

THE DESTRUCTIVE STRONGHOLDS OF JEZEBEL AND AHAB



Eph 6:12: *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens."*

Rev 2:20: *"But I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and by her teaching deceives my servants to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols."*

1. INTRODUCTION

"The spiritual world, with its opposing forces of good and evil, is a world that is in one sense more real and relevant than the natural realm we live in. The kingdom of darkness is waging all-out war against the Kingdom of God and the Bible tells us that as spirit beings, we are caught in a struggle between these two realms. We struggle with "unseen entities" that manifest themselves through people by influencing their thinking - and thereby their actions. In these last days of the Church, the thrust of the enemy is mighty as he tries to establish strongholds in people's minds and seduce our world to come under the control of Jezebel and other evil principalities and powers." (Steve Sampson - Confronting Jezebel (2012), p.29)

"Make no mistake, though. We are at war. Princes and powers are real, and they love nothing better than for us to deny their influence and remain ignorant of their significance." (Steve Sampson – Confronting Jezebel (2012), p. 7)

There probably is no other demonic stronghold that is as completely dominating as that of Jezebel and Ahab. We find them in households, marriages, businesses, friendships, churches and society at large. Their legacy is destruction and they continue down family blood lines causing blood line curses and demonic soul copies ("DSC"s) to enter our souls and bodies (See paragraph 11 underneath). The result is an evil cycle of strongholds from which individuals and families struggle to get free with massively negative and destructive outcomes.

“Dare I say it is one of the most powerful entities, one of the most powerful principalities, in the kingdom of darkness itself?” (Steve Sampson p. 8)

The Jezebel principality has been working through the ages all over the world and was, for example, the main spiritual power behind Adolf Hitler and his destructive Nazi-regime. In the South African context Jezebel also worked in the Broederbond and Ossewabrandwag as well as most other racist and politically dominant organisations. Even in today’s political environment we can see certain political parties and groups showing clear characteristics of the Jezebel principality.

2. WHAT IS “JEZEBEL” AND “AHAB” AND WHERE DO WE FIND THE ORIGIN OF THESE UNHOLY STRONGHOLDS?

It is a demonic stronghold that originated during the Biblical history of King Ahab and his wife, Queen Jezebel (read 1 Kings 16 - 22). Ing (p. 58) is however of the opinion that the first Jezebel and Ahab stronghold had its origin in the Garden of Eden under Eve and Adam. Adam simply tried to shift the blame to Eve and refused to take responsibility for his actions (Gen 3:12) thereby surrendering his God-given authority.

The name Jezebel means: *"unexhalted; without cohabitation"*. Today it has become a world principality and ruler that works through both sexes, male and female.

It is suggested that the demonic power of Jezebel works through 5 cords:

- Religion – legalism and rituals
- Witchcraft
- Sexual perversion – lust (also lust for money, power and influence)
- Compromise – stubbornness and idolatry
- Control, intimidation and manipulation (rooted in rejection)

Jezebel therefore works through witchcraft which comprises of manipulation and control of other people’s will, mind and emotions through demonic power.

In a spiritual context Jezebel became the name for those who are “control-freaks”; that manipulate, control, intimidate and dominate other people.

Ing (p. 56) is of the opinion that Ahab is the more evil of the two. The Bible states that Ahab was the most evil of all the kings of Israel (1 Kings 21:25).

Ahab in contrast became the spiritual name for those who are mostly introvert and passive because they surrender and betray their God-given power and authority.

These two demons (Jezebel and Ahab) seldom work alone and need each other to accomplish their evil plans. They boost each other and usually coöperate as an evil “team” in any given situation.

It should however be emphasized that people who display characteristics of Jezebel or Ahab are not always influenced by a demon. Sometimes it is simply personality traits and thought and action patterns that have been established over years. Darkness in our lives therefore is not always the result of demonic powers, but often the result of our right to free will and reasoning, and our inability to take up our God-given authority.

In severe cases though, it is almost certain that demons (and demonic soul copies (“DSC”s) see par. 11 below) strengthen and maintain the strongholds of Jezebel and Ahab. These cases certainly require the help of disciples of Jesus Christ with the necessary knowledge and experience of the spiritual realm if the individuals are to be healed and delivered.

These unholy strongholds are not confined to a specific gender. A Jezebel therefore can either be male or female and the same for Ahab (man or woman).

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF JEZEBEL

A Person with a Jezebel stronghold in his/her thoughts and/or who is already possessed by a Jezebel spirit usually displays some of the following traits (note that not all of these features need to be present before it can be assumed that a Jezebel stronghold exists):

- This person is usually very charming and flattering and uses their personal charm to control and manipulate you, and at the same time they stab you in the back!
- They usually have strong personalities and are very dominating and influence other people and situations through control, intimidation and manipulation.
- They do not hesitate to lie in order to achieve their unholy goals.
- They are usually very proud and haughty as well as very ambitious.
- They always take credit for any positive outcome even if they did not have any part in it; neither will they give credit where it is due.
- They seldom show gratitude because according to them you owe them the favour or action.
- They always channel their anger and frustration to others (externally). They never take any blame if something goes wrong. They are always innocent.
- They talk down to other people from a height and display a superiority attitude.
- They are aggressive (rather than passive) and tend to be bossy, dominating, rash, arrogant and pushy.

