

# THE ELIJAH SPIRIT AND THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT

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*All scripture quotes are New King James Version*

As you move out boldly in the prophetic, declaring the very word of the Lord you will set captives free and bring clarity and direction to people's lives. You will, eventually, encounter a counter attack from a Jezebel spirit. This is especially true if you are a pastor, ministry leader, business owner, or the leader of your home. This spirit seeks to close off the word of God that brings guidance, encouragement and fruitfulness.

Three times in the Bible, this evil controlling spirit manifests.

1. **1 Kings 18:4** in Queen Jezebel who massacred the prophets of the Lord.
2. **Matthew 14:1-12** in Queen Herodias who manipulated the death of John the Baptist.
3. **Revelation 2:20** this spirit blatantly manifests in the Church at Thyatira.

In many nations and cultures, the Jezebel spirit has been the cause of discouragement and the downfall of once bold and fiery pastors and prophets of God. I have cried with and encouraged many pastors, leaders, fathers, and business owners who found themselves slumped into depression, resisting the urge to flee. Many were unable to resist that urge. I have witnessed her ravaging, in times past, not only the congregation I pastor in Seattle, but also others that I oversee worldwide. I can think of no other evil spirit that causes greater depression and sense of futility, especially for those who once boldly proclaimed the word of the Lord. We need not fear "her", but must instead, like tripping a trap, expose her tactics to the light of truth, so that we not fall prey to her schemes which results in confusion, division and the resultant despair.

## **Is it scriptural to call a demonic spirit by a name?**

I have been asked if it is scriptural to call a demonic spirit by name. To answer that, let us note the ways the word "spirit" is used in the Bible. It is used to refer to God when preceded by Holy (usually capitalized in modern English translations). It is used of the human spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23). It is used of the "spirit" or attitude of the season or time. This usage is how we would often describe the festive "spirit of Christmas". In this case we are not referring to an entity, but instead an attitude. And yes, the Bible uses the term to also refer to demon entities, principalities and powers who express an ageless demonic presence, periodically manifesting themselves and working their hideous intrigue.

But the word "spirit" is also used positively. For example, Jesus refers to John the Baptist who moved in the spirit of Elijah, a fulfillment of the prophecy of Malachi:

### **Malachi 4:5-6**

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.  
6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children,  
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Jesus spoke two times of spirit of Elijah being resident John the Baptist. This is not the actual human spirit of Elijah (the one manifest on at the transfiguration – Mathew 17:3), but instead the attitude or comparable authority and presence of the great prophet of old, Elijah:

Matthew 11:11-15

11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. **14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come** [emphasis mine]. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Matthew 17:10-13

10 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 11 Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. 12 But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." **13 Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist** [emphasis mine].

In these verse, Jesus mentions that John the Baptist had the same anointing and calling of Elijah, prophesying the coming of the Messiah, boldly confronting sin and calling people to repentance. An angel sent by God actually mentions the term “spirit of Elijah” referring to the Elijah spirit energizing the ministry of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:12-17

12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. **17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah,**[emphasis mine] 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

It was great refreshment to me when I saw this last verse. It set my heart at ease, since I had, at times in my mind, become suspect of Christians who seemingly attached the term “spirit” to many evils (i.e. victim spirit; spirit of rejection; predator spirit; etc). Careful scriptural study reveals that there are recurring “spirits” throughout time, who manifest in people. Participation in the prophetic realm confronts these spirits.

The term “Jezebel spirit” is refers to demonic spirit that manifested at least three times clearly in scripture. 1) First in the form of the Queen Jezebel and wife of King Ahab, the 2) next in the form of Queen Herodias, wife of King Herod, and 3) finally she emerges in the church at Thyatira, one of the Asia Minor churches of book of Revelation.

## **1. Elijah is confronted by Jezebel – 1 Kings 18-21**

(and also her death by Jehu in 2 Kings 9:30-37)

We first see this spirit of Jezebel manifest is in time of wicked King Ahab of Israel, who marries the evil, Baal worshipping, woman name Jezebel and makes her queen. She displays her hatred of Israel's God and His prophets by massacring them (1 Kings 18:4). She blamed them for the current crippling draught (God's judgment upon Baal worshipping Israel), which had begun at

word of Elijah the prophet, and would not end until he again gave the word. Jezebel despises godly authority and power, in this case, Elijah and the prophets of God. She manipulates true authority, attempting to lead through them. In this case King Ahab, in attitude, abdicates leadership, and allows evil Queen Jezebel to have control over God's people.

