

If you are a Christian, dear reader, you will be familiar with the term Jezebel. It is frequently used in evangelical circles to refer to a very amoral or deceptive person. The connotation has its origins in the character of a woman by that name in the Old Testament Book of Kings.

Here the author informs us Jezebel was the daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon, who married King Ahab of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. She was infamous for several reasons, such as instituting the worship of Baal in Israel and supporting and providing for all his prophets.

She is also known for persecuting the true Prophets of God and having them killed. The writer of Kings also evidences the fact that King Ahab did all the abominable things he did principally because of her influence.

However, this is not the only place in Scripture where we meet a person by that name. Over in the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John gives account of the Lord Jesus correcting the Church of Thyatira for tolerating "that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet and is teaching and beguiling my servants to practice fornication and to eat food sacrificed to idols."

In both these narratives, the nature and goals of Jezebel is clearly evident, while the reason she managed to deceive and exercise such power over the people of God, above all people, is not explicitly told, only everywhere else presupposed!