- They are egocentric (bloated self-consciousness) with very little or no sensitivity for the feelings of others.
- They rate their opinions higher than that of others.
- Because Jezebels are control-freaks, they tend to become very jealous for example in relationships or marriage. They want you completely for themselves. Anybody else laying claim on your time becomes an enemy and makes them suspicious.
- They always use someone else to do their dirty work for them or to achieve their own personal agenda.
- They will only treat you kindly and accept you if you can be of benefit to them. As soon as you have served your purpose, they will ignore and avoid you.
- They are very stubborn, mean, jealous and determined. Nothing can stop them from achieving their goal. They are without conscience and the end justifies the means for them (meaning that they will use any evil tactic to get what they want).
- Anyone who dare differ from them or criticise their conduct immediately becomes the enemy because of their own insecurity and low self-image.
- They are NEVER wrong and TOTALLY INCAPABLE of apologising for their conduct. They live in DENIAL, never accepting responsibility for their actions. No matter what you do, it is always wrong and they are always right. With a Jezebel you always lose.
- A Jezebel is usually highly critical of other people because they always want to be the person that looks good and get the glory; so they must pull others down.
- A Jezebel is incapable of complete forgiveness even though they may say they do. On the contrary, they keep book of your mistakes and will use it as ammunition against you in future to manipulate and intimidate you.
- They will mislead and intimidate you to obtain information from you just so that they can later use it against you. They make you feel like you can trust them only to realise your mistake later on.
- They crave conflict and do not hesitate to insult and belittle others. Then they usually blame others for the conflict.
- They operate from the offensive because they are determined to avoid being hurt again. When they feel like they can possibly be hurt or rejected they attack first to hurt the other person rather than to suffer pain or rejection themselves. Their reasoning is: *“I’ve been hurt and therefore I will not allow you to hurt me again”*.
- A Jezebel usually distrusts everybody. Because the people closest to them hurt them so badly, they don’t easily trust anybody.
- Because of their own insecurity they find their identity in recognition, position and status.

- A Jezebel is a narcissist which means that it is all about them and they are never wrong. They are never grateful and feel like the world was created to serve them.
- A Jezebel does not like change unless it specifically serves their purpose. They are not adaptable to other people's needs.
- When a Jezebel does not get his/her way, they usually throw a tantrum – scream, throw things around or cry uncontrollably. They like drama and use it purely for manipulation.
- A Jezebel thinks that they may treat you in any way and say whatever they want but you must always treat them with respect and in utmost love.
- When they feel threatened, they will attack you immediately and even attempt to get as many others as possible to support their attack on you.
- A Jezebel does not like peace and quiet, therefore they will start a fight with the least provocation only to show that they feel they are not receiving enough love and attention.
- They are usually spiritually schizophrenic because one moment they will be talking about the Lord and how they hear from Him and the next they will completely lose it and go ballistic over something quite insignificant.
- A Jezebel can also be a clairvoyant with the help of a familiar spirit. They therefore usually have premonitions and know that something is going to happen even before it happens.
- From a female perspective, a Jezebel is the enemy's answer to a male-dominated society. The Jezebel spirit provides false protection to the woman whose rights has never been protected as a child or who never experienced the protective love of a father or husband. From this lack of love, the woman rebels against the whole loveless system and in the end becomes just like it. *“The controlled becomes the controller and the oppressed the oppressor”*. Such a woman will usually belittle her husband in public while trying to hide or soften it through humour. (The last technique is also used by men with a Jezebel spirit.)
- A sign of the Jezebel spirit's presence in women is also that they could have problems with their female organs and ability to bear children.
- The male Jezebel however controls through fear and intimidation. He becomes dominant in the marriage and uses verbal threats and outbursts of rage to get his way.
- The Jezebel spirit also works strongly in prostitutes through sexual seduction in both men and women.

4. CHARACTERISTICS OF AN AHAB

A Person with an Ahab stronghold in his/her thoughts and/or who is already possessed by an Ahab spirit usually displays some of the following

characteristics (note that not all of these features need to be present before it can be assumed that an Ahab stronghold exists):

- They are usually introverts and passive and afraid to be themselves. That comes from the “fear of man”.
- They avoid conflict at all times and will rather look for the problem within themselves than confront the other person for their wrongful conduct.
- They are keepers of peace rather than peace makers. They conserve the peace at all cost.
- They are people pleasers (try to keep everyone happy) rather than God-pleasers.
- Ahab men are double-minded and therefore love to compromise what is right.
- Ahab men are aloof and do not take up their responsibility and abdicate their position as priest, king and prophet over the family.
- They want to be accepted at all cost and even take the blame for something that they are not responsible for. They always think that they are to blame when things go wrong!
- They will even apologise to someone who has hurt them, to restore the relationship and to be accepted and loved again! Their reasoning is that they are doing the correct thing by restoring peace but in reality they are submitting to the evil forces that are controlling the Jezebel and in the process yield their own convictions and values. They are demeaned and humiliated once again to be the least.
- They channel their rage and frustration internally into themselves. This can eventually lead to emotional and physical illness. They feel like a failure and often end up in depression because they feel so powerless and exposed.
- They do not hold others responsible for the negative effects of their conduct.
- They never defend themselves and will allow others to repeatedly humiliate and insult them.
- They have a low self-esteem and feels like they are the victim.
- They relinquish their own identity in their overwhelming need for acceptance and to fit in.
- An Ahab will suppress their true feelings most of the time. It can however explode eventually and then often toward innocent people. They often say (after a long silence before the storm): *“I do not get mad, I get even”*.
- They have too much mercy for others. They will often forgive without showing the other person (usually a Jezebel) what he/she had done to hurt them. They will forgive without holding the other person accountable for the wrong conduct and that gives the other person (Jezebel) the right to repeatedly do the same wrong.
- They appear like good people but are too good and allow their goodness to be abused and trampled upon.

- An Ahab is usually a martyr and feels sorry for himself without taking the necessary steps to right the wrong.
- Ahab men and women usually attend church to be religiously and socially correct or for personal gain and not out of love for God (this is also true for the Jezebel).

