



1  **People You Shouldn't Marry**

1 Kings 16-17

2  **Review**

- The Kingdom of Israel was split after the death of Solomon (because of Solomon's sin) into the southern Kingdom of Judah and the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Over the last 10 lessons we have reviewed the history of these two kingdoms and specifically that of Jeroboam in the north, and Rehoboam, Abijah, and Asa in the south.

3  **From Jeroboam to Ahab**

- During the intervening time between Jeroboam and Ahab, there is a short period of successively more evil kings:
 - Nadab (903-902) – Assassinated by his general, Baasha, who proceeded to exterminate what remained of the house of Jeroboam, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite (1 Kings 14:1-8).

4  **From Jeroboam to Ahab**

- Baasha (902-886) – Equally as wicked as Jeroboam. The prophet Jehu pronounces the curse upon the house of Jeroboam as having transferred to the house of Baasha (1 Kings 16:1-4).
- Elah (886) – Baasha's son, assassinated by his chariot commander Zimri (similar to the way in which Baasha had murdered Nadab), fulfilling Jehu's prophecy.

5  **From Jeroboam to Ahab**

- Zimri (885) – Sets himself up as king, before Omri is elected king by the army. Finding his position untenable, Zimri commits suicide after being king for seven days (1 Kings 16). Incidentally, "Zimri" is the Hebrew equivalent of "Benedict Arnold" (2 Kings 9:31).

6  **From Jeroboam to Ahab**

- Omri (885-873) – Omri is the most wicked king that Israel had yet had.
 - Omri only becomes king after a four-year civil war with Tibni, another claimant to the throne (1 Kings 16:21).
 - Omri established the city of Samaria as the new capital of Israel (16:24).
- Omri "did worse than all that were before him" (v. 25).

7  **Meet Ahab**

- Ahab was Omri's son and successor.
- He reigned from 873-851 B.C. His reign shows us the religious and political turmoil that Israel was undergoing, in greater detail than anywhere else in Scripture.
- He is the worst king ever, the son of the worst king ever:
- "*And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*" (1Ki 16:30)










8  **Ahab's sins**









- Ahab had a number of sins that distinguished him as particularly immoral, even from a long line of immoral forbearers:
 - 1) He was unsatisfied with his forbearers' sins
 - 2) He married foolishly
 - 3) He broke the first commandment (whereas up till now his predecessors had been at least nominally keeping this one) and introduces the worship of a pagan Canaanite trinity






9  **1. Dissatisfaction with sin**

- *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.* (1Ki 16:31)

10  **1. Dissatisfaction with sin**

- Ahab was very clearly conscious of what he was doing, and Scripture clearly states that he was dissatisfied with the status quo, as sinful as it already was.
 - Sin by its very nature is dissatisfying – sin in its essence is rejecting what is truly satisfying (Christ) for that which is only temporarily satisfying.
 - It is GOOD to be dissatisfied with sin – as long as you look for that satisfaction in the right places.
- 11  **1. Dissatisfaction with sin**
- When we do not find our satisfaction in sin we have two choices:
 - Pursue that which is ultimately satisfying
 - Pursue deeper levels of sin
 - We usually choose the latter because it's the easier, more comfortable path, and it requires no humility.
 - This is precisely the danger of sins of addiction.
- 12  **2. Foolish marital choices**
- *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. (1Ki 16:31)*
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- 13  **2. Foolish marital choices**
- Ahab essentially repeats Solomon's mistake on a smaller scale:
 - *For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. (1 Kings 11:4).*
- 14  **Meet Jezebel**
- Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal (Ithbaal I), the king of Tyre (Zidonia).
 - The Zidonia referred to here is the Syro-Phoenician Empire, expanded under Ithbaal I, and is the same "Tyre and Sidon" referred to elsewhere in Scripture.
 - The Phoenicians were a powerful cultural influence in the region as well as prolific sailors and merchants.
- 15  **Meet Jezebel**
- Jezebel's father Ithbaal I was previously a priest of Astarte (Ashtoreth, Ishtar) before slaying the previous king and assuming control of the kingdom.
 - This explains the fervor that Jezebel demonstrated in promoting the pagan worship of El, Ashtoreth, and Baal in Israel, since she may have actually been a priestess of the pagan religion.
- 16  **What kind of a woman was Jezebel?**
- Jezebel is a scheming, manipulative woman, who was ultimately responsible for multiple counts of murder and the spiritual downfall of Israel.
 - In the end, Jezebel would die a horribly graphic and violent death.
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- 17  **How to spot a Jezebel**
- Jezebel was a particularly destructive influence on Ahab – and today there are many women who will be destructive or unhelpful influences on men.
 - Unfortunately, many young men lack the discernment to know which women will strengthen their ministry and which will tear it down.
- 18  **1. Self-worth through idolatry**
- In biblical times (and specifically in the OT), a person's name carried great power. It told you something about that person, and it was in the most real sense their identity.
 - Jezebel's name in her native tongue means "The Prince Baal Exists." However, in Hebrew it means, "There is no nobility."
- 19  **1. Self-worth through idolatry**

