

...but the Foolish Pulls it Down with her Own Hands
(part 2)

Key Scripture:

*"The wise woman builds her house,
But the foolish pulls it down with her hands."
Proverbs 14:1 (NKJV)*

Portion for the Journey:

One of the greatest gifts God has given women is her ability to teach and guide others toward the LORD. Many prominent men give all credit to their mothers or women in their lives who taught them to love and serve the Lord. In the home, the godly woman's influence may be used to shape values that effect generations after her in her family and community.

The qualities God has implanted are beautiful and powerful when she is walking in His Spirit. When these same qualities are allowed to operate through the flesh or when, through disobedience or rebellion, we allow the enemy to influence our hearts, they are equally powerful but very destructive. We must never underestimate our influence to be used for good or for evil. We must make a conscious decision to walk closely with the Lord meditating on His word seeking His wisdom. James 3 provides an excellent contrast between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of this world. Prov. 31:10

When God pronounced the consequences of the serpent's deception over Adam and Eve, he first addressed Satan, then the woman and finally the man. The woman is not directly cursed, but does fall under the general curse of all mankind. In Genesis 3:16, He says, "Your desire shall be fore your husband, and he shall rule over you." Another rendering of this verse translates it to say, "Woman shall desire to dominate and control her husband, yet he will rule over you." A warning that accompanied this verse is that woman would be tempted to long for her husband ahead of her relationship with God and man would be tempted to rule over or dominate the woman.

"Men and Women in God's Design" The Spirit-Filled Life Bible Kingdom Dynamics note for this passage states, regarding the desire of the woman: Satan had struck at the core of God's design. Both Adam and Eve had turned to their own way. Genesis 3:16 I the "Achilles heel" of woman – her greatest stumbling block and root of most dysfunctional behavior women have in relationships with men. Fallen, leaning o to her own understanding, Eve's "desire" ("longing, stretching out after," Strong's #8669) was now for her husband. "Shall be" (not in the original text) can make God's words sound like a command, but God is actually a warning her against the tendency to make her relationship with her husband, rather than her relationship with God her primary reference point. As a result, the man might (either inadvertently or intentionally) rule her emotionally. In that case, her value, significance, and security would then hinge on the man's response to her. Too easily, she might look to him for her life, when God wanted her deepest longing (and thereby, her effectiveness) to hinge on Him. Within marriage, this guideline to assure the woman's adequacy and worth will not and should not lead to independence or rebellion. Rather, it opens the way to the fullest joy of her voluntary submission in the freedom of true relationship God intended for husband and wife. (Gen. 2:23; Gen. 21:12)

As we study the second half of Proverbs 14:1, we must remember there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. You may recognize some characteristics of the foolish woman operating in your life. Don't be discouraged. We are still learning to recognize and crucify the deeds of the flesh! 1 John 1:8-9 gives us the wonderful promise, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" So, we will ask the Lord to open our eyes to any ways in which our words or actions may be tearing down our households. Ask Him to cleanse us and help us walk more closely in His ways.

The foolish woman...

The word "foolish" used in this verse is in direct contrast to "wisdom." It is clear this word is far more malevolent than the idea of a merely 'silly' person. The Hebrew word for 'foolish' is 'iwwelet' (H200) and it 'denotes one who is morally deficient.' Such a person is lacking in sense and is generally corrupt. 'iwwelet' comes from the root word 'ēwīl which is actually translated evil:

- primarily refers to moral perversion or insolence, to what is sinful rather than to mental stupidity.
- This kind of a fool despises wisdom and is impatient with discipline.
- He who does not fear God
- will be unable to grasp wisdom or benefit from godly discipline (Proverbs 1:7). While the wise accept godly instruction, the boastful or babbling fool who rejects it will fall down by the predicaments he makes for himself (Proverbs 10:8).
- Because a fool feels that his own way is without error, he does not seek or listen to counsel as the wise one does. The fool is overbearing in his attitude since he has all the answers (Proverbs 12:15).
- A fool despises his father's instructions, in contrast to the one who shows good sense in regarding reproof (Proverbs 15:5).
- This kind of fool is also licentious, taking sinful enjoyment with a wayward woman (Proverbs 7:22).