Elijah calls for a final showdown of power in hopes of calling all of Israel to return once again to worship Jehovah, the living God. On Mt Carmel he stages a ceremony, summoning all 850 of the prophets of Baal and Ashteroth (the consort to Baal). Elijah erects an altar to Jehovah, as do the evil prophets to Baal. The challenge is that they are call down fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice, proving their god's power and desire to act upon their behalf. All morning and all day the prophets of Baal call upon their god to show himself. Nothing happens. Then Elijah, in an incredibly bold show of faith, pours water (scarce at the time) over the altar, soaking it thoroughly. This he does three times.

Then, Elijah calls upon God, and fire comes down from heaven, completely consuming not only the sacrifice and wood, but the stones and the dust around it. It was a magnificent display, and the people did turn and worship God. They not only repented, but they turned and helped Elijah kill all 850 false prophets by the sword. This was by far the biggest day of Elijah's life, and it was not finished yet. He proceeded to climb to the top of Mt. Carmel, and kneel, earnestly calling for the rain to return. The rain indeed came, marking the end of God's judgment. In one last miraculous feat, Elijah then proceeds under the strong anointing of God to outrun King Ahab's horses and chariot the sixteen mile distance back to the Jezreel. Three dynamic miracles happened for Elijah in just one day: fire from heaven, rain from heaven, and supernatural energy.

### **However...**

It is at this point the story changes dramatically. An unusual turn of events happens. Jezebel hears of her defeat at Mt. Carmel and breaths out a vow proclaiming to kill Elijah within a day. The mighty man of God melts when hears of the threat. Elijah runs for his life. All his strength and power left him, and he asked God if he could now die.

What happened? What caused the dramatic change of spirit and heart? Can a single threat from a single person bring such effect?

Yes, the vile Jezebel spirit carries something which should not be underestimated.

This spirit seeks to kill prophecy. It is an anti-prophet spirit who hones in on places where the Word of God is powerful and is especially backed by signs and wonders. It can strike at a time of great victory and success. It releases a cycle of confusion, division and despair.

### **A. Confusion:**

First comes confusion. Elijah began to think, and then confess with his mouth "I am the only prophet left". There is a sense of futilism that immediately grips the heart.

In churches it often takes the form of a person, most often a Christian woman. She often has a "prophetic" gift, and seeks to have a voice in the congregation. As a result she finds it necessary to get near to the pastor or presiding elder of the church. This she does first by flattery. It might sound something like this. "Pastor, this the most awesome church I have been to. You are truly a New Testament church!" she will exclaim.

When she gains the pastors ear, then she will lead to the next stage of manipulation. It is here that she says something like this. "Pastor, this church is very strong, except in this one area. I understand that area and would like to teach you. With this area of the church mature, we will grow even more, and expand the boundaries of our tent further" With this she attempts to posture herself

as a teacher of the teacher. She is setting the trap to usurp leadership. For this to be successful, it requires an “Ahab”- type leader who is willing to abdicate his God given assignment and role. Jezebel can only lead as Ahab abdicates his leadership position.

During this time the pastor becomes confused and begins to doubt his own calling and ability to lead. He will ask himself questions like these. “Why did I even think I could actually lead a church. I should step away and let this place grow to its next level – a place beyond where I can take it. This congregation doesn’t want what I have to offer them.” These words are like Elijah’s who considered himself the only prophet left in the land. It was not true, and God let him know that there were yet seven thousand left.

### **B. Division:**

When confusion grows unchecked by the clear, prophetic word of God, then it results in division. The leader, father, pastor or business owner decides to leave, abandoning the family, ministry or business. In order for a prophetic home or ministry to be stopped, it must be divided.

There are times when the leader stays the course, but the church itself splits as a result of the two voices (Elijah’s and Jezebel’s). Once again division is the result.

### **C. Despair:**

On the heels of division comes despair. When a marriage divides, then sadness and depression set in. When a congregation is divided and its leaders are silenced, then the work of that church is halted, resulting in dashed hopes, dreams and prophecies. When the vision is gone, the people waste away unrestrained (Proverbs 29:18).