5. DEFENSIVE MEGANISMS USED BY BOTH JEZEBEL AND AHAB

The weapons that a Jezebel or Ahab usually uses for protection are the following:

- **Denial:** A refusal to see and accept the truth (the reality is blocked out) and the person acts as if the circumstances that caused the pain do not exist.
- **Projection:** The transfer of something upsetting in their lives to someone else. They do not recognise their own disfunctionality.
- **Suppression:** The voluntary or involuntary removal of something from the conscious mind to suppress something as if it never happened (although they still remember it).
- **Displacement:** To project a suppressed emotion to someone or something else like kicking the dog for no obvious reason.
- **Opposite reaction:** The suppression of a feeling or impulse and the defence thereof with the opposite reaction in an exaggerated fashion (for example to replace hate with exaggerated loving conduct).
- **Rationalising:** To use false logic to justify your own conduct (for example: *"You accuse me of adultery anyway so I might as well do it."*)
- **Intellectualising:** To strip an experience in which people were hurt of any emotion and to look at it coldly, clinically and intellectually.
- **Pathetic efforts to undo the damage:** For instance when a husband attacks his wife physically and then compensate by giving her flowers.
- **Minimizing/Lessening:** To reduce the importance or significance of something to make it less than it actually is (e.g. a man beats his wife and then blames work-related stress for his conduct).
- **Exaggeration and dramatisation:** When a person exaggerates an experience or circumstance or take it out of context (e.g. the wife asks the husband for some room to sort herself out but then he starts monitoring her every move as if she is planning to leave or cheat on him).
- **Compartmentalising:** To be two or more distinct persons like the man (Jezebel) being a devout Christian and church-goer in public but at home he beats his wife and yells at his kids.
- **Blame-shifting:** To blame others for something the Jezebel is not willing to accept personal responsibility for. The Ahab in contrast can unnecessarily shift the blame onto him/herself when the wheels come off.
- **Exaggerated spirituality:** When the Jezebel never accepts responsibility for their own wrong conduct but claim that God instructed them to do or not do it.

- **Dramatising:** To draw attention to him/herself because of addiction to drama (Jezebel).
- **Filtering:** A victim mentality – the Ahab experiences everything through victim glasses – they experience a false reality when they reinforce the perception of always being a victim.
- **Escapism:** The Ahab finds an escape to avoid the reality, e.g. the wife will be busy in the kitchen repeatedly cleaning the same area while the husband might take up drinking to escape the real problems.
- **People pleasing:** These Ahab people live like chameleons. They try to be everything for everybody to please all people and to always be in everyone's favour.
- **Polarized thinking:** The Jezebel's thoughts constantly jump from one extreme to the other e.g. *"everybody likes me, I'm fantastic"* to *"nobody likes me, I'm useless"*.
- **Over generalisation:** To come to conclusions (Jezebel) about other people without the necessary knowledge to form any kind of opinion (e.g. labelling someone as an "alcoholic" after seeing them with a single drink).
- **Reading of thoughts:** These Jezebels think that he/she automatically knows what others think or need. Conversely they also expect other people to know what they think or need.
- **Personalising:** This Jezebel always compares him/herself with others and indirectly try to break others down to make him/herself feel better.
- **Do's and Don'ts:** These Jezebels have a list of rules of how other people are supposed to act. This leads to unrealistic expectations of themselves and others.
- **Emotional reasoning:** These Jezebels always reason from their wounded emotions and allows those emotions to control their thoughts.
- **Passivity:** These Ahabs surrender their God-given authority by not taking responsibility for their own lives or to satisfy their own emotional needs. Little or no resistance is offered when others are unfair (Ahab).
- **Aggression:** By robbing people of their God-given authority and by not respecting personal boundaries (Jezebel).

6. ORIGIN OF A JEZEBEL

These people usually come from circumstances (such as in a household) where they were very badly hurt and/or experienced serious rejection due to parents' and/or family members' conduct.

Our deepest need is for love and acceptance and our biggest fear is rejection.

They have been wounded in the soul dimension, feel rejected and seriously lack security.

A Jezebel personality or demonic stronghold originates from a lack of love and acceptance, usually during childhood. It is almost certain that people who experienced serious rejection early on in life will develop a Jezebel personality. It can however also result from a very low self-esteem and serious self-doubt.

A Jezebel is therefore in the core a deeply wounded and crushed person suffering from rejection and doubt in themselves as individual.

Joyce Meyer, in her book "Do Yourself a Favor... Forgive" (2012 p. 22) explains how she became a Jezebel: *"Not only was my father violent, my mother never confronted him. She was timid, so she cowered under his abusive authority. Not only did she not protect herself, but she didn't protect me, either. I learned to despise what I saw as weakness in her, and I determined early in life that I would never be weak or let anyone mistreat me. In an effort to protect myself, I became a controller. I thought if I kept everything and everyone under control then I would not get hurt, but of course my behaviour did not work, because it was ungodly. My husband eventually used godly confrontation in our relationship, and although it took time, it helped me change."* Of course, today she is completely delivered from this demonic stronghold (she admits to the fact that her father raped her more than 100 times as a child).

7. ORIGIN OF AN AHAB

An Ahab personality often originates from a home in which either the father or mother (or both) suffered from serious spiritual, emotional and psychological problems. The child grows up in an environment where both parents are perfectionists and workaholics. In their view, the child cannot do anything right. The parents cannot identify with the children before they reach working age. The children eventually start to find their value in what they can do. They feel like a failure because they can do nothing right in their parents' view. For these parents a child only has value as long as he/she can perform. That leads to passivity in the child because of a feeling that nothing he/she does is ever good enough. Such children also experience rejection because they never learned that they have value in themselves and that they are unique individuals.

The Ahab personality can also originate from a marriage where one party (Jezebel) dominates the other and so steals his/her dignity as an individual. The dominated party's self-image and self-esteem constantly diminishes until they simply try to keep the peace and stop believing that they can stand against the wrong in their marriage.

An Ahab therefore suffers from unworthiness, inferiority and low self-esteem.

The root of the Ahab personality is in demonic blindness where Satan destroys people's self-worth to the point where they become impotent and unable to stand up for themselves and to handle conflict and difficult situations.

Passivity is a spiritual problem stemming from the fear of man. Passively giving up your God-given authority is an evil act.

