

Fight the gods: Part 2



We're talking about fight the gods. You must fight the gods because if you don't, God will end up fighting the god that you've fallen in love with, and you'll end up getting hurt in the process. If you don't fight the gods, it is your destiny that is being sacrificed on the line.

Recap of last week:

Idols are naturally derived because they are just a glorification of your desire. When you desire something so much, it becomes spiritual; and when it becomes spiritual, you assign it to a spirit—and then the spirit ends up determining your actions.

- This is what idols deriving naturally means. It is more natural to serve an idol than it is to serve God because it is not natural to simply lay down your life continuously, giving it on the altar of sacrifice. Unless you have been regenerated and redeemed in your flesh, you will never want to submit to God.
- However, you're ready to submit to your idols because your idols are literally your desires becoming spiritual. Therefore, it is easier to serve what you love naturally than what you do not love because without the Spirit of God, you naturally reject God.
- Now, those who have idols must have a secret place, and the secret place is in your mind; the secret place is where you meditate, where you earnestly pray, and where your ideas mature.

- When you have a secret place with God, it means that you dwell with God. That's where you meditate with God—that's where you pray. Some people have a physical place in their house where they go to as their spiritual sanctum.
- Either way, in your head is where you dwell; and in your spirit, you meditate day and night upon the word of God. It's the same thing with idolatry—you meditate. A lot of places that we meditate in are secret place is in our minds.
- But in your mind, when the idea has matured, it develops into an altar, and an altar is a meeting place between the spiritual and the physical. Whenever altars are established in the Bible, they are usually as a memorial for something that happened in that location.
- When you have dwelled in your head on something, it literally becomes spiritual; and the way you turn it into an idol is that Satan tries to give you exact ideas on what you need to do to get what you want. In that place is where a spirit meets physicality.
- But with an altar, there is a sacrifice, and the sacrifice is how you live; every god requires a sacrifice. Everything that you do will cost you something, and everything that you do in this life—even pleasure—will cost you.
- It's like when you're drinking alcohol and the next day, you're hung-over, and your liver is suffering—there's a cost. Though you may like drinking alcohol—and that's between you and God—just know that everything has a cost; whether you serve God in heaven or your idols, there's a cost to be paid.
- My job today is to give you more inclination on idols and how they are easily formed. I will show you two instances in the Bible that we will touch on. I need you to follow me so that I can show you how things that happen to us—whether it's our fault, predispositions due to the families we were born in, the positions we have, our DNA, or whatever it is—cause us to form idols if we're not watchful of how we live and what we decide to do.
- We must be able to identify them so that you don't attract spirits. Your experiences (whether you like it or not) predispose you to spirits. No one is independent of a governing spirit; we are dealing with them 24/7, period—whether of God or of demons.
- Some might say, "I keep having dreams." Well, at least you are seeing them. Some of us don't even have dreams about being attacked because when God allows you to see it, it means that you are in the middle of the fight.

Example of an attack:

There was a time when I was under attack and I couldn't get up. It felt as though I was just being held down [as in sleep paralysis]. In the realm of the spirit, I could see that I was in my bed and my eyes were open, and I knew that I was sleeping because I saw myself asleep; and then I turned to look out of the window, and I saw Satan standing there. He said, "I can't come in, but I am going to try from here." If God hadn't opened my eyes, I could have woken up and fornicated in my dream! So, if I see them, I know that I'm at war. For some of us, we just want the dream to go away, but why? If you can see your fight, it's a good thing—so fight. We must understand that you must take care of your foundations, or they will create gods.

Remember Gideon?

Gideon was the guy who seemed small in his own sight. Although this was his weakness, when God uses you, He doesn't allow the weakness to remain with you; because if He calls you with a weakness and He doesn't fix it, it will be the end of your ministry. It always comes back up.