## **2. John the Baptist’s Elijah spirit confronted by Jezebel spirit in Herodias**

The next clear place that Jezebel emerges again is in the story of John the Baptist. As I have shown at the beginning of this writing, the spirit of Elijah was upon John the Baptist.

Luke 1:17

**He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah** [emphasis mine], to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

This verse shows not only that John had the Elijah spirit, but it also reveals John’s three part mission of 1) bringing the hearts of the father together with the children, 2) confronting sin, 3) preparing the way for Jesus. These three parts have a bearing on our study.

### **Turning the hearts of the Fathers to the children**

The Elijah spirit first seeks to turn the hearts of the father’s to the children. Malachi prophesied this in the last two verses of the Old Testament:

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet  
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.  
6 And he will turn  
The hearts of the fathers to the children,  
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,  
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

The Elijah spirit breaks a pending curse off of the people of God by uniting fathers and children. It specifically mentions fathers. Fathers must have their hearts pointed to their children, next generation. They should not be focused on just their own careers, ministries and interests. Fathers are other-oriented, and this results in an offspring (or in the case of a pastor – his congregation) being healthy and “curse-free”. As a result the offspring can move into their full dominion and calling (Genesis 1:26).

This is a similar word to the one given the Seattle City Pastors that we discussed in the last chapter. We were told by the Holy Spirit to be fathers in the city. We have a clue here as to what this ministry entails. It is to bring children and fathers together in unity once again. We believe that this is in the natural as well as the spiritual. In the natural it would be to encourage fathers to begin to encourage and speak words of destiny to their families. In the spiritual we believe that it means that we as elder-pastors, should take under our wings younger pastors, and speak encouragement and destiny into them.

### **John’s ministry of confronting sin**

The second assignment given to John the Baptist, is also those of us who carry the Elijah spirit today. It is to confront sin. John did this by confronting Queen Herodias, who was illegally married to King Herod (she had been the wife of Herod’s brother Philip). John pointed this out publicly, and it is from this point on that Herodias hated him and plotted to have him killed. She succeeded (Matthew 14:1-12).

Manifesting the Jezebel spirit, Herodias manipulated Herod, using her beautiful daughter to dance before the King, exciting his lustful passions. In the heat of his passion, he loses his poise of soul as King and promises the beautiful young dancer anything she wanted as a reward. Then Herodias steps in, coaching her daughter to request the death of John the Baptist but bringing his head on a platter.

The Elijah spirit, in true prophetic fashion, confronts sin. Jezebel hates that.

### **John’s ministry of preparing a way for Jesus**

The third part of John’s ministry assignment is that he is to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. This he does well, calling people to repentance, and baptizing them, announcing that the messiah is coming soon. He was successful in his calling. He truly was powerful in the spirit of Elijah, also successful

But before John dies, while he is in prison for confronting the Queen’s sin and desire to gain power, he falls to intense discouragement. It is at this time that he begins to doubt even his own message, sending messengers to ask Jesus if He truly was the Christ. His ministry was clearly forerunner to the Christ, and one to prepare the way. In his discouragement and the onslaught of evil oppression and filth from Jezebel, he became confused, divided from his call and ministry, and despairing, wondering to himself “Did I declare properly when I baptized my cousin Jesus as the Messiah?”

#### Matthew 11:2-6

2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another? [emphasis mine]" 4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

Steeped in despair, the result of being confronted by the Jezebel spirit, John doubts the central success of his ministry – announcing Jesus! This spirit is craftier than many think. She has chained many successful ministers in despairing bondage.

### **3. Jezebel in the church at Thyatira**

The third place in the Bible that Jezebel clearly shows up is in the church at Thyatira (Revelation 2:20). This church was tolerating her presence and allowing her to teach the people. To this Jesus brings a sharp rebuke.

#### Revelation 2:20-21

20 Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. 21 And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent.

There must have been a woman teacher in this church that Jesus is highlighting as having the spirit of Jezebel in her. She was seducing Christians to sexual immorality and the accompanying idolatry. This spirit desires a teaching position in a congregation of believers. Her teachings are demonically driven, fiercely ambitious and independent.

Her demonic teachings encourage sexual immorality. She advocates a tolerance of sensuality, like in the instance of John the Baptist's head being traded for a sensual dance.