It is important to note that the Ahab personality is not only evil and unholy *per se* but they contribute to further evil by not opposing the evil (Jezebel).

8. DEMONIC INFLUENCE – JEZEBEL AND AHAB

The demonic stronghold in both personalities comes from the pain that they suffered (usually at a young age) and the resultant lack of self-worth and a positive self-image. These people usually make inner vows against those who wounded or hurt them (usually their parents) e.g. *“I will never trust anybody again”* or *“I will never allow somebody to hurt me again”*. This opens a “door” in the spirit for the enemy (demons) and invites them to come in. This normally happens because of unforgiveness towards the person who hurt them. A demon will gain access because of hate or bitterness against the person who caused the hurt or disappointment.

People who got hurt as children start building defence mechanisms for themselves in the soul dimension (to protect themselves from further hurt). E.g. control others to prevent themselves from being controlled. They fear rejection and therefore they start subconsciously to control and intimidate others in order to always get their way. From this insecurity flows suspicion, jealousy and malice. All these emotions in the soul dimension open doors in the spirit for the different demons to gain access to the person’s soul dimension.

When the Jezebel and Ahab demons recognise their own evil character in the person, they will enter the soul dimension and reinforce the existing strongholds.

The rights are therefore granted in the soul dimension before the evil spirits can enter.

9. THE ROLE OF BLOOD LINE CURSES AND DEMONIC SOUL COPIES IN THESE STRONGHOLDS

In our experience as Ignited in Christ we have found that blood line curses of rejection, hurt, insecurity, low self-worth, inadequacy and inferiority, rebellion etc. (combined as blood line curses of Jezebel and Ahab) also plays a very important role in this stronghold and may perhaps explain why some people show tendencies of these strongholds whilst they have not been subjected to serious hurt and rejection themselves. These blood line curses in turn open the door for demons such as Jezebel and Ahab to enter as well as demonic soul copies such as Queen Jezebel (from the Bible) and King Ahab (from the Bible). We find these DSC’s often in people that we minister to!!

10. AHAB AND JEZEBEL – AN UNHOLY ALIANCE

Jezebel spirits prefer to connect with people with an Ahab spirit i.e. people pleasers without backbone who are willing to relinquish their God-given authority, leaving them impotent and unable to stand up for themselves.

In marriage, the Ahab and Jezebel often attract each other due to an unconscious desire for balance in the relationship. A Jezebel (man or woman) will look for a passive Ahab who is so desperate for intimacy that he/she will almost welcome the mistreatment.

In the spiritual realm there exists an invisible (almost magnetic) attraction between them.

An Ahab therefore yields the right to control and dominate to the Jezebel by submitting to him/her.

These passive people may not be evil in themselves but can become allies of evil by not standing against the active evil of the Jezebel. Unconsciously they therefore contribute to the evil of the Jezebel.

11. DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT OF THE JEZEBEL AND AHAB STRONGHOLD IN REAL LIFE

These spirits destroy households, families, relationships, churches, businesses and eventually the wider society. It is especially the Jezebel that plays a dominating role here but the contribution of the Ahab spirit's distinctive contribution must also not be underestimated.

11.1 Ahab (personality)

The Ahab person eventually loses all self-worth and identity. This person is dominated and abused by others and lives a life of defeat.

Passivity usually leads to suppressed rage and because there is no outlet for this rage (it is kept inside) it often leads to depression and other physical and psychological problems.

11.2 Jezebel (personality)

The Jezebel's destructive effect stems from their desire to leave others feeling rejected and to eventually surrender to a feeling of hopelessness. The Jezebel spirit's desire is for you to lose your own identity, God-given authority and self-worth. It wants you to fall into self-pity and a victim mentality.

In serious instances the demonic spirit of Jezebel can cause psychotic behaviour and schizophrenia.

11.3 Masked-temperament

In cases where people were created by God to be social, happy and outgoing and to enjoy interaction with others and to be creative (the so called A personality), the oppression and manipulation by the Jezebel person in his/her life may cause the person to develop a masked-temperament or personality (i.e. withdrawn, passive, unsure, shy and reserved; not willing to venture out or be creative (a so-called D personality)).

11.4 Health – diseases

In woman the Jezebel spirit may cause problems in the reproductive organs and prevent child bearing.

An Ahab stronghold in someone may cause the host (male or female) to develop depression through the constant suppression of frustration and emotions. In severe cases this can eventually lead to bipolar or even manic depression and efforts to commit suicide.

Jezebel can also cause diseases like hypertension and thrombosis.

Suppressed unforgiveness, hate and bitterness as well as self-hate and self-rejection can cause several diseases in both Jezebel an Ahab including several cancers, arthritis, rashes etc.

11.5 Marriages/Relationships and families

Men/fathers who gave up their God-given authority become an Ahab. They live a life of complete passivity without any form of leadership (spiritually or otherwise) to their families.

Woman/mothers who totally surrendered to a dominating husband become an Ahab. They succumbed to a life of passivity and destitute sorrow. They live from day to day caught up in the marriage because of fear.

In many marriages where Jezebel and Ahab reign the woman has sold out for security and the man for sex. Neither is happy or fulfilled and will never experience true intimacy between them. The passive partner chooses to live a lie and pays the price for avoiding confrontation. Both parties are defeated and accept this empty existence without any further external protest. How sad is this in view of the fact that Jesus promised us a life of abundance!

In a marriage with a Jezebel wife, the man becomes passive and surrenders his God-given authority to the wife.

Not every woman taking the lead in a marriage is however a Jezebel. Most women with passive husbands despise his conduct and desire a husband that can take the lead because they do not really want the role of decision maker.

These women are forced into the leadership role because their Ahab husbands simply refuse to do it.