Another word closely associated with 'foolish' is 'treacherous' "bagad" (H898) and it is a prim. root which means to cover, to act covertly, to pillage, deal deceitfully, treacherously, unfaithfully, offend, transgressor. Wilson's Old Testament Word Studies defines this word as one who is ready to form rash hopes, one who carelessly commits to an uncertain issue, is easily provoked, one who acts without counsel, whose will is too hard for his understanding, one who has no reason for what he does, but because she has a mind to do it, one who is not delighted with understanding, one who trusts in her own heart or mind, impious, identified with sin.

The foolish woman ...tears down her house...

The Hebrew word for "to tear down" or "to pluck down" is 'haras' (H2040). It sounds like the word "harass." It is most often translated 'overthrow.' It is a primitive root; to pull down or break into pieces, to destroy, beat down, pluck down, pull down, ruin, × utterly. This root means to destroy by tearing down, to take apart or disassemble. It can relate to city walls, houses, or fortresses.

- Its first usage occurs in **Exodus 15:7**, where it is translated 'overthrow' and refers to the destruction of the Egyptian armies in the Red Sea.

- When wicked ideas of sinners advance in the cities, it will bring about their destruction by sapping morality and the will to resist the intruder! "By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked." Proverbs 11:11
- Jeremiah was called to 'tear down' the evil in the land so the work of God could be built and planted in its place. Jer. 1:10

The foolish woman... tears down her house ...with her own hands.

The Hebrew word for 'hands' is 'yad' (H3027). It is a primitive word; a hand (the open one [indicating power, means, direction, etc.], in distinction from <H3709> (kaph), the closed one); used (as noun, adverb, etc.) in a great variety of applications, both literal and figuratively. The primary meaning of this noun is "the terminal part of the arm used to perform functions of man's will for good or bad." The phrase "into (or "under") someone's hand" conveys authority involving responsibility, care, and dominion over someone or something. One may be under the custody of this authority.

The Hebrew word for **'hands' represents dominion**. Mankind is to have the rest of creation "under his dominion" (Genesis 9:2). Sarah's authority over Hagar (Genesis 16:6, 9), Joseph's over Potiphar's house (Genesis 39:3-8), that of Moses and Aaron over Israel (Numbers 33:1), and David over Aram (1 Chron. 18:3) are all expressed by this phrase. Yahweh is to have authority over our lives. We place our hearts and spirits into his care, sovereignty, and judgment (Psalm 31:5, 15; [H 6, 16]; 2 Samuel 24:14). Moreover, this idiom portrays "victory over someone" when one is "delivered into one's hands." Deliverance, on the contrary, is described as being "delivered out of one's hands." Possession" is a common function of the hand. Therefore, "in one's hands" often bears that connotation.

The hand symbolized "power" or "strength" (Deut. 8:17). Deut. 32:36 described Israel's loss of power by saying "their hands were gone." Moses' hand was poignantly used to portray power in the plagues against Egypt (Exodus 10:12-25). The most notable use of this metaphor is its conveyance of God's power. 1 Chron. 29:12 declares that in Yahweh's hand is power and might (cf. Psalm 89:13 [H 14]). His hand is not "short" (or "weak") (Isaiah 59:1), but mighty. A predominant demonstration of his power was his deliverance of Israel from Egypt (Exodus 13:3-16; Numbers 33:3). All the world witnessed Yahweh's power through this event (Joshua 4:24). His hand created the world (Psalm 8:6; Psalm 95:5) and works truth and justice (Psalm 111:7). He upholds and guides the righteous with his hand (Psalm 37:24; Psalm 139:10). He continually lifts up his hand on our behalf (Psalm 10:12).

