Jezebel – A Study of Influence
Widows of the Old Testament
Student Study Guide
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Review of Widow of Zarephath

God used the prophet Elijah to teach the widow of Zarephath to trust God for daily sustenance for herself and her son. Only when she shared what she had with someone in need, did it stretch to feed them all over a period of several years.

a. Are you able to trust God to provide for you and then to reach out to help someone in need? Please share a way you have done that.

b. When the widow’s son got sick and died, what did she do?

c. Was Elijah able to help?

d. Does God always answer prayer to extend life, by healing the person?

e. Have you been with anyone who has died? How did God give you hope?

f. Do you have the assurance that, when you die, you will go to heaven?
   “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

Prayer

Jezebel – A Study of Influence

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life” (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

In the Jezebel Bible study, we will see a great contrast between those whose ears and hearts are closed to God and those who hear His voice and choose to do His will. The Hebrew word for influence – ma’adannah (mah-ad-an-naw’) means a bond. Root word anad (aw-nad) to lace fast – bind, tie.

Cultural and Historical Background

1. From the very beginning of _________ history, ____________ has tried to draw men and women away from the purposes of God, their Creator (pg. 134).
2. One of the most colorful and wicked ____________________ Satan used for this purpose was a woman named Jezebel. Her father was ________________, the King of Sidon and Tyre, who was also known to be a priest of ____________. King ______________ of Israel and King Ethbaal arranged a marriage between __________ (Omni’s son), and ___________. This brought about a political ________________ between Sidon and Israel (pg. 135).

3. One of the ________________agreements was that Jezebel could bring with her the prophets of ___________ and _______________ (mother of Baal), the________________ god and goddess, which they worshiped in Sidon (also known as Phoenicia). Baal was also the presiding ___________of the Canaanites. They believed Baal ___________ and _______________ the land and that the _______________ of crops, fruit and cattle was under Baal’s control. ___________ and _______________ were offered to Baal, sometimes even _______________ sacrifice.

4. When the Hebrew people first entered Canaan, God warned them of idol worship with specific orders. Read Deuteronomy 5:6-10 and fill in the blanks:
“I am the LORD your God, who _______________ you out of Egypt, out of the land of _______________. You shall have no other ___________ before Me. You shall not ___________ for yourself an idol in the form of anything in _______________ above or on the ___________ beneath or in the ___________ below. You shall not ___________ down to them or ___________ them; for I, the LORD your God, am a _______________ God, _______________ the children for the ___________ of the fathers to the ___________ and ___________ generation of those who ___________ me, but showing ___________ to a thousand _______________ of those who ___________ me and ___________ my commandments.”

Discuss: Can you think of a godly line of influence in your family or community or an ungodly line of influence?

5. We have studied about Solomon and his ungodly wives. 1 Kings 11:4-8 is very specific about how Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord. When a national leader openly displays disobedience to God’s Word, he leads the nation to ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ (pg. 137).

Discuss: Can you think of an example of this in our nation?

6. Queen Jezebel was accustomed to luxury (pg. 137).
   a. Where did Ahab and Jezebel reside? ________________
   b. Describe the palace in Samaria: ________________
7. Jezebel ________________ Ahab to erect a temple and altar for Baal worship in ____________, a second sanctuary in _______________ and erect Asherah poles (wooden posts to represent Asherah). Ahab . . . “did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than did all the kings of Israel before him” (1 Kings 16:33b).

**Discuss:** Our personal responsibility to God.
   a. Can you think of ways we provoke God?
   b. Do we ever worship Him with our mouths, while in our hearts we love or want something else more than we do Him?

8. God brought judgment on Ahab, Jezebel and the nation of Israel with a three-year drought. What three miracles occurred during those years of drought?
   a. ___________________________ b. ___________________________
   c. ___________________________

9. While Elijah was in _______________, Jezebel had killed all the _____________ she could find.

10. When God told Elijah to return to Israel, the people of Israel were called together at Mount Carmel for a very important contest between the prophets of Baal and Elijah, to prove whether the **LORD** is God or Baal. What spiritual significance did the results of this contest have for the people of Israel? __________________________________________

11. Elijah followed the _______ in Deuteronomy 13:1-5 and killed the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal who were seducing the Israelites to follow other gods (pg.139). Elijah prayed and the rain came. ______________ by the Spirit of the **LORD**, Elijah ____________ Ahab’s chariot to Jezreel (1 Kings 18:46).

**Read 1 Kings 19:1-2**

12. Ahab arrived, with the news, at the palace in Jezreel (their winter residence, about seventeen miles from Mount Carmel). Jezebel’s response? __________________________

**Read 1 Kings 19:3-4**

13. Earlier Elijah ran with exhilaration (extreme excitement). Why was he running this time? __________________________. He became emotionally drained, exhausted and discouraged. He did not want to _________.

**Discuss:** Have you ever felt that way; so tired or discouraged that you did not want to live?
14. Elijah lay down and slept and later an __________ awoke him to get up and eat food, which was ______________ and sitting at his head. Twice he slept and ate and then journeyed __________ days and nights to __________ __________, the Mountain of God (1 Kings 19:5-8), also known as Mount Sinai.