Children growing up in a house with Ahab and Jezebel parents grow up very unsure of themselves and usually despise both parents. The Jezebel parent is despised for dominating the children and stealing their self-worth, and the Ahab parent for not protecting the children from the other parent. Often these children themselves become a Jezebel or an Ahab because of blood line curses and the pain they endured. This mostly turns into a vicious cycle.

According to Ing homosexuality, lesbianism and divorce are some of the more serious outcomes of a stronghold of Jezebel in a household. Abortion in many cases also results from a Jezebel parent.

In our opinion, sexual molesting, incest and rape within families are also the result of the Jezebel and Ahab strongholds.

11.6 Church

Jezebel is not afraid of “religion” (as opposed to a Spirit filled and real relationship with God); on the contrary, Jezebel is often very active in “religion”. It however opposes the true prophets of God and the flow of the Holy Spirit. It also hates true confession of sins, humbleness and intercessory prayer because it opposes their strongholds of pride, stubbornness and haughtiness.

They are always after a position or title through which they can control, manipulate and intimidate. When a Jezebel picks up that a person is too strong to be dominated or controlled he/she will not allow the person in that ministry or church.

In church-related matters, the Jezebel will always try to bring division and conflict so that the flow of the Spirit is hampered. They oppose God’s authority and always push their own agenda by sowing seeds of disunity to eventually undermine the leadership in the church.

When a pastor has these deeply rooted doubts in his soul dimension, he can start isolating himself and he becomes a tyrant who takes no inputs from anybody or accepts no responsibility towards anybody else.

Passive Ahab pastors struggle to stand against people with controlling (Jezebel) spirits. Often this confrontation has far-reaching effects for the pastor because the Jezebel person is often very influential and can turn many people against the pastor. Most passive pastors therefore choose to take no action against such a Jezebel but rather look the other way out of fear for what the Jezebel can do. The work of the Holy Spirit is seriously hampered in such a congregation. It is therefore imperative that all leaders must choose between being “people pleasers” or “God pleasers”. The fear of man is a trap here.

Steve Sampson says on p. 153 ("Confronting Jezebel"): "Some of the most blatant acts of control I have ever seen have emanated from the pulpit. Control through manipulation, intimidation and fear has been used to trap people in a church or in an abusive situation, which is an illegitimate use of divine authority."

On page 160 Steve says: "In God's eyes, perhaps what these leaders (church leaders) are doing is running a business - one that has nothing to do with building His Church. Building a religious organization with a religious name does not always build His Kingdom. As God said to the church at Sardis, "You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead" (Rev. 3:1)"

Richard Ing says on p 53 of his book "Spiritual Warfare" the following about the Jezebels in the church: "The church must deal with Jezebel, or she will kill it with spiritual death. I suspect that many of the problems pastors have in leading the sheep are due to the Jezebel spirit. She will cause church splits, dryness and slumber."

That does not mean that everybody who opposes certain dogma, rituals, church structures and teachings is controlled by a Jezebel spirit. In many instances these people are acting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to oppose the control and manipulation of Jezebel in the church leadership (the reformation during the middle ages through people like Martin Luther is a good example of this).

The Jezebel spirit opposes the true prophetic voice of God. Its goal is to force God's prophets to compromise the true message. The Jezebel spirit aims to bring destructive and false prophets into the church to mislead and harm the church and God's children.

According to Ing (p. 53) the Jezebel person likes to prophesy over others. They pretend to be prophets but they use this as a tool to manipulate and control members because who can argue when someone tells you: "Thus says the Lord"? They however avoid being prophesied over because of fear that their true identity might be exposed and called to renewal. This does not mean that every prophet or Spirit-filled child of God that prophesy is a Jezebel. The gift of discernment must be applied to determine if the prophet is indeed from God or whether his origin is seated in control and manipulation.

Ahab's stronghold among church leaders is usually to compromise God's word in their sermons and discussions with members so as not to offend anybody so that the members can feel good and so maximise donations and other income streams for the church. They fear that preaching the Word in pure form could offend people and that they could lose members and the accompanying income.

In order to discern whether church leaders are under the control of Jezebel/Ahab, members must determine if these leaders are humble and sincere and have a

serving attitude in their calling in the church and amongst the members. (Ing p. 54)

The Jezebel spirit opposes true acceptance of guilt and the consequential reconciliation with God. Where there is no acknowledgement of sin and true remorse, re-birth cannot happen. That causes many people (that are in mere religion without a true relationship with Jesus) to simply see the Kingdom of God but never enter it.

It is the Jezebel spirit that wants us to be misled in the church through all kinds of apparent signs and wonders, even when they clash with God's word or try to replace the Word rather than confirm it. People are easily misled by these false signs because it draws our fleshly nature and can be used to control and manipulate. Jezebel gets us to follow after these signs for the wrong reasons and motivation.

Jezebel is also responsible for the phenomenon that so many people in church get caught up in: An intellectual understanding of God rather than seeking spiritual growth and a true revelation of God.

11.7 Society

The principality of Jezebel is also behind the pornography industry (together with the powers of lust, homosexuality, Asmodee and the love of money (Mammon)).

In the political or any other sphere of society where we see control and manipulation, the spirit of Jezebel operates.

During the time of apartheid the Jezebel spirit operated very strong through the Broederbond, NG Church and the National Party because they coöperated to dominate and manipulate, to the extent that they infiltrated the church to further their own evil goals.

11.8 Business

In business Jezebels are certainly not team players. They operate independently and do not easily share their power or position. They are dedicated only to their own will, plans and opinions.

Should you oppose a Jezebel in business, you certainly will pay a price. That causes fear of conflict in many people which results in them accepting an Ahab mentality. They literally fear the results should they dare to oppose a Jezebel in the workplace.

12. WHAT ARE THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF THE JEZEBEL AND AHAB SPIRITS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM?

Behind the demons of Jezebel and Ahab stand the principalities of Ashtoreth/Astarte (also known as Queen of Heaven) and Baäl. These are the very same demons behind Freemasonry and the Broederbond.