A corollary idea for hands is that of "ability" to accomplish a task. The phrases "hand reaches" or "hand finds" denote the ability to do or obtain something (Leviticus 14:21-32). Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament.

Ten ways we can inadvertently be tearing down our house:

- **Laziness** leads to a sagging roof; idleness leads to a leaky house. Ecclesiastes 10:18
- **Unfaithfulness:** A worthy (mighty, strong, valor-Chayil) wife is a crown for her husband, but a disgraceful woman (one who shames, disappoints or makes utterly dejected) is like cancer (a worm eating rot/decay) in his bones. Proverbs 12:4
- **Quarrelsome and angry:** It is better to live alone in the desert than with a quarrelsome (contentious, discord, strife) and complaining (angry, indignation, provocation) wife. Proverbs 21:19

- **Nagging AND complaining:** A quarrelsome (constantly contentious) wife is as annoying as constant dripping on a rainy day. Stopping her complaints is like trying to stop the wind or trying to hold something with greased hands. Proverbs 27:15-16 NLT
- **Control:** As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit (to take place in rank) to your husbands in everything. Ephesians 5:24 NLT
- **Foolish woman's words can turn a husband's heart away from the Lord.** "But he said to her, 'You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?' In all this Job did not sin with his lips." Job 2:10
- **The words of a fool bring ruin:** "The wise of heart will receive commands, But a babbling fool will be ruined (to fall, overthrown or thrown down)." "Wise men store up knowledge, But with the mouth of the foolish, ruin (terror, destruction) is at hand." Prov. 10:8, 10, 14
- **Foolishness brings a home to emptiness & slavery:** He who troubles (stirs up, disturbs) his own house will inherit wind, And the foolish will be servant to the wise-hearted. Prov.11:29
- **The fool walks in darkness and his home has no light:** "There is precious treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, But a foolish man swallows (devours or wastes) all he has." "Wise people see where they are going, but fools walk around in the dark." Prov. 21:20; Eccles. 2:14 (NCV)
- **The foundation of a fool's house will not stand:** "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. Matt. 7:26

Digging Deeper in the Word

The power of a woman's influence must never be underestimated, either for good or evil. My Bible's footnote concerning Satan's temptation of Eve states, Satan knew that he could persuade Eve more easily than Adam. Once Eve fell, **Satan was confident** that she could **influence** her husband to follow the same course. The wife and mother is the one who can set the mood or tone in the home. If we are at peace and tranquil, others are more likely to remain so, if we are upset, angry, out of God's Spirit, this attitude quickly spreads through the rest of the household.

*We see the negative power of the woman's influence ...
 ...in the purest of men, Adam;
 ...in the wisest of men, Solomon,
 ...and in the strongest of men, Samson*

Our words can give life or they can bring destruction. Our words are powerful for giving life to those around us or they can bring destruction. Proverbs 7:24-27 warns the evil woman's words can lead to death. We are instructed to encourage one another more and more as the day draws near, we are to build up one another. This does not just apply to the Church, but first foremost in our homes. Why are our most negative critical comments reserved for the members of our own family? Out of the abundance of the heart our mouths speak, so we must be careful what we are nurturing in our hearts, if our hearts are pure, then our words will also be good and pure. See Eph. 4:29; Phil. 4:8; Col. 4:6; Prov 7:24-27

Our actions also are examples to our husbands and children. By our actions we can glorify Christ and show our love and trust for Him. Our actions show what we value most highly...do they see in our actions a reverence for God, a joy and delight in His Word?

Biblical Examples of “foolish” women in the Bible: Note the power of their words.