15. At Mount Horeb God demonstrated His __________ in the wind, an earthquake and fire; the Almighty God was still on His __________ – He still is. Then God spoke to Elijah in a __________ __________ voice. The LORD encouraged him by making it clear that His still small voice directs the ______________ and orders the course of __________. There were still ______________ faithful believers in Israel. God named __________ as the prophet to follow Elijah (pg. 141).

16. Elijah departed from Mount Horeb and found __________ who was plowing in his father’s field. Elijah went up to Elisha and threw his __________ around him. God’s __________ helped Elisha understand the ______________ of this act. He offered a ______________ to the LORD in response, said ______________ to his family and left, to become Elijah’s attendant or ______________ (pp. 141-142).

17. Some time later, __________ ________ looked out the palace window in __________ and saw a ______________ nearby which belonged to __________, a neighbor. He sent for Naboth and offered to ________ it or trade it for other property. Naboth ______________, saying it was an ______________ of his fathers. Ahab returned to ______________ very ______________. He lay on his bed sulking and refusing to ________.

Read 1 Kings 21:5-7

18. What did Jezebel tell Ahab? __________________________

________________________

________________________

Read 1Kings 21:8-16

19. How did she get the vineyard? __________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________

Read 1 Kings 21:17-19
20. Where did God send Elijah and why? ________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Read 1 Kings 21:20-26

21. God, through Elijah, warned __________ of impending _______________ because he ________________ God to ____________ and caused Israel to _______.

He warned also that the _________would _______________ ________________ by the wall of Jezreel.

22. Packs of wild dogs were ___________________. Naboth was killed outside the walls of Jezreel and ________________ would die outside the walls of ________________ (1 Kings 22:35-38). Ahab ____________ in battle at Ramoth Gilead. His chariot was covered with blood from his wounds and as it was being cleaned in Samaria, the dogs licked up his blood (v. 38). Jezebel was now a ____________ (pg. 144).

23. Jezebel’s evil ________________ was far-reaching. She enticed ___________ to Baal worship. She provided Baal prophets and places of worship to woo the ________________ people to Baal and away from the LORd. She ________________ deception, murder and gross evil for her ____________, Ahaziah and Jehoram and ________________, Athaliah.

Consider: What you are modeling for your family and what your family history will look like thirty years from now. Will your influences be seen in their lives?

Read 2 Kings 9:30-35.

24. God’s judgment then came on Jezebel through __________, who went to Jezreel.

When ________________ heard he was coming, she painted her ________________, arranged her __________ and ________________ ________________ a window.

25. Jezebel taunted Jehu, as he entered the gate, by calling him the name of Zimri, a man in Israel’s history (1 Kings 16:9-20), who also, like Jehu, was used by God to carry out what purpose (pg. 146)? ________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

26. What did Jehu ask the eunuchs, standing with Jezebel at the tower window, to do?

________________________________________________________________________

27. They threw her to the ground and Jehu went in to eat and drink. He sent people to bury Jezebel, because she was a queen.

a. What did they find? __________________________________________

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b. What prophecy did this fulfill (pp. 146-147)? ________________________________________________________________

28. Jehu then destroyed all the _____________ and _____________ of Baal, tore down the _____________ and _____________ poles in Israel. The people of Israel acknowledged Jehu as king.

29. When ________________ the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the _____________ _____________ of the house of Judah (2 Chronicles 22:10).

30. “But ________________, the daughter of King Jehoram, took _____________ son of Ahaziah (her brother) and stole him away from among the _____________ _____________ who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a _____________. Because Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah’s sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so she could not ________ him. He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for ________ years while Athaliah ruled the land” (2 Chronicles 22:10-12).

31. In the seventh year _________ was brought out of hiding and made _________. Athaliah died a violent death (in Judah) after which all the people went to the temple of _________ and tore it down. They smashed the _____________ and _____________ and killed the _____________ of Baal in front of the altars. Joash did what was _____________ in the eyes of the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest and he restored the Temple of the LORD (pp. 147-148). See 2 Chronicles 24.

32. ________________ was a courageous, wise, God-centered woman who through decisiveness and quick action was able to turn a _____________ family and a _____________ around.

**Discuss:** How would you explain Jehosheba’s actions, since she was part of such an evil family?

**Personal Application**

33. God is in the business of changing lives.
   a. Have you, or someone you have known, come from a godless family and made a change, in spite of a pagan background?
   b. How do you think this happened?

34. Jezebel and her daughter Athaliah were idolatrous, evil, self-centered and controlling women. They influenced their families and their people to do evil. Their lives were marked with deception, violence, darkness and tragic death. When a woman is controlling, it usurps her husband’s and sons’ ability to become godly leaders.
   a. How can God use us to influence our children, grandchildren, our family or people we live with? What do they see in our lives?
   b. How do we handle stressful situations?
c. How do our decisions and actions today, affect the future of our family? Our community? Our own well-being?

Just as God helped His special people carry out their tasks to bring about His will, He will guide us to make the right decisions or say the right things when we ask Him and trust Him to help us to become a positive influence in someone’s life.

**Exercise:** Make a list of five people you influence the most. Ask God to show you ways you can be an encouragement to them and make a difference in their lives.

**Prayer**