In his book "Three Battlegrounds" author and pastor Frances Frangipane<sup>i</sup> has discovered that although spirits are non-gender, this spirit is attracted more to the uniqueness of the female psyche in her sophisticated ability to manipulate without physical force. She is behind the woman who publicly humiliates her husband with her tongue, and thereafter controls him by his fear of public embarrassment. She is a source in our society of obsessive sensuality, unbridled witchcraft and hatred for male authority. In men it will lead ultimately to bondage to pornography and the deep shame resultant because they can barely control their desires for women.<sup>ii</sup>

Like Jesus pronounced to the Thyatira Church, there is allowed a time for her to repent. But in that church she did not, and was no longer to be tolerated. It is possible though, because Jesus would not have given her a chance to do so unless it was possible. This means that the persona carrying the spirit, can humble themselves and allow themselves to be exorcised of this spirit's grip in them and through them to others.

The name Jezebel mean "without cohabitation". She is fiercely independent. This makes repentance unlikely, since she see herself as correct, and everyone else as weak. She will only dwell with someone if she can control or dominate the relationship (Ahab spirit).

### **4. Is it possible to overcome a Jezebel spirit?**

Yes, it is indeed possible to overcome her. The Elijah spirit, or clear prophetic words, overcomes her by exposing her. Jesus says in the passage in Revelation that overcoming is not only possible, but that those who do overcome her will be given power over the nations.

#### Revelation 2:26-28

26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations--  
27 He shall rule them with a rod of iron;

They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'--  
as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star.

To disciple the nations, as Jesus commands us to do, we must overcome this Jezebel spirit with the Elijah spirit in his full authority. It is this level of authority that is given resulting in international authority – “to have power over nations.” This authority is the result of moving in a prophetic power that releases nations of demonic chains and looses people from all nations into their calling and purpose. Jezebel relentlessly attempts to destroy these prophetic utterances. She does not want the nations to move into their destinies and dominion authority. She will try to stop those who call this forth – those who bind and release on this earth (Matthew 16:19).

The morning star is also given in addition to authority over the nations. The morning star is none other than Jesus Himself. What Overcomers will rewarded with is a deep personal relationship with Jesus, waling in His abiding presence, a presence that goes with us to the nations.

In addition to the truth that sets us free through revelational knowledge (prophetic utterance) we also overcome “her” by repentance of sin. We repent of focusing on her and feeding on her teachings to satisfy our flesh cravings. Our minds can be damaged by heresies and systems of thinking, which requires that we submit to wrong passions. We overcome by renewed in the spirit of our minds by the entrance of prophetic revelation. When we hear revelation from God we are taught by His Spirit, and our minds are renewed.

Ephesians 4:20-24

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 **and be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, [emphasis mine] 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

One key we noticed is that to get other people delivered from this demonic Jezebel spirit, they must repent of the accompanying sin or sins. The nature of their sin is not always forthcoming since people very often believe that they are right and justified in their position (There is an arrogance that accompanies one under partial control by a demonic spirit). This requires a word of Knowledge as a key to close the hells gates into their life (1 Corinthians 12: 8; Matthew 16:18-19).

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free (John 8:32)!”

“..on this rock (revelational knowledge) I will build my church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:18-19)”

### **The Value of Covenant Relationships in overcoming**

Here is a case where the best defense is an offense. The best offense is to be covenant minded with people. This means to join with them, even when there is confusion. Do not divide! We must make a covenant to loyally walk with people through thick and thin. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, where we long to have long loyal relationships.

There is an assault on communication, which births confusion. The best thing to do here simply to verify with the other person what really happened. Ask them to clarify the confusing issue. Open up a line of communication in that spirit of love and covenant – a covenant to talk through offensive issues.

We have discovered at Horizon Church that as we go the “extra mile” in communication skills, that we eliminate the confusion which is the beginning point of this divisive spirit. If do not verify what is really happening by good communication, then division results followed by despair. We have then been beaten.

If you find yourself already in the “division” sequence, then the step next step is not communication, by humility. You must come to the other person in genuine humility with sole purpose of restoration. This is the opposite spirit to division, not unity as some think. Unity is the by-product of humility. Unity is offered only where there is a true spirit of humility. It cannot be demanded or contrived.

