



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Know Your Enemy

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THEME Spiritual Warfare

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Introduction

God's people can be destroyed from a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6). In 2 Corinthians 2, we are warned that we have an enemy that's always trying to outwit us and not only do we need to be sober-minded and watchful (1 Pet 5:8), but we also need to be aware of his evil schemes. This is spiritual warfare; there is a war being waged over our souls.

We are constantly at war and we need to be conscious of the Jezebels among us; we have to be able to recognise the characteristics and traits of the spirit of Jezebel, identify them in ourselves and those around us, and counter them with God's weapons.

The spiritual battle and our weapons

There are manifestations of a Jezebel spirit but God has also given us the weapons to counter them:

Slaying the prophets → We need MORE OBADIAHS

A prophet can be destroyed either by physical death or in spirit (i.e. by discrediting, discouraging, disparaging and criticism). In 1 Kings 18:4, the Lord's prophets are killed by Jezebel but Obadiah hid some of these prophets in caves and supplied them with food and water to save them.

Be an Obadiah – counter the spirit of Jezebel with the spirit of love. If people try to destroy us, God is our Vindicator. On our part, we are to obey our leaders who speak in the name of the Lord (James 5:10-11) because it is to our own advantage (Heb 13:17); these leaders bear on their bodies the marks of Jesus (Gal 6:17); we need to build and create a culture whereby we honour, provide for and preserve our leaders.

Spirit of vengeance → We need THE TOUCH OF GOD

Jezebel wanted to take revenge on Elijah who had offended King Ahab (1 Kings 19:1-2) and Elijah was fearful and ran to the desert and told God to take his life. But God, the God of compassion, sent an angel to provide Elijah with food and drink twice so that he was strengthened.

The spirit of vengeance breeds the spirit of fear. When evil seeks to tear us down with a vengeful spirit and strike us down with a spirit of fear, go back to God, the source of all that is good.

Slander and Lies → We need THE BOLDNESS TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST EVIL

In 1 Kings 21:9-24, Jezebel hatched a plan to frame Naboth so that King Ahab could possess Naboth's vineyard. She slandered Naboth in front of the people and Naboth was stoned to death. Then, Elijah went and told King Ahab of the consequences of his actions.

Fight with the Spirit of Truth: We live in a fallen world. When we see injustice and evil, rise up and stand against the evil one (Psalms 94:6), speak the truth with boldness and expose them (Acts 18:9-10, Eph 5:11).

Sanctions Evil → We need UNSHAKEABLE FAITH

King Ahab was easily swayed by Jezebel and sold himself to do evil (1 Kings 21:25). There is a sanctioning of evil and a complicity in his actions.

Unshakeable faith: We are to have unshakeable faith and build our foundation on the Solid Rock, knowing and depending on the Word of God so that we can resist those who entice us (Prov 1:10). All of us are responsible for the choices that we make. Do not stand in the counsel of the ungodly (Ps 1:1).

Shamelessness → We need to BE MERCILESS WITH SIN

Responding in defiance against sin: When our sins or wrongs are pointed out to us, are we ashamed of our conduct (Jer 6:15) or are we like Jezebel who responded in defiance (2 Kings 9:19, 30-31), without shame?

Being merciless with sin means to confess, repent and receive forgiveness our sins – do not let the sin fester in our lives. The Bible gives us the template on how to deal with sin – we need to acknowledge to God and man (i.e. our life circle or mentors that we are comfortable with) the fact that we have sinned, repent of our sin (i.e. say sorry with our heart) and receive God's forgiveness and mercy.

Sexual Immorality and Seduction → We need TRUE REPENTANCE

The woman mentioned by John in Rev 2:20-21 is very much in the same vein as the original Jezebel in Kings. Jezebel is not only immoral, she instigates others and leads them down the wrong paths.

But God sees everything and we will be judged by our heart, head and hands (Rev 2:22). We will pay for our acts unless we truly repent. True repentance is the starting point of restoration to righteousness and as long as we are willing to come to God in true repentance, we can overcome every sin and stronghold; we can break the Spirit of Jezebel in our lives in God's name.

Conclusion

We are not perfect. All of us have some element of the spirit of Jezebel in us. However, we also have a perfect and holy God. There is no sin, no issue that is so great that God cannot help us to deal with. He has already anticipated the schemes of the evil one and put weapons into our hands to fight it. Our God is a victorious and overcoming God who fights for us and all we have to do is lean on Him and trust Him.

QUESTIONS

Identify one manifestation of the Jezebel spirit that you struggle with. How have you seen it in your life or in the lives of others?

Reflect on some of the ways in which a prophet's spirit may be destroyed or discouraged today? How can you or the CG be an Obadiah to the prophets in our midst?

The war that we are fighting is a spiritual one. What does it mean to you that we are at war? What would your responsibilities be like as a soldier to your fellow soldiers in the battlefield?