

Queen Jezebel, a Picture of Hell

1 Kings 21:1-29

People sometimes use the name “Jezebel” to describe an evil woman. Queen Jezebel's evils, and the power she held over her husband, Ahab, picture hell on earth. Jezebel stands for the evil delights of love of the world and love of self. She also stands for completely destroying the precious true ideas in the Word.

Each evil Jezebel committed represents an even deeper evil. Match the evil she did to the greater spiritual evil her actions picture.

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| 1. Served Baal, built him an altar | a. Temptation of those addicted to falsity |
| 2. Killed the prophets of Jehovah | b. A wish to harm the Word |
| 3. Wished to kill Elijah | c. Serving the devil |
| 4. Tempted her husband | d. Destroying the church |
| 5. Sent false witnesses against Naboth to have him killed and steal his vineyard | e. Destroying the truths of doctrine from the Word |

The Writings for the New Church tell us that fear of punishment is the first step to choosing a good life.

[A]ll worship of God must have its beginning in holy fear, which holds within it the belief that God rewards the good and punishes the evil.
(Arcana Coelestia 6071.5)

The Lord warned Ahab of the punishment he and his family would experience. What was it? (1 Kings 21:21-24)

Do you think this warning will change Ahab and Jezebel's behavior? Why or why not?

Hell appears to be a punishment. However, the Writings tell us that the Lord plans for everyone to go to heaven, but loves people too much to make them go where they will not be happy. Since evil people would not be happy in heaven, the Lord lets them choose hell. They are not happy in hell either, but they are happier there than they would be in heaven or anywhere else. Why might a person like Jezebel choose hell?