- I'm going through the Bible, and I ask myself, "Why don't they ever end well?" The people who almost always performed the biggest miracles never ended well. They were called with weaknesses; and Gideon's weakness was that he seemed small in his own eyes.
- He'd remark, "It can't be!" The first sign he asked for was to go and cook so that they could eat. And the angel said to him, "Bring the food and put it here." When he touched it, it disappeared with fire to prove that God was saying, "Yes, it is you that I want."
- God gave him a third assignment, and that's when he asked for the second sign. He said to God, "If You will save Israel by my hands as You have said—look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said."
- So God proved to Gideon. Gideon then went with his army of 30,000, and God told him that he had too many and reduced them to 300—and they destroyed the entire population of Midianites. *That's* faith—amazing!
- After that, the people of Israel came to Gideon and said, "Hey, can we make you the king?" Remember that back then God said, "I don't want kings. I will lead through My prophets and then the judges can judge over Israel."
- Gideon said, "No, God said there will be no kings," and this is theologically correct. But then he said, "You will do one thing for me." He said, "Since we've destroyed the Midianites and the Midianite men wore gold earrings, give me gold—go gather gold and give it to me."
- They gave him the gold and he decided to make an ephod; but in the Bible, God told the priests how to make the ephod. Yet, no problem, Gideon wanted to make an ephod.
- An ephod is a vest worn by priests which indicated that you were a high priest who goes and inquires from God. But then, look at what he did [in Judges 8:27]:

Judges 8:27

²⁷Gideon made a sacred ephod for the gold and put it in Ophrah his hometown, [where he heard God the first time]. But soon all the Israelites prostituted themselves by worshipping it, and it became a trap for Gideon and his family.

What's the problem?

Gideon. Why would it be a trap (because if you made it, just go, and destroy it)? Instead, Gideon became a priest of idol worship. The guy who didn't even think he was worthy tasted power; and instead of going back to what he was supposed to be, or a judge who heard God, he couldn't allow himself to go back to the place where he was just one of them.

- So, he made a vest of gold to stand out—no problem. But then, the way people wanted to relate with him was to worship it—and he didn't stop them. Nobody taught Gideon that if

God starts to use you (with your insecurities and low self-esteem), and you have tasted power, it can turn into idolatry because you will not want to let that power go—remembering the days when you looked like nothing in your own sight.

- If you read the story, it doesn't end well; he had so many wives, and 70 sons, and one of them arose in a coup and killed all of them. He took Israel into full idolatry, visiting the wickedness into the next generation.
- When you don't deal with the root cause of what you are dealing with when God called you, it will mature—and that is why I want to talk to you about Ahab and Jezebel.
- After last week's service, I received a lot of calls from individuals who do not attend this church and they were like, "Everybody's talking about getting rid of their idols." If you know one thing that reflects the heart of God, it is that idolatry has filled Christianity.
- That's why all the online influencers are fighting each other. I don't live on YouTube because if I must live off content and I am a person of the Spirit, I cannot make the Holy Spirit the product of my content.
- I cannot seek the Holy Spirit to keep giving me content to stay relevant and say that I am in the realm of the Spirit—the Holy Spirit doesn't act like that. He reveals, you seek. If the online algorithm says you must have four posts of content a day, when did I spend that much time with Him to develop four posts of content a day?
- You want me to mess with that? You'll be building idolatry in the name of Jesus! And a couple of the spirits that keep coming up when they talk about idolatry is Ahab and Jezebel. Now, when talking about Ahab and Jezebel, there's something that pastors must talk about; of all the spirits in the Bible on idolatry, we talk about the spirit of Jezebel a lot, but we don't talk about the spirit of Ahab.
- In fact, Jezebel cannot get you if you don't have Ahab; you need Ahab before you can have a Jezebel. But as a Jezebel, you cannot rule without an Ahab; and Ahab cannot exist without the anointing of Jezebel.
- These two people—the existence of these two—are at the cause of two different problems that we face in this generation a lot! In the last days, the spirits that the antichrist uses against the church are Ahab and Jezebel. They are the one-two punch that the church must watch out for.

Let's talk about Ahab:

By the way, neither Ahab nor Jezebel is male or female; I have met men with the spirit of Jezebel—and it is ugly. They're the same, but men do it with conviction. When a Jezebel spirit is in a man who lives and dies for the purpose that God has given them and they add ego to Jezebel, it's hard.

1 King 16:30

¹⁶But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord's sight, even more than any king of the kings before him.

- He was evil, and his father was evil, and he did what was evil—like his father and his grandfather; but Ahab’s was different because the verse says “even more than any of the kings before him.” So, something was so evil with Ahab.

¹⁷And as though it were not enough [he was so evil than any other king, that the Bible tells us the gravity of his evil] to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam [the Bible is trying to build a case for his evil], married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal.