1. **Samson: Two women used manipulative emotional tactics in Samson’s life with disastrous result for Samson.** His downfall was through his vulnerability to wicked women:

- **Samson’s wife:** When Samson shared the riddle at his wedding, men of the city coerced his wife to ‘entice’ him to tell her the riddle. The word entice is ‘pathah’ (H6601). It means to entice, deceive, prevail over, seduce. It means to delude in a mental or moral sense in a sinister way. It comes from the root word ‘suk’ (H6693) related to the word “stirred up” discussed above. She ‘pressed (suk H6693) him so hard.’ The word ‘pressed’ is which means to bring distress, oppress, to bring into straits. Strait (H6887) means to cramp (literally or figuratively), adversary, afflict, besiege, bind, bind up, distress, narrower, oppress, pangs, shut up, be in trouble, vex. It is from #H6862 to bring into a narrow, a tight place, (fig.) trouble, an opponent (as crowding), enemy, foe, affliction, close, distress, narrow, small, sorrow, tribulation. Note the men of the city threatened to burn Samson’s wife’s house with fire if she didn’t entice him to tell her the riddle. This is exactly what they did, killing her and her father in the fire. See Judges 14:12-17
- **Delilah**, the harlot, used a similar with Samson where Jud. 16:5, the Philistine lords told her to “entice” Samson. Judges 16:15-17 tells us that “when she pressed him (H6693—see above) daily with her words and urged (H6693) him, so that his soul was annoyed to death. So, he told her all that was in his heart...” The enemy exploited the vulnerability in Samson’s heart to women. It is easy to think, “How could Samson be so stupid after she three times demonstrated her intention to use this information for his harm?” But it demonstrates the spiritual power of seduction that was operating against him that defeated him without physical force when overt strength was not effective. Result: She made Samson sleep upon her lap and she cut off his hair (source of strength), “then she began to afflict him, and his strength left him.” Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and bound him with chains and put him to forced labor in a prison. Judges 16:19-12

NOTE: The account of Samson is an excellent source for meditation and prayer for men. Samson took his calling lightly. He was ruled by his desires and did not follow the instruction of the LORD. His parents catered to the desires of his flesh, when he told them he saw a Philistine woman and ‘she looked good to him.’ So, he told his parents to ‘get her for me!’ ...and they did!! Judges 13-16

2. Jezebel: There is no woman in the Bible who so perfectly epitomizes the spirit of the foolish and ungodly woman more than Jezebel. Her name has become synonymous with wicked and evil women. Jezebel literally tore down her family through the evil influence of her ways. While the Jezebel spirit can work in either men or women, Jezebel is most attracted to the qualities in the female psyche that allow her to dominate without the use of physical force.

Jezebel introduced the worship of Baal and Asherah to Israel. The demonic spirit working through Jezebel was almost totally responsible for corrupting an entire nation! Jezebel's most predominant characteristic was the use of control, manipulation and domination to get what she wanted. She married Ahab, a weak man, who came under her total control. Ahab allowed Jezebel to have her way

and did not stand in his God-appointed destiny. Jezebel introduced false worship of Baal and Asherah into the very heart of Israel. She became an enemy of the prophets of the true God and set about to systematically have them all killed. She became a powerful adversary of Elijah. The power of her influence eventually caused over ten million Hebrews to bow their knees to Baal. Only 7,000 Jews remain faithful in Israel under her rule of terror!

The worship of Asherah is referred to 40x in the Bible, especially in Kings and Chronicles. This female idol, along with Baal (meaning husband) was responsible for leading Israel away from the worship of the One True God time and time again. Every major pagan religion had some form of worship of Asherah. Asherah was the chief female deity, who supposedly went to the underworld to restore her youthful god. She was worshipped as the goddess of fertility and success. She was portrayed as the personification of female, primitive, sexual, fruitful, attractive and erotic. Her subjects prayed to her for life and health. She was also seen as the patroness of war and lust for blood. Centers of worship were licentious forms of worship including great lewdness and temple prostitution. Children were often sacrificed to appease these pagan gods.