- Jezebel was a wicked woman who found her self-worth through the promotion of her false religion.
 - There are many girls and women today who find their self-worth in the things that the world tells them should fulfill them: careers, physical appearance, or male attention.
- 20  **1. Self-worth through idolatry**
- Looking to any of these things for fulfillment instead of Christ and the biblical plan for womanhood is idolatry, a woman who is focused on these things is not ready to be a helpmeet.
 - This trait is dangerous because it will prevent her from ever becoming passionate about anything that does not promote her own self-image.
- 21  **2. She caters to your selfishness**
- In I Kings 21, there is the story of Naboth's vineyard. Naboth was a landowner who would not sell his land to Ahab.
 - Ahab sulked, and consequently Jezebel takes matters into her own hands, has Naboth murdered, and gives the land to her husband.
 - A woman who caters to a man's selfishness is one of the most destructive influences that man can have.
- 22  **2. She caters to your selfishness**
- Young men have a tendency to pursue younger girls who are more easily impressed instead of ladies who will challenge them to lead, force them to discard their self-focus, and inspire them to courageous manhood.
 - A good indicator is a) how much he talks about himself and b) how much she encourages him to do so.
- 23  **2. She caters to your selfishness**
- A good question for men to ask themselves about the women in their lives: Does being around this person make you more Christlike, or does it make you:
 - Jealous
 - Contentious
 - Competitive
 - Disrespectful
 - A braggart
- 24  **3. Physical beauty vs. spiritual beauty**
- In 2 Kings 9, with the reformer Jehu having just ascended to the throne of Israel and being on his way to kill her, Jezebel resorts to the use of cosmetic enhancements as a way to achieve her goals.
 - Though there is nothing inherently wrong with physical beauty, a woman who seeks after it more than godly character will be a destructive influence.
- 25  **3. Physical beauty vs. spiritual beauty**
- *Do not let your adorning be external--the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear-- but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands... (1Pe 3:3-5)*
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- 26  **3. Physical beauty vs. spiritual beauty**
- Part of the problem is that the men in our society today, and even men within the church, are more interested in a "good time" or deriving some kind of physical or emotional pleasure out of a relationship than they are in being spiritual leaders.
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- 27  **How to spot an Ahab**
- It's just as important for young ladies to spot Ahabs as it is for young men to spot Jezebels.

- Ahabs and Jezebels are often attracted to each other – this is because Ahabs are essentially selfish and Jezebels feed that selfishness.
 - Ultimately, Ahab is one more example of masculinity out of control (as already covered in the life of Rehoboam).
- 28  **1. Ahabs only serve when convenient**
- In 1 Kings 20-21 Ahab is given victory by God over Ben-Hadad of Syria. However, Ahab disobeys God and spares Ben-Hadad's life because it is convenient to do so.
 - God's judgment for this sin will be that Ahab ultimately dies in battle.
 - Ahabs will make a big deal about being committed to service – but only as long as it brings attention to themselves.
- 29  **2. Ahabs feed on self-pity**
- Ahab's self-pity plays out for us in 1 Kings 21, in which he goes into severe depression because he cannot have what he wants.
 - Ultimately, Ahabs are self-focused. This prevents them from being able to show genuine love to others except where it makes them feel good about themselves.
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- 30  **3. Ahabs shift blame**
- Ahab repeatedly shifts the blame for his actions to others.
 - When Elijah first confronts Ahab, Ahab calls him the “troubler of Israel” (1 Kings 18:17), as though Elijah is the problem.
 - Ahabs will often try to shift the blame for their problems to those who confront them with truth.
- 31  **Questions for singles**
- Men:
 - Does being around her make you a less-selfish person?
 - Do you feel feelings of jealousy where you have no right to be jealous?
 - Women:
 - Does he spend more time talking about himself & his own experiences or others?
 - Does he verbally tear down others to build himself up?
- 32  **Ahab and Jezebel**
- All men have some Ahab in them – we all want to make much of ourselves. Marrying a Jezebel will only bring it out.
 - Single men and women need to be careful not to encourage Ahab and Jezebel traits in one another.