN THAT CHURCH. PASTOR CHUCK/MARY WAS IN THAT CHURCH IN THE 1970'S, HERE IN DELPHI. PASTOR CHUCK TOLD ME ONE OF HIS LAST MEETINGS WITH THE PASTOR, HE TOLD CHUCK ... I'M FIGHTING DEVILS HERE CHUCK!

JEZEBEL HATES TO BE EXPOSED! THERE IS NO END TO HER WICKEDNESS...YET SHE CLOAKS IT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. **SHE THINKS** & PORTRAYS HER ACTIONS AS "OF GOD," YET HER SPIRIT IS NOT THE FRUIT OF LOVE. JEZEBEL DIVIDES. GOD DOESN'T DO THAT. **JEZEBEL VILLIFIES** – GOD DOESN'T DO THAT. JEZEBEL USES PEOPLE FOR HER SELFISH MOTIVES. **SHE PREYS** ON THOSE WHO ALSO COME FROM A BACKGROUND WHERE AN AUTHORITY WAS EVIL, CONTROLLING, MANIPULATIVE. HER ACTIONS STEAL, KILL, DESTROY—THE ACTIVITIES OF SATAN. **JEZEBEL MAKES** YOU FEEL OUT OF CONTROL, LIKE YOU'RE NEVER RIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO IT IS NOT ENOUGH.

PUT UP LINK... YOU TUBE: ROBERT MORRIS--THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT ... MARK DRISCOLL: 29 Signs of the Jezebel Spirit
educate yourself so you can fight against this spirit... or not be influence by that spirit to come up against someone.

In 1 Kings 21, God had Elijah pronounce a judgment on Ahab (for allowing this) & on Jezebel for what she did.
Why judgment on Ahab too? Jezebel spirit can only operate where there is an Ahab—a weak person allowing it. A weak husband... a weak wife ...a weak President, a weak pastor/church leadership. Ahab knew what she did... and he didn't stop her. As prophesied, he died exactly where Naboth died... and the dogs & pigs licked up his blood.

Elijah, the prophet announced in 1 Kings 21:20-23 "...I have come because you have sold yourself to what is evil in the LORD's sight {**Ahab did!**}²¹ **So now** the LORD says, 'I will bring disaster on you and consume you. I will destroy every one of your male descendants, slave and free alike, anywhere in Israel!²² **I am** going to destroy your family as I did the family of Jeroboam son of Nebat and the family of Baasha son of Ahijah, for you have made me very angry and have led Israel into sin.'²³ "And regarding Jezebel, the LORD says, 'Dogs will eat Jezebel's body at the plot of land in Jezreel.'
This pronouncement came to pass! **LOOK IN 2 KINGS 9**

What about Jeroboam? Because of the evil he did...idolatry... 1 Kings 14:10-11 (NLT2) "I will bring disaster on your dynasty and will destroy every one of your male descendants, slave and free alike, anywhere in Israel. I will burn up your royal dynasty as one burns up trash until it is all gone.¹¹ **The members** of Jeroboam's family who die in the city will be eaten by dogs, and those who die in the field will be eaten by vultures. I, the LORD, have spoken."

NOW BACK TO REV. 2: 21-22 God's Word to the Jezebel in Thyatira... "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.**

GIVEN HER TIME TO REPENT—GIVEN HER SPACE – GOD GIVES US SPACE... WE MUST NOT DELAY.

BED OF SUFFERING – Sickness; her judgment would match her sin—and be a direct result of her sin.
THOSE WHO JOIN HER...WILL SUFFER INTENSELY -- Anguish/pressure... unless they repent of HER ways!

²³ **I will strike** her children dead.

**LIKE PHAROAH'S FIRSTBORN SON TO END THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT – HE WOULDN'T REPENT
AHAB & JEZEBEL'S SON WOULD PAY FOR THEIR SIN, WITH HIS LIFE.**

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. **RESISTING GOD...REBELLION WILL HAVE SEVERE CONSEQUENCES.**

**HOWEVER, WITH GOD... RESTORATION, NOT PUNISHMENT IS WHAT HE IS SEEKING.
AND...AS SEVERAL ARE STUDYING JOHN BEVERE'S "AWE OF GOD" SERIES, GOD WANTS THE CHURCHES TO KNOW HE SEARCHES HEARTS AND MINDS. KNOWING THAT SHOULD HELP KEEP US ON TRACK.**

²⁴ **Now I say** to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you):²⁵ **Only hold on to what you have until I come.**

²⁶ **To him** who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—
Overcomes—the seduction, immorality, drunken & loose parties, idolatry, false teaching...living/serving Jesus!
Authority over nations – to rule and reign with Jesus. **Don't have to usurp it, God will give it to you!**

²⁷ **'He will** rule them with an iron scepter; he will dash them to pieces like pottery' -- just as I have received authority from my Father.²⁸ **I will also give him the morning star.**

Rev. 22:16 calls Jesus "the Bright and Morning Star." You'll get Jesus for all eternity!!!

²⁹ **He who** has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **TRANSITION TO PRAYER OF UNITY**