Jezebel's name means literally "without cohabitation" or "unhusbanded". The meaning of the name has the idea of an island or may also be interpreted as one who has no habitation or dwelling place, fatherless. Without cohabitation also means that no one could live with her. She did not recognize authority or headship of those God has placed over her. Jezebel will not dwell with anyone unless she can control and dominate the relationship. She may seem submissive and subservient but it is for the sake of gaining a strategic advantage. In her heart, she yields to no one.

The power of her influence over her husband for evil was described in 1 Kings 21:25 "**But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife *stirred up.***" (KJV)

The Hebrew word for "**stirred up**" (incited or instigated) is 'suth' (H4596). It means to prick, stimulate, to seduce, entice, move, persuade, provoke, remove, set on, stir up, take away. The underlying idea of this word is that these things are done stealthily and with great cunning. It comes from 'shayit' (H7896) meaning a wild growth of weeds, briars or thorns, as though put deliberately upon a field in order to 'trash' the field from all fruitfulness. The primitive root of these words means 'to set' and speaks most often of 'setting the heart' in a certain direction. Ps. 140:5 uses this word to describe the evil intentions of the enemy. Psalm 140:5 "The proud have hidden a trap for me, and cords; They have spread a net by the wayside; They have set snares for me. Selah." Jezebel literally planted bad seeds in her husband's heart. The weeds and thorns sown in the field eventually destroyed all fruitfulness of the entire land. Ahab then used his influence to lure the righteous King Jehoshaphat into an unholy alliance that almost lost him his life. Jezebel always targets those in authority!!

We can see the stark contrast between the power of the foolish woman's words and those of the wise woman who is also constantly sowing seeds in the hearts of her family. We have the promised in James 1:5 that "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (KJV)

Characteristics of a Jezebel spirit: We are warned that in the last days there will be a great conflict between the Kingdom of light and darkness. Jezebel loves to create conflict and broken relationships and thrives in a spirit of anger and resentment. It is important that we recognize the Jezebel spirit as

it seeks to operate in or through us, our homes and the church. The following characteristics are gleaned from personal experience and a variety of sources. These characteristics of Jezebel are compiled from notes from a variety of sources, including Frances Frangipane and Gary Bergl.

- The main characteristic is an **unconscious, though discernable desire to be in control**. The spirit is a controlling spirit that uses subtle methods of manipulation, fear and intimidation to dominate others. She will use any tool available to manipulate those around her to do her will. It always seeks to have its own way in relationships.
- Jezebel **often operates through women, but not exclusively**. Jezebel often operates in women who are embittered against men. Especially if they have experienced neglect or misuse of authority. They often have a history of bitterness (See Acts 8:21-23) or a history of broken relationships in their past, often with their parents.
- Jezebel is **rebellious of authority**. Her name means “unhusbanded” and she does not accept any authority over her actions. These individuals have a root of rebellion in their lives, and an unyielding unwillingness to submit to those in authority (husbands, spiritual authorities, or government.)
- She **targets those who are in authority**. No exceptions! They seek ministry positions and leadership. She seeks attention and desires to gain pre-eminence and recognition. She seeks “followers.” Jezebel is often seen as an efficient or highly competent assistant and comes to the aid of a pastor or leader. She will appear to be a protector to gain access to the host. Her influence seeks to divert away from God’s plans and purposes.
- These individuals will often **appear to be highly spiritual** and operate in gifts of the Spirit. They advance themselves as having superior gifts of discernment, prophecy and special revelations from the Lord.
- There is an **uncontrolled misuse of the tongue** which is subtle and insidious. It causes strife and division. Her words spread lies and gossip, even through negative comments shared for the purpose of prayer. She primarily relies upon the words of her mouth to work her magic. Rev. 12:15 says, “And the serpent poured out water like a river out of his mouth after the woman (the Church), so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.” Never have we been so flooded with words as we are today in the age of the internet and social media! Satan is referred to as the ‘prince of the power of the air.’ Eph. 2:2; Isa. 58:9
- The Jezebel spirit uses the **operation of witchcraft** using control, dominance, manipulation and seduction, etc. It is so powerful that entire congregations can be seduced by this spirit. There is often a **history of occult** in the person’s background. 1 Kings 16-22, 2 Kings 9; Rev. 2:18-24; 1 Sam. 15:23
- Those operating in a spirit of Jezebel **beguile, teach and seduce others into immorality**, false worship, and idolatry. They often use the power of sexuality to seduce or control. She seeks to create ‘soul ties’ with those she targets in order to control them. This isn’t just applied to individuals, but to entire cultures.
- Jezebel is a master of **web-spinning strategies** to win the trust and confidence of those she wants to control.
- Jezebel **steps into the vacuum created by weakness**. She uses a person’s faults, or weaknesses to create shame, guilt and ultimately, submission to her will.
- She **draws strength from the control she exerts over a person**. This is why a person feels spiritually drained after contending with her. NOTE: Example of Elijah!