If you find yourself already to the point of despair, the third stage after confusion and division, then do this: put on the garment of praise. This is more than singing worship songs. This is bringing the act of the opposite spirit, which in this case is to bring affirmation and encouragement. You praise your associates. It is not only praising God for his strength (worship) but it is affirming the people around you, building them up in your minds and heart by focusing on their values and strengths. This restores joy, unity and the covenant of love. The opposite spirit of despair is praise and affirmation. Remember to put on the garment of praise against the spirit of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3).

## **5. The Warning Signs of a Jezebel spirit**

During our 17 years of pastoring Horizon Church in Seattle, Washington, we have many times encountered this evil spirit attempting to infiltrate the congregation (usually carried in by wounded, hurting or twisted people). Every occurrence brought with it very great pain, and substantial distraction from our primary mission. Following is a list of the warning signs of the Jezebel spirit. This list and accompanying explanations have brought great relief to many pastors I have counseled, especially when they realize that what they were experiencing in their church was a demonic attack and not an issue of their personal failings or incompetence.

### **The Warning Signs of the Jezebel spirit**

1. **Selfish Agenda:** This controlling spirit is motivated by a strong personal agenda, as opposed to God's agenda, relentlessly pursuing it. It is intent on getting what it wants, usually using a person who very often does not realize he or she has become an agent of division and demonic destruction to God's people and Jesus' Church.
2. **Undermine Authority:** It seeks to undermine authority, most often the male authority - husband, boss, elder; self-appointing itself higher than the true authority. It is very legalistic and “religious”, and uses Christian vocabulary convincingly.
  - a. Very often using a tactic of condemning and judgmental "prophecy," enhanced with flattery and seemingly sincere tender words.
  - b. Often brings needs-improvement lists to person of authority. For example: “This church is wonderful, but this one thing is lacking...”
  - b. Often uses truth sharply and without true love, thereby leaving others with a depressing sense of heaviness.

3. **Causes Despair:** This destructive spirit causes fear, flight and discouragement.
  - a. Fear: "Is it true, O Lord, am I really proud, unteachable, undiscerning, or the things that I am being told?"
  - b. Flight: "I don't have what it takes to lead here. I quit."
  - c. Discouragement: "This is the tenth time I have had to deal with his accusation. I wonder if there is some truth to it. The battle is just not worth it. I'm tired of this."
  
4. **Usurp Leadership:** They are natural leaders, although often covertly.
  - a. Attempting to raise a following, even one person at a time, enlisting any who will agree with them.
  - b. Gaining positions of leadership, they can be detected by the winds of confusion, accusations and division surrounding them and their dealings.
  
5. **Insecure "bullies":** They are insecure, with vast histories of woundedness, which they are quick to share with any listener. They have pronounced ego needs evidenced by:
  - a. A need to be the teacher of the pastor, husband, boss – poisoning themselves above the true leader.
  - b. A need for public attention and display. They like to speak publicly and act hurt or wounded when they are disallowed to public exposure.
  - c. They claim secret knowledge and revelation that is unverifiable.
  - d. They're self-appointed "discerners" or "seers", often calling themselves "watchman on the wall" like the Old Testament "lookouts."
  
6. **Deceptive and manipulative:** They are subtle, using intrigue to accomplish their wish, although many times they themselves do not know it or see it, and accuse others of being deceptive.
  - a. Often using flattery to posture themselves in control of others.
  - b. Often separating weak believers away from the body of Christ into private sessions of indoctrination.
  - e. Often using acts-of-service to gain the affection and trust of leaders, and hopefully by this access to the leader gain control.
  
7. **Arrogant:** They are proud, independent and rebellious, usually accusing others of these same sins.
  
8. **Takeover:** They need the person with the true authority, like King Ahab in 1 Kings 21, to abdicate their position of authority, in order for them to thrive.
  
9. **Religious spirit:** They embody a religious spirit, which is legalistic, often quoting scripture in an attempt to lend authority to their evil schemes (i.e. like Satan in the Garden of Eden or at the temptation of Jesus).
  
10. **Dysfunctional families:** The families and personal lives of those with this spirit are, most often, out of order evidenced by a lofty alone-ness devoid of the joy and peace that are fruits, or evidence, of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

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<sup>i</sup> Frances Frangipane, *Three Battlegrounds*, (Marion, Iowa: Advancing Church Publications, 1989), page 98 .

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid, page 100.