Richard Ing in his book "*Spiritual Warfare*" on page 52 says that the Jezebel spirit usually attaches to a woman's reproductive organs. JT Timmons shares this view in his book "*Mysterious Secrets of the Dark Kingdom*" where he speaks of Asmodee.

Daughters who grew up under the influence of a Jezebel in the family tend to show interest in witchcraft as a means to obtain control and power over people (Ing p. 52). We have seen evidence of this statement by Ing in real life in our ministry.

Ing (p. 64) also says that when the occult is present, Jezebel is also present because this demon works through witchcraft, divination and astrology. This proved true for us when a demonic soul copy ("DSC") that entered by the curse of Freemasonry (the grandfather of the person we ministered to was a Mason) told us that his demonic strongholds were both Freemasonry and Jezebel. This simply confirms that Jezebel is active in Freemasonry which makes sense because Freemasonry is not only strong in deception but they also manipulate and control the members of their own organisation (strong traits of Jezebel).

In our ministry, when we lead people to freedom as disciples in Christ, we usually encounter several demons of Jezebel and Ahab of varying strength. We find them in both men and women and therefore they are not limited to any specific gender. They are of the strongest and most hideous demons. They are usually very self-assured and full of bravado and will laugh at us.

We often find both of the demons of Jezebel and Ahab in the same person. This shows how a person can act as a Jezebel in one particular situation (e.g. his marriage where this demon takes control) but may act as an Ahab in a different situation (e.g. at his work because of a stronger Jezebel spirit in his boss).

We have found several times that Jezebel or Ahab forms a stronghold in a family and then becomes a blood line curse (e.g. grandma, mother and daughter all have the demon and all show the same demonic traits).

When we find these blood line curses of Jezebel (and/or Ahab) in a family we also find that some demonic soul copies ("DSCs") have entered. A "DSC" is not a demon (foul spirit) but a copy of another (living or dead) person's soul dimension (will, intellect and emotions) that has been "copied" and "pasted" by demons into the person's soul dimension. We've had several cases where we found "DSC"s of the whole family (father, mother, brothers and sisters) in the

person because of the strongholds of Jezebel and Ahab in the family. We know this because we ask the “DSC”s about their strongholds before Jesus takes them out. “DSC”s are however a completely different field of study and cannot be dealt with here.

These demons and “DSC”s control such a person from the inside and sometimes these strongholds are so powerful that the person needs help from well-trained disciples of Jesus to obtain deliverance.

That also explains why prayer and even forgiveness and exoneration might not be enough for permanent freedom in Christ. The “DSC”s that bolster the demonic strongholds simply say: *“Well, we still control the person from inside so no prayer and confession or exoneration will help you”*. A “DSC”, because it is a soul dimension, cannot simply be expelled. Jesus Himself removes the “DSC” but only when the personality or soul dimension accepts Jesus’ authority to withdraw the curse or demonic stronghold. A “DSC” is under the principle of free will and cannot simply be cast out unless it decides to coöperate. In reality we find, because of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, that they mostly coöperate (even if it takes some convincing at times) especially if the host does not want them anymore.

Where there was trauma in someone’s life (e.g. rape as a young child) and now, as an adult, the person is not willing to deal with the trauma (i.e. to bring the pain to the cross of Jesus and forgive and release the person who caused the pain) the “DSC” will not leave (or not even show itself) because its legal rights (that were the basis for entering in the first place) are still in place.

These demons and the “DSC”s that they keep in place have an absolutely devastating effect in the spiritual realm and can destroy individuals, families, businesses and the broader society.

The Bride of Christ must therefore be well equipped with knowledge and experience to be able to withstand the onslaught and, as equipped disciples, be able to lead others to freedom and holiness.

12.1 Practical examples

Example 1:

In one session with a lady, we found her whole family (who are all still alive, except for the father) as DSC’s in her. The family was (and mostly still is) dysfunctional and the dad abused the mother and children verbally, physically and emotionally. The father was an extreme Jezebel personality during his lifetime who dominated everybody in the family in every possible way. The mother presented herself in the role of an Ahab when she was in the presence of the father (due to his dominance and manipulation) but in his absence she would take on the demonic role of a Jezebel (which she took on because of

severe pain earlier on and as protection against more hurt). The Jezebel spirit therefore manifested in the mother and we were fortunately able to evict it during the session.

When the various DSC's manifested in her, we asked them questions to discover their strongholds in her (i.e. their basis for a legal right to be in the person). This is some of what the DSC's told us:

Father (deceased): He is in her to give her an experience of "love that hurts". He wants her husband/boyfriend to physically attack/abuse her. He also said that he was in her because "she is his daughter" (this points to the "control" element – he reasons that he has a right over his daughter in order to hurt her).

Mother (alive): She is in her daughter to "control and manipulate". She causes guilt in her daughter for her bad choices (which she in the first place causes through manipulation). The DSC acknowledged that her demonic stronghold is Jezebel. We also ministered to this lady (the mother) on a previous occasion when she acknowledged that she controls and manipulates her children. The DSC therefore only confirmed what we already knew.

Older brother (alive): His stronghold in her is "over-protection". He said the following: "If I do not look after her, who will? She hurt herself before because I was not there. Everybody always hurts her." This shows an unhealthy and obsessive love that often manifests through the stronghold of Jezebel. It is a smothering and controlling love that does not honour God.

Younger half brother (alive): He told us that he did not like her at all and was angry with her. He wants her to be rejected because he is the real "baby" of the family and wants all the attention for himself. He alone wants all of the mother's love. He acknowledged that his demonic stronghold was selfishness, manipulation and control (all traits of Jezebel).

Younger sister (alive): She told us that her older sister (whom we ministered to) always protected her (both were e.g. sexually molested as young children) and that she loves her sister. Again we see that this love comes from the shared experience of abuse that does not only protect but also manipulate and control. Again the signs of Jezebel are clearly visible.