- She will use **any tool available to manipulate those around her to do her will**. She primarily relies upon the words of her mouth to work her magic. Rev. 12:15 says, “And the serpent poured out water like a river out of his mouth after the woman (the Church), so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.” Never have we been so flooded with words as we are today in the age of the internet and social media! Satan is referred to as the ‘prince of the power of the air.’ Eph. 2:2
- Doctrinally, Jezebel **opposes grace and repentance**. Those operating under this spirit typically do not receive counsel or show a true spirit of repentance when their behavior is addressed. Jezebel is a **major obstruction to revival, God’s order and authentic faith**.

Effects of Jezebel spirit coming against believers: Elijah had just had an amazing spiritual victory over the priests of Baal. 1 Kings 19:1-10 reveals the tactics and effects of Jezebel’s threats upon this man of God.

- When Ahab told Jezebel what Elijah had done, **she became enraged and threatens to take away Elijah’s life**. v. 2 Actually her vow sealed her fate, because he did not lose his life, she lost hers! God promises to contend with those who contend against us.
- **And when he saw that...** v. 3 Elijah put his focus on the words of this evil woman, and took his eyes off the Lord. Walking by sight with a focus on circumstances results in spiritual paralysis and unbelief. It magnifies difficulties and focuses on our circumstances and causes us to lose focus on God’s power, love and protection.
- **He arose and ran for his life, and went to Beersheba** v. 3 Elijah displayed **fear and intimidation** in response to her threats v. 3 We must never fear the retaliation of the enemy! God promises to protect us from harm when we are on assignment for Him. We are lambs among wolves but He says nothing shall harm us. Luke 10:3,19

Fear (yare H3372) meaning to make to fear something or someone. To be fearful or cautious, to fall into dread of evil. Intellectual anticipation of evil without substantive cause or emotion. To become demoralized or terrified. See Prov. 1:33 dread of evil

- **Desire to run away and withdrawal:** v. 3-4 He left his servant (support system) behind and entered the wilderness. Jezebel seeks to isolate her victims
- **Forsakes one’s spiritual covering: “sat under a juniper tree”** Elijah experienced a **loss of vision** regarding his calling and **confusion** entered his heart regarding his relationship with the LORD. There are 13 references to the juniper in the Bible. It is also translated “broom tree.” Juniper trees live in uncultivated areas, arid pastures, rocky places, ravines, sandy soil, or near marine areas. The juniper plant **appears to symbolize natural means of protection**: it offers shade but its branches are prickly and harsh and the tips of the needles have a sap that can cause a rash. In an oil form, juniper oil is believed to provide a grounding and calming effect that can help balance emotions and support mental health, as well as cleanse and purify the air. A juniper bath is thought to restore strength from exhaustion and free you from rheumatic pain. Burning juniper wood was widely believed that the fragrant fumes had therapeutic properties against germs to protect those in need of some special physical or spiritual protection. In the Greek, the Juniper was believed to repel the enemy through its thorny branches and people would

even place its thorny branches in the cracks of their homes to repel diseases and evil spirits. In the Hebrew, the word for 'juniper' is 'rethem, which means shade in the wilderness.

