

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.

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

TOLERATE – Permit, leave alone, let her have influence without dealing with her/it!

She...

calls herself a prophetess (self-appointed...self-called supposedly inspired woman who desires or believes she deserves a position of leadership/influence)

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

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

Thyatira was renown for its trade guilds or unions. They were 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 were attracted to the opposite sex and caught up in the immoral affairs just like everyone else. Believers were having immoral affairs, committing fornication.

Believers did not want to be misfits, so they put jobs and acceptance before God. This included social drinking and dance, and participating in the activities of their co-workers. The end result was bound to happen: drunken 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 WAS NOT THE JEZEBEL OF THE OT. BUT PROBABLY SOMEONE WHO OPERATED BY THE SAME SPIRIT – 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 sad because of this she said she would get it for him. Ahab's weakness opened the door for the evil that Jezebel's then pursued... She wrote letters in Ahab's name (usurping his authority), 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 over Naboth). In the formality and cloak of justice she bribed 2 false witnesses (she found someone to join her in her cause). 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 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.

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 church ministry periodically over the last 33 years

We experienced this in our home. When we adopted, the parents, other relatives, & some friends abused their authority (abuse—verbal/physical and more). Therefore, in their minds, those who were in control hurt me so no one will ever do that again—I will never be controlled, therefore, I will always be in control.

As parents, we were responsible to lead 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 that...comes across as the righteous one while treating you as the wicked one.

While she tries to brainwash you, she accuses you of 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.

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, therefore she always has to draw people into her way of thinking. She will take a portion of the truth, embellish it, spin it to make it look like something that is not true, but seems true.

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, manipulate parent, a husband will do that to his wife, a wife to her husband, and a congregation member will do that to their pastor.

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.

THIS IS THE SPIRIT THAT OPERATED THROUGH THE TEMPLE OF APOLLO IN DELPHI, GREECE AND HAS HAD A STRONGHOLD IN DELPHI, INDIANA AND ITS SURROUNDING GEOGRAPHY.

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.

CHURCH OF GOD: DON/TERESA MCCALL WAS IN THAT CHURCH OF GOD. PASTOR CHUCK/MARY WAS IN THAT CHURCH. PASTOR CHUCK TOLD ME ONE OF HIS LAST MEETINGS WITH PASTOR DON GREER...PASTOR GREER TOLD HIM CHUCK... I’M FIGHTING DEVILS HERE

JEZEBEL HATES TO BE EXPOSED! THERE IS NO END TO HER WICKEDNESS...YET SHE CLOAKS IT IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. HER THINKS/PORTRAYS HER ACTIONS AS “OF GOD,” YET HER SPIRIT IS NOT THE FRUIT OF LOVE. JEZEBEL DIVIDES.

PEOPLE—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... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jthXLmVtnVI>

ROBERT MORRIS: THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT... educate yourself so you never fall for this spirit

In 1 Kings 21, God had Elijah pronounce a judgment on Ahab (for allowing this) & Jezebel for what she did. Elijah, the prophet announced **1 Kings 21:20-23 (NLT2)** **"...I have come because you have sold yourself to what is evil in the LORD's sight. 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!

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

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.

BED OF SUFFERING – Probably sickness; her judgment would match her sin—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.**

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.

Let him hear that he must separate from the world...never compromise and become corrupted with the sins of the world. Let him never allow a Jezebel—a compromising or corrupt person—to have influence in the church.