**Jeroboam was the servant of Solomon. Solomon gave him an assignment, and when he went to do the assignment, the prophet of the Lord met him in the field and said, “Come here. God is angry with the house of David, and He is going to take the kingdom away from the house of David. He’s going to give him only one of the lands—Judah. You, Jeroboam, will get all ten of the tribes of Israel.” Solomon heard about this and tried to kill him, so he ran away. Solomon died and Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, took his place. Then the people of Israel came to Rehoboam and said, “Your father, Solomon, was too hard on us. He kept building and building Israel and we’re tired—go easy on us.”

Rehoboam said, “Go, I will give you an answer later.” The Bible says Rehoboam was foolish because he went to go and ask his friends, the young men, instead of the elders. The elders said, “Listen to the people,” but Rehoboam instead listened to his friends—his agemates. He said the agemates told him, “Go back and put a levy on them,” and he did. Jeroboam heard about it and came back as he was the one representing the Israelites in front of the king. When the king said, “I will make it harder on you,” Israel made Jeroboam king, taking the kingdom away from Rehoboam.

Now, Jeroboam sat down as king over Israel, but then discovered that Jerusalem is where the temple was, and they had to keep going over into the enemy territory to pray. So, he sat down and said, “How do I stop people from going into Jerusalem so that they don’t go to pray and fall in love with the king of Judah, and then take the kingdom away from me?” So, he came up with a wonderful political plan: his plan was to build two golden calves like the one that God destroyed in the wilderness. Then he said to the people, “Look, your gods delivered you out of Egypt, and Israel followed them.” He was the sinful example of Jezebel, by using religion to stay in power.

³¹And as though it were not enough to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal.

- Because he was using religion and idol worshiping for politics, he [Ahab] married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal [that’s not his name; if it was, it is a descriptive name]. Ethbaal (Eth meaning with Baal) could also be translated as the man of Baal who was not only a king, but was also the priest of Baal.

- He married the daughter of the priest of Baal of the Sidonians (who were the Canaanites)—who oppressed Israel just a few years before—and God said, “Do not create treaties with anyone.”
“And he began to bow down in worship [for political reasons and to remain in power], to Baal.”

What did I tell you about idols?

Idols represent you falling in love with and being in awe of your own desires. Baal was the god that people wanted to serve because he was the god of fertility, the god of proliferation.

- He was the prince, lord of the earth, lord of rain and dew; and if you lived in the desert, you wanted the lord of rain and dew because that’s how you drank water, and that’s how your crops grew.
- Baal was a storm god, who rode on the clouds—lord of the heavens; this sounds like Yahweh, but the thing about Yahweh is that He does what He wants. With Baal, you could entice him to do what *you* want.
- So, if you wanted to remain in power and you wanted control over the god and what the god said to make the people do what you want, you chose Baal. So, Ahab chose Baal as a way of attaining success on his throne.

Make note of the following:

1. If you make successes an idol, you will make treaties to sustain it.
 2. The worship of Baal/Jezebel was a treaty to keep his kingdom.
- If you make successes an idol, you will make treaties to sustain it. Forget this idea of “With devoting my way to the Lord, God is too unstable to get the sustenance that I want.” This is what some of us think because when you want sustenance and you pray for it, God will at times come to you in a dream saying, “I’m testing you.”
 - And your heart responds, “Forget this test, give me what I want!” So, you make treaties outside the will of God to sustain the desire, and the worship of Baal and the reception of Jezebel enter in. The worship of Baal/Jezebel was a treaty to keep his kingdom.
 - The spirit that gave him lust was success; he lusted for success, and he needed gods that resembled the success that he wanted to keep him in power. Again, Ahab’s motives were success, power, and staying on the throne, but he needed the muscle to establish them.
 - So, that is the spirit that had to attract Jezebel; it is a lustful desire to just be in power, the desire to receive what Baal had to offer—that he’d rather serve idols to get what he wanted than to serve God.

Now Jezebel...

The name “Jezebel” means “lacking honor.” But Jezebel was not her name; Jezebel was the name that was given to her by the Hebrews who were writing about her, when they were trying to describe who this person is. This is a Hebrew name, and it means to lack honor.