- **Depression and even desire for death:** In his **despair, Elijah requested for himself that he might die.** v. 4 Elijah actually came into alignment with Jezebel's threat of death! Elijah showed all of the signs of deep depression and defeat, hopelessness and this same man who stood against 450 priests of Baal without fear, but the threats of one woman, Jezebel, completely demoralized him. 1 Kings 18:39-40
- **Spiritual lethargy and defeat: He lay down and slept.** v. 5 Totally **defeated**, Elijah lay down under the juniper tree and slept. This sleep seemed to be a sleep of deep depression, not healthy rest. At this point, it appears that Elijah has given up and is waiting to die. This is a characteristic of this spirit, which causes one to feel totally defeated, despondent and one is tempted to cease fighting and give in. "Having done all else, stand!"
- **God came and ministered to Elijah.** v. 5 The angel touched him and woke him up! Pray for those who are defeated to be touched by God and awakened from their slumber. Note the healthy response He required for Elijah to take:
 1. **Arise:** v. 5 This was a call to wake up, take a stand, to get up on one's feet. You can't fight when lying down or hiding. 'To rise' means to awaken, stir up your spirit and get into position to step into one's true office, it speaks of preparation pursuant to getting ready to travel; also, preparation and engagement in a victory in war or struggle. It connotes an anticipation of an actual victory.
 2. **Eat:** v. 5 When we are under an attack by a Jezebel spirit, we will feel too disheartened to be in the Word and receive the nourishment we need. No matter how dry the Word seems, we need to spend time in the Word and prayer and allow the Lord to nourish our spirit and give us strength! "His gracious God did not lose sight of His fugitive servant, but watched over him, and, miraculously ministering to his wants, enabled him, in a better but not wholly right frame of mind, by virtue of that supernatural supply, to complete his contemplated journey. (A Commentary: Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments)
- **Then he looked (paid attention) and behold** (An interjection demanding attention, "look!" "see!"). v. 6 God was awakening Elijah out of the **deep spiritual oppression** that had taken over his spirit and emotions. Then he saw the bread cake and jar of water beside him. We must ask God to open our eyes to see the wonders of His Word and the Living Water He wants to give us.
- So, he ate and drank and **lay down again.** v. 6 He rested again. This time I think his rest was restorative rather than out of depression. **The enemy is most likely to attack AFTER a great spiritual victory when we are tired and worn out!** We need to follow Jesus' example to take one's rest and spend time with the Father to be restored! Mark 6:31 ERV says, "Jesus and his followers were in a very busy place. There were so many people that he and his followers did not even have time to eat. He said to them, "Come with me. We will go to a quiet place to be alone."
- The angel came a second time and touched him and said, "**Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.**" v. 7 There are several insights from this verse. The first is that God continued to press him to arise! We must recognize when the journey is too much for us or others. Secondly, there are times when the battle is too much for us and we need to learn how to let God carry our burdens. Elijah may have been shouldering responsibility for the spiritual

state of Israel himself. We need to constantly cast our burdens and cares on the Lord! We also need to reach out to others and not isolate ourselves when we are under spiritual attack! We must not stop praying for someone who is under this attack until we see them restored to full strength!