Example 2:

Another lady that we ministered to told us about her time as a child from which we concluded that her deceased mother must have been an extreme Jezebel and her father an extreme Ahab.

She told us how the mother had an affair while she was still a child in the home and that her mother made no attempt to hide the relationship from her husband or the children. This was so serious that her younger brother and sister were

fathered by the “other man”. Her dad knew about her mother’s relationship and merely passively accepted it. Her dad practically worshipped her mother and she could therefore not put a foot wrong in his opinion. He also accepted the other two children (born from this adulterous relationship) as his own.

The lady told us that she never experienced her mother’s love. Later on the mother developed *agoraphobia* (fear of being outside) and that made the lady who we ministered to suddenly useful to her mother. We therefore again see the manipulation and control of Jezebel where they will merely use and abuse other people for their own selfish gain.

Growing up under these extreme cases of Jezebel and Ahab left the lady whom we ministered to very insecure because of the constant demeaning by the mother (who even competed with her concerning “looks”), and also because her dad never stood up to protect her. Children are very insecure in such a Jezebel-Ahab relationship with the result that they often also end up as either a Jezebel or an Ahab (and the vicious cycle continues).

Because of these demonic strongholds of Jezebel and Ahab in her life both the mother and the younger brother (who died of leukaemia (blood cancer) at the age of two (2)) were DSC’s in her. We suspect that these DSC’s played a big role in her development of cervical cancer after the sudden death of her husband of many years, who always supported her.

13. GOD’S WILL FOR OUR LIVES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE STRONGHOLD OF JEZEBEL AND AHAB

God certainly does not want us to be either a Jezebel or an Ahab but rather He wants us to be active peace makers and not peace keepers.

We must realise our God-given authority and identity and should therefore not be scared to confront somebody, in a conflict situation, in love with the aim to achieve true Godly peace (not merely maintain a false peace). This approach leads to lasting Godly peace instead of merely a temporary or false peace.

Joyce Meyer (2012, p. 23) says that although we are called to peace and should therefore strive for peace in all circumstances, we should not avoid confrontation with people who abuse us. We must allow God to lead us in godly confrontation. Too much confrontation at the wrong time may however turn upon you when the other person vents his/her anger on you. She says that we should approach the matter in love, rather than anger (Prov. 15:1, Prov. 15:4 en Prov. 25:15).

If we allow the enemy to steal our identity in Christ, we lose our position as sons and daughters of God who were created in His image. We must prevent the theft of our divine identity (as children of God) by realising what our identity in Christ is and that it is not seated in achievements, where we live or what we own. We must avoid the approach of “*thy will be done*” but rather purposefully dare to let

God's Kingdom come on earth by annulling the strategies and lies of the enemy (Satan) (1John 3:8).

Remember that the Lord wants to use you to as an instrument in His hands to actively break down and destroy the evil strongholds of Jezebel and Ahab.

We must live an assertive, determined and active lifestyle as a son or daughter of God who has been justified, sanctified and declared worthy by Him.

The scale from passive to aggressive can be depicted as follows:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10

Passive Active, assertive and determined Aggressive

Jesus does not want us to be either passive or aggressive. Neither of the two extremes honours God. God wants us to be active, assertive and determined. It means that we should stand for what is right and that we should not allow evil to steal our God-given identity and authority.

The way to treat these evil spirits is to challenge them and to let them know that their conduct is not acceptable and that you will not allow them to mistreat you in future.

Jesus wants us to confront those who transgress against us in love instead of hate and rage.

It honours God when we choose to confront our problems and so live with self-respect while simultaneously maintaining healthy boundaries for ourselves and our relationships.

Steve Sampson says in (*Confronting Jezebel* (2012) p. 110) that we should never confront a Jezebel person alone. Make sure that you have a witness because he/she will lie or deny or twist the truth. Also be sure of your facts and document everything. The Jezebel will deny or twist the facts or accuse you of exaggeration.

Steve also advises (p. 110) that we should speak the truth very directly and not sympathise with the person. Remember that it may very well be that you are being confronted by a demon Do not allow the person to play on your emotions with artificial "crocodile tears" or a dramatic emotional outburst.

According to Steve the demon in the Jezebel person could decide to hide when confronted which might fool you into thinking that everything is normal; but do not be misled by this deception.

We must draw a line in the sand and never allow the person with the Jezebel spirit to overstep that line.

Most believers make the mistake of being too accommodating when working with a Jezebel. We cannot yield to a false peace. God wants us to aggressively confront the Jezebel and not to go soft on the demon. We must be merciless and strike the demon down (See the account of Jehu in the Bible - 2 Kings 9: 30 - 31). You must also remember that you can never negotiate with a Jezebel demon. Although you must love the person in its grip, the demon must be actively opposed.

God says in James 1:8 that He does not condone “double mindedness” and that such a person is unstable in everything he does.

The Bible is clear about the fact that God hates divorce. It is however also clear that He hates lies, unfaithfulness, manipulation, control, abuse and strife. We should therefore ask ourselves whether God prefers us living a lie through an intolerable marriage purely to satisfy religious ideas. If we stay together because we are in denial about the truth and in order to keep a religious front but never confront the lie between us then we actually do not live and this also does not honour God.

It is proper in a marriage relationship for one person to call the other to wholeness (healing). If the person is however not willing, the relationship should be reconsidered. Sadly, it is often the Ahab person who will decide to live the lie and continue in denial. This is often also due to fear of being financially vulnerable, should the two separate. We can see how both Mammon and Religion also acts as an ally in this regard to Jezebel and Ahab

The world desperately needs the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants us all to be active in His Kingdom so as to introduce His Kingdom to the world. If we lose our identity in Christ and become passive by living in the past and feeling inferior, then we are of no use to His kingdom.