- Her real name was Abizebel, which means “my Father (Baal) is noble.” Her father was the priest of Baal, and everything about her was about Baal. So, when Ahab was marrying her, it was not because of love, it was because of what she represented; he knew that he was marrying the princess of the spirit that he wanted to stay in power.
- As we go back to 1 King 16:31, it says, **“As though it were not enough to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of the Sidonians.”**
- When two kings made an agreement, one of the first things that happened when making a treaty was to give a daughter as part of the agreement. Ahab made a treaty with the priest of Baal himself, and his daughter, Jezebel, was collateral.
- But he wanted the anointing of Baal, so he received Jezebel. So, it was not a marriage of love—she was a gift.

More notes:

3. At the root of Jezebel is rejection, being unloved, and family problems. There cannot be a Jezebel unless there are family problems.

- You need dysfunction and rejection to have the power of Jezebel because everything Jezebel does is to prove they that she is something; that’s what empowers Jezebel—she has a point to prove.
- She has to prove that she is something: “I am not just a gift, or a useless thing; I know that I came from rejection and not love, and my father just handed me over.” Women, by the way, were not okay with this practice. You need bitterness, rejection, and the feeling of being unloved for Jezebel to be able to possess you. It requires the desire to prove something.

Revelation 2:20

²⁰But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophetess [she must give herself a title to prove she’s something]—to lead My servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols.

- She had to give herself a title to lead. The spirit comes from rejection, and the spirit will make sure it gives a title, and everyone must know the title because, “I must lead.” She chose to call herself a prophetess because for some reason, people have taken prophets as the ones who hear God.
- “If I can hear God, that means that I am close to God; I represent God, and whatever I say, must be done.” It is the one gift you chose when your aim was to manipulate. So, since Jezebel called herself a prophetess to lead, she must lead.
- In fact, the problem with Jezebel is that she will keep telling Ahab that he’s the leader when in fact she is leading him. But this is the problem: “she leads them astray,” and she has sexual problems. And it’s not that she leads them to eat food offered to idols; it’s the idea that idolatry is not a big deal—idolatry is spiritualized.

- This church is amazing and in verse 19, God told them, “I know this about you: you guys are doing an amazing job, and the things you are doing now are better than the things you were doing then.” This was a church that knew God so much, that they were moving forward in everything they were doing.
- That means the presence of God was with them. That means they worshiped God and this spirit was in somebody—which was one of them—participating in the things of God; but the problem they had was that they just permitted it.
- So, now you must think, “How could God say they were amazing, but then also have a problem with them permitting this spirit?” That should start telling you something about this spirit—it hates correction, confrontation, being denied.
- It loves passive people, and it is easier if left alone, rather than to touch it—or else it will wear you out if you mess with it.
- The spirit hates confrontation, and what made Ahab himself was the fact that he was not a confrontational person—that spirit loved this. If you decide that you want to correct that spirit, since it is “never wrong,” it will not be denied.

Why is it easier to leave the spirit alone?

When Elijah decided to deal with the spirit of Jezebel, he became so frustrated that he said, “Go and create an idol of Baal, and bring all of Israel together, and let’s prove who’s God.”

- He did this for the people, along with Jezebel, to realize that Baal was not God. That’s what he was hoping for, that Jezebel would repent. He was hoping that her servants would repent; he was hoping for all of that and that’s why he did all of that.
- He went to erect an altar and he told them to do the same; he then sat down and started making fun of them. He made fun of them in public because he wanted to be theatrical, so that people would repent.
- And he had instructed them on what to do to prove their god was real (which he knew wasn’t the case) because he wanted them to repent. Fire came and consumed Baal’s altar. Elijah thought the people were repenting because the first step to repentance is to kill the gods.
- He then started killing all their priests because in his head, he’s proven that God is God. When Jezebel heard about it, she said, “I swear, I carry God swear, I will kill this man.” Because it’s not about repentance with this spirit; it’s about staying in control.
- Elijah got tired because he knew every spiritual thing. He knew what to do to get rid of that spirit, didn’t work—that’s why he was tired. The spirit does not like confrontation because change is not its goal; its goal is to remain in control.
- No matter how spiritual you are, if you keep entertaining that spirit, it will just wear you out. And the church left it there because if they engaged it, it would start a fight; and if you noticed, young men in the church were following her.
- The spirit creates followers in the church so that the day that the eldership comes to destroy it, that spirit will destroy everyone else that follows it. The fastest way to destroy a church is to let the spirit stay—unless you decide to fight it (like Elijah).

