

Defeating Jezebel

Week 8 – Jezebel’s Judgments

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches (Revelation 2:7)

When you think about Jesus, what do you think about? I think of unmeasurable love, abounding in grace, compassionate, humility, gracious, just to name a few. Do you think of long suffering (patient, forbearing, uncomplaining, forgiving, understanding)?

The Lord told Ezekiel in 20:17, *“Nevertheless My eye spared them from destruction. I did not make an end of them in the wilderness.”* The Lord was talking about Israel. In the beginning of the chapter the elders of Israel had come to inquire a word from Ezekiel. Ezekiel said that he would not be inquired of by them, and instead the Lord gave him instruction to pronounce a judgment upon the nation (Ezekiel 20:1-4). Israel had a history of rebellion. The Lord had been patient with them and gave them time to repent from their idolatry and sexual immorality, but they did not.

Psalm 78:38 says, *“But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and did not destroy them”.*

Jesus even gave “that woman Jezebel” *time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not (Revelation 2:21).*

Eli’s House Is Judged

Read 1 Samuel 2:12-36

Eli was a priest. As you just read, his sons were wicked. In the Amplified it says in verse 12 *“the sons did not know or regard the Lord”*. How could the sons of a priest be corrupt? How could the sons of a priest not know the Lord? Jennifer LeClaire says, “In this case, the answer is evident: Eli did not stand in his role as father and spiritual leader. Eli allowed Jezebel to usurp his authority in the family unit. As a result, Eli’s sons were tightly in Jezebel’s clutches.”

The Bible says in 1 Samuel 2:22 that Eli heard of everything that his sons did. He was told by the people how his sons were laying with the women who hung out at the door of the tabernacle. Can you imagine?

To understand the extent of what they were doing, Jennifer LeClaire put it this way, “That would be like the pastor’s sons having sex with members of the church behind the building. Actually, more blatant: in the front lobby”. Eli did nothing more than have a conversation with his sons about it (verses 23-25), and his sons did not heed the voice of their father. Then the Lord spoke thru the prophet to Eli and He asked, *“Why do you honor your sons more than me?”* The Lord had been long-suffering long enough, and judgement was about to come upon them. Because Eli failed to discipline his sons, the Lord had to.

John 16:8 says, *“And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and righteousness, and judgement”*. We can see here, that if the sinner does not go before the Lord, with a humble heart, repent and seek God to change their ways, judgement will in the end come.

Reflect - In Amos 8:11 it says, *“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord”*.

This would be the worst famine of all.....a spiritual famine. Not because God is not sending His Word, but because people will refuse to hear it. Remember in our lesson last week the false prophets preached what Jezebel wanted them to, which was also what the people wanted to hear. The apostle Paul wrote in

2 Timothy 4:3-4, *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables".*

Why was false teaching popular with Jezebel's 850 false prophets? Because people then, and people today, want to hear what pleases them rather than what is true!

Confess - Jesus is so full of compassion Beloved, that while we are in sin He waits patiently for us to turn our heart towards Him. Eli's sons did not know or respect the Lord. To know Jesus does not mean to just have knowledge of Him. Think and pray this week about what it means to you to **know** Jesus?

We are all influenced by someone or something. Who or what has the most influence in your life? Do you try to justify your sin, and compromise your belief? Jesus is long-suffering, and relentless! He is persistent, constant, and continuous in His love for you Beloved! Hear what the Spirit is saying to you, and with a humble heart submit your will to Him! Have a blessed week!