God wants us to be uncompromising in our resistance to the Jezebel and Ahab spirits in the church. We must confess our sins and in humility and love seek the truth rather than recognition and reputation. Just as Jehu’s command was to rid the kingdom of the foul and demoralising influence of Ahab and Jezebel, a call goes out today from God to those who are willing to rise against these principalities, unyielding and without compromise.

We must exhibit zero-tolerance towards the Jezebel spirit and uncover its unholy strategies.

14. WHAT MUST I DO IF I SUSPECT THAT I HAVE PERSONALITY TRAITS BELONGING TO JEZEBEL OR AHAB?

If you suspect that you are a Jezebel or an Ahab, ask the Lord to show you the truth, to show you the root (source) and to help you to be set free.

Now that you know about the cause and functions of these unholy strongholds you ought to, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through prayer and forgiveness and acquittal (of those who hurt you), be able to get far in allowing Jesus to break down the strongholds.

In cases of serious demonic oppression and where these strongholds came from family bloodlines or in cases of serious trauma (especially sexual in nature), it is recommended that you acquire the help of experienced disciples of Jesus who can pray with you and who have the necessary knowledge to lead you in this process of healing and deliverance.

15. HOW ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE OPRESSED BY JEZEBEL AND AHAB LIBERATED?

It is usually easier for an Ahab to be delivered from the demonic stronghold than for a Jezebel. Ahab simply has to learn to set healthy boundaries and to decide to leave the passive lifestyle behind and stand for what is right. They must also decide to actively withstand the Jezebel in their life. In this way the Ahab demon in them will be weakened. It is however still not easy for the Ahab who has been caught in this stronghold for many years to get free because the passive ways have been established in the soul dimension (especially the thought process) and strong demons (and DSC's) are most likely already present to protect the stronghold.

The Jezebel usually has no desire to change and it is rare to see them change. Between their low self-esteem and inflated ego, their pride prevents them from acknowledging their woundedness. It represents a very difficult pattern to break down unless the person is willing to bow unconditionally before Jesus' authority and to commit to total coöperation to change.

The passive Ahab people are usually the ones that are seeking help to get free from the destructive spiral because they realise that they are being abused and are getting the short end of the stick.

The aggressive Jezebel people usually seldom seek help because they see no problem (they are in denial) and actually enjoy their apparent power and control over others.

A true Jezebel (under demonic influence) seldom changes. They enjoy their dominance and getting their way all the time as well as the power that they yield over the Ahab people in their lives. They are quite happy with their lifestyle that

gives them a false sensation of position and power. It also depends on the degree of woundedness because in extreme cases the walls that the person has built up for protection are so high that it seems impossible to break them down. In such cases only Jesus can heal the person through disciples who can lead the person to proper deep inner healing of the (usually very deep) wounds.

If these insecure and wounded individuals are faced with the truth, they invariably see the one confronting them as the enemy and launch a counter attack. These dominating, controlling Jezebels are the people with the worst tempers imaginable when confronted. Their counter attack is powerful; they will never acknowledge guilt or relinquish power.

Such wounded and insecure people are also incapable of accepting positive criticism for it is immediately seen as rejection. That is why Jezebel people seldom acknowledges being wrong.

A Jezebel's personality and conduct has mostly been formed from a lifetime of distorted thought patterns and "being in control". The Jezebel traits are so fixed in their personalities that evicting the demon usually does not solve the whole problem. The person must be willing to commit to having his/her mind renewed and to "*take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ*" (Rom. 12:2, Eph. 4:23 & 24 and 2 Cor. 10:5).

If a person who is caught in the demonic stronghold of Jezebel wants to be free, they must be earnest in their desire to change. It takes sincere confessing of sin and recognition of the evil of the stronghold in them to be able to close the door on a Jezebel spirit.

If one party in a marriage seeks freedom from the demonic stronghold and seeks change, deliverance and healing but the other person is not interested and prefers to remain in their stronghold (e.g. the Jezebel party), it can lead to separation or even divorce.

The key to deliverance from these demonic strongholds is to confess the inner vows (that were made because of the hurt) as sin, to ask for forgiveness and to renounce them in Jesus' name and lastly to sincerely forgive and acquit the person who transgressed against the Jezebel/Ahab.

Praying for a Jezebel or Ahab to be delivered is not the right strategy while they are still in denial and do not actually want to get free. Rather pray for a divine revelation of the fact that they require deliverance and then develop a desire to be free.

16. CONCLUSION

Knowledge of the spiritual realm is essential before we can recognise the strategies of the enemy and even then it must be handled with great care by believers.

What this means is that when we see some of the traits of a Jezebel or Ahab in a person we should not immediately label that person as a Jezebel or Ahab. Do not just walk up to the person and try to evict the “demon”. As noted above, the strongholds of Jezebel and Ahab is often only seated in the mind and personality of the person and only require a cognitive decision to change under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (and with submission to the absolute authority of Jesus Christ).

The key to any deliverance of any kind remains the love of Jesus Christ. If we do not walk in love in our dealings and inter actions with people (even those with serious demonic oppression) our judgemental attitude will most likely prevent them from allowing Jesus to deliver them.

We ask everyone who read this document to pray over the content and to apply it in their lives with great responsibility and only under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We want to win souls for the Kingdom of Jesus and not push them away by labelling them, condemning them or calling them evil.

NB: Only against love (*agape*), applied in the authority of Jesus does the evil have no answer...

17. PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, help me to challenge the enemy of your cross with discernment and empathy, whilst also being firm and fearless. Help me to never again accept the evil acts and attitudes of the Jezebel and Ahab spirits and submit to them. Help me to confront them in love without fearing the consequences. I am more concerned with pleasing You than people. In the name of Jesus. Amen”. (Steve Sampson - "Confronting Jezebel" - p. 191.)

18. BIBLIOGRAPHY

This training resource has been compiled using these excellent books and websites and we fully acknowledge the following authors:

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(These books of Joyce Meyer and Steve Sampson may be ordered from CUM books or from Kalahari.net or from the Kindle bookstore for download on your smart phone.)

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