- The spirit of rejection is everywhere today, and young people have an addiction to becoming successful to prove a point. What is happening is that the spirit of Jezebel is working. They don't want correction: "I will do what I want to do to stay in power."
- Jezebel is attractive because she's capable and self-sufficient through manipulation; she leads from behind. The spirit of Jezebel is the kind of spirit that if you're not careful, they have ideas, they know what they're doing, they're self-sufficient, and they're always ready.

For example:

Robert Morris said the way he found out that there was a spirit of Jezebel in his church was that a man kept coming to him and saying to him (like Jonathan told David), "I'm here; God sent me to help your ministry, and that's all I'm going to do. I am going to be behind you, no matter what happens. You're going to be first, and I'm going to be second in this church with you."

- At first, he said "Praise God! God sent him." As things kept going, he noticed that the guy was leading from behind, telling him what they were going to do; and if he decided on something, he started to correct him.
- And then he noticed that the guy started getting frustrated with him and started telling him what to do in board meetings. He called the guy to him and asked, "Who's the pastor here?" and the guy said, "You are, I was sent by God to help you."
- He said that literally in about a one year, the whole thing [church] was falling apart. God came to him and said, "You entertained Jezebel, that's why." Manipulation.
- Now, we're going to turn to 1 Kings, and I want to show you the extent of Jezebel and why Ahab needs a Jezebel. It's one or the other: it's either an Ahab needs a Jezebel, or a Jezebel looking for an Ahab. Because Jezebel cannot do it on his or her own, it needs somebody in power to suck from.

1 Kings 21:3-16:

³But Naboth said to Ahab [Ahab wanted Naboth's land for himself], "The Lord forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you."

⁴So, Ahab went home sullen and displeased [moping]. He started nursing in his secret place on unsuccessfully getting the land. He was also displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken for he had said, "I will not give you the lands of my father." And he lay down on his bed [he was really moping] and turned away his face and would eat no food. [He was desperate and really wanted that land. When your desires become spiritual, you mope and obsess about it—until Jezebel walks into the room.]

⁵But Jezebel, his wife, came to him and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?" [You see why he needs a Jezebel? Because he's unfrontational, but he's wounded; he wants success, but he needs the spirit of success from Baal.]

⁶And he said to her "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you *another* vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" [Some people can't take rejection because it's antithesis to your obsessive desires.]

⁷Then Jezebel his wife said to him, “You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

⁸And she wrote letters in Ahab’s name [manipulation] sealed them with his seal [she copied his signature] and sent letters to the elders and nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. ⁹She wrote in the letters saying,

“Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; ¹⁰and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him saying, “You have blasphemed God and the king.’ Then take him out and stone him, that he may die.

[She wrote a letter indicating what should happen to him.]

¹¹So men of his city, the elders and the nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel sent to them, as it *was* written in the letters which she had sent to them. ¹²They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth with high honor among the people.

¹³And two men, scoundrels, witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth has blasphemed God and the King!” Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. ¹⁴Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned and he is dead.”

¹⁵And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.”

¹⁶So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

- The spirit of Jezebel gives you what you have been obsessing about; she doesn’t care how she gets it—you just say, “Thank you.” That’s how that spirit works.

Two spirits are at play here:

The spirit of rejection and the spirit of wanting to succeed at any cost—they attract each other. When you must succeed at the cost of anything, you cannot hear God. In fact, what is very interesting about this is that you think better without the spirit of Jezebel.

- If you look at chapter 20, when Jezebel wasn’t with him, he was thinking so well that a prophet came to give him a prophetic word that worked.
- But as soon as Jezebel comes into his presence, the guy can’t think; the spirit thinks for him. And what attracts Jezebel is obsession about winning no matter the cost, and Jezebel gets her power by not dealing with rejection.
- When you must prove a point to people, you end up giving yourself over to idols that God never gave you. You end up becoming so self-sufficient, that you must always attach yourself to somebody else—because people like Jezebel must attach themselves to people of significance.

- If you're going to serve God, deal with the root of your problem—like Gideon, Ahab, or Jezebel. If you don't deal with the root cause of your problem, there will be a spirit that works on your behalf to give you what you're desiring, but it will be at the cost of your life.
- As we even continue to grow this church, one thing we must not tolerate in this place is the spirit of Ahab and the spirit of Jezebel. We cannot be passive; we cannot want success so much that it's at the expense of other people.
- We will also deal with the root cause of rejection because we have nothing to prove around here, but Jesus—the Son of Glory. Amen.