- **“So, he arose and ate and drank and went on the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights...”** v 8 Elijah was bid to return to the land of Israel, the promised land! Elijah arose and shook of the dust (chains placed on him by the robbers) and in his obedience he received strength to continue in the LORD. Isa. 52:1-2
- He went in that strength **“...to Horeb, the mountain of God...”** v. 8 The word Horeb means ‘desolation.’ This passage tells us that Horeb is the mountain of God! It is a meeting place with God where both Moses and Elijah met with the LORD here and received new assignments from God. It is a place of intimacy with God. Both Moses and Elijah had a profound revelation of God and His glory in this place. Jesus often went into the wilderness to spend time alone with the Father. This place of relationship and intimacy with the Lord is the place where our spirits are refreshed and our souls are restored from the battle.
- At Horeb, **“the Word of the Lord came to him”** and he spoke with the Lord. v 9-12 God cleared up the confusion and lies that he had believed... that he was the only one left in Israel who was faithful and that he had lost the battle. Note there had been an amazing victory but Jezebel’s threats completely obscured the Truth! God manifested Himself and Elijah learned that the manifestation of God’s presence was found in a whisper that can be heard in the quiet.

If only these spirits were confined to the pages of history. Unfortunately, one can see the influence of this spirit on the world today. Doors have been opened in our nation to allow these evil spirits to infiltrate our homes, schools, entertainment and government. They seek to bring about rebellion toward God, His Word and His order. These spirits defy God and seek to be a dominating force in the world today. Influence is seen in rise of blatant sexuality, promiscuity and gender confusion. This spirit causes women to seek to dominate men in all areas of society.

Note warning to the Church regarding Jezebel in Revelations 2:18-29

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like burnished bronze, says this: ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. ‘But I have this against you, that you **tolerate** [see definitions below] the woman Jezebel, who calls herself **a prophetess**, and **she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray** so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ‘I gave her time to repent, and she does not want to repent of her immorality. ‘Behold, I will throw her on a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless, they **repent of her deeds**. ‘And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds. ‘But I say to you, the rest who are in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep things of Satan, as they call them—I place no other burden on you. ‘Nevertheless what you have, **hold fast until I come. ‘He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES**, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

The wording in the Greek is clear. Jezebel was a member of the church and was influencing it from within. The church was rebuked because they “tolerated” Jezebel to continue in their midst, seducing and leading astray all who would partake of her wares. In most contexts the word used for “tolerate” is used in a positive sense, related to bearing up or enduring under persecution or pressures. But in the case of the Jezebel spirit, the church is chastised not to tolerate this spirit in her midst. The word tolerated is ‘apheimi” (Strong’s #863) and has two parts 1) is “a” which is a negative pronoun indicating “did not...” and 2) phiemi meaning ‘to send away, divorce, let go, be alone, permit, hinder.’ The Greek word contains the idea of permitting or passively allowing a behavior to continue by negligence. The church had ministerial power to censure and excommunicate her. Since they did not seek to stop her, they became sharers of her sin. 2 Cor. 11:19, 20; Eph. 5:11; Ezek. 33:1-10; Prov. 24:25; Lev. 19:17; Titus 1:13; 2:15; Rev. 18:4; 1 Sam. 3:13

The Webster’s 1828 Dictionary related to the word tolerate (or tolerable): That may be born or endured, supported physically or mentally, to be on moderately good terms or agreeable with; in a manner to be endured. To suffer to be, or to be done without prohibition or hindrance; to allow or to permit negatively, by not preventing, by not restraining.

In conclusion, we can see the stark contrast between the power of a wise woman to build and the foolish woman to tear down and destroy. 2 Cor 10:3-5 calls us to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. Let us seek God earnestly for the wisdom to build our houses, and protect us from falling into sin lest we become the foolish one who tears it down with her own hands. Let us pray for purification of our hearts and minds and ask the LORD for His wisdom and guidance to lead us to be builders in our homes and in the Church. We can arise and take our stand to be salt and light in the darkness of this world!

Ask the LORD to make us alert to tactics of manipulation or control that release a spirit of destruction! Let us pray for the purification of our own hearts and minds and ask the Lord by His wisdom and guidance to lead us as His builders in our homes and churches. Also let us pray for a true discernment of this spirit to be released in the Church that we might wage a good warfare for the Kingdom of God!!

What is the LORD speaking to your heart?

What is your response to God?