

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

QUEEN JEZEBEL

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 20 • March 20, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of the **Shunammite Woman** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read 1 Kings 18

2. a) Who are Ahab and Jezebel according to **1 Kings 16:29-33**? What distinguished Ahab from other kings?

b) How did Jezebel influence Ahab?
3. a) What was Jezebel doing according to **V4**, and what actions did Obadiah take in response?

b) What is revealed about Jezebel and about her attitude toward God by these actions?
4. Of what did Elijah accuse Ahab in **V18-19**, and where do you see the influence of Jezebel again?
5. Give a brief synopsis of **V20-46**.
6. a) Read **1 Kings 19:1-3**. How did Ahab recount to Jezebel what happened on Mount Carmel, and what threat did she make?

b) What does Elijah's fear in **V3** reveal about Jezebel?

6. c) What situation have you faced recently that has tempted you to take revenge? What quality of God or verse in the Bible gives you comfort when you are faced with injustice or disappointment?

SECTION II: Read 1 Kings 21

7. In **V1-6**, what had been denied Ahab, and how did he react?
8. How does Jezebel go about getting what Ahab wants in **V7-16**, and what does it expose in her personality?
9. a) According to **Leviticus 25:23** and **Numbers 36:7**, what was the offense against God in trying to take Naboth's vineyard?
- b) In what circumstances have you considered disregarding the LORD's instruction in order to obtain something you want? What were the consequences of the actions you took?
10. a) In **V17-24**, what did Elijah prophesy to Ahab following the death of Naboth?
- b) What was the legacy of Ahab and Jezebel according to **V25-26**?
- c) What tiny glimpse of "the good" do you see in this "bad and ugly" story in **V27-29**?

SECTION III: Read 2 Kings 9

11. Summarize the events of **V1-6**.
12. What was Jehu's mission and Jezebel's fate in **V7-10**?

13. Read how the drama continues in **V11-29**. Using the following verses, what had Jezebel done to precipitate the LORD's fierce judgment?

V7 _____

V22 _____

V26 _____

14. a) According to **V30**, what did Jezebel do when she heard Jehu was on his way? What do you think were her motives?

b) When have you relied on your beauty or your outward appearance to manipulate a situation to your advantage (or observed this in others)?

15. Write a truth as you tie together **V32-37** and **1 Kings 21:23-26**.

16. Jezebel is a role model of "the bad, and the ugly" in numerous ways. What warning will you remember the most from her life?

17. Form a prayer request that God would open your eyes to the ugliness of Jezebel that may exist in your own heart. Trust in His transforming power to root out the ugliness as you confess it.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Jezebel may have been outwardly beautiful, but her beauty was belied by a heart that opposed God.

a) Read **1 Samuel 16:7b** and put this important truth into your own words.

b) From **Ezekiel 28:17**, what is a danger of beauty?

c) How does God define true beauty in **1 Peter 3:3-4**?

2. Ahab did "evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife." (**1 Kings 21:25**) How was another king influenced by his wives in **1 Kings 11:1-6**?

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **Proverbs 11:21**

