

The Ugly

2. Turpitude of mind; moral depravity; lothesomeness (Webster's 1828).

The scriptures identify one, yes one, that personifies ugliness.

Jezebel

The scriptures do not have one thing good to say about Jezebel. (Even of Ahab, as evil as he was, when he was reproved by Elijah, the scripture reveal, "when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. And the word of Jehovah came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days; but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house" (1 Kgs. 21:27-29).

Jezebel was a worshipper of Baal. She was responsible for the death of Naboth (see preceding), she "cut off the prophets of Jehovah," that is, she "slew the prophets of Jehovah" (1 Kgs. 18:4, 13), and "Elijah came near unto all the people, and said, How long go ye limping between the two sides? if Jehovah be God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word" (1 Kgs. 18:21). Thus, Elijah said to the prophets of Baal (that numbered 450), "call ye on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of Jehovah; and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken" (1 Kgs. 18:24).

When Jehovah defeated the prophets of Baal: "all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, Jehovah, he is God; Jehovah, he is God. And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there" (1 Kgs. 18:39-40). But that was not the end of the event: "And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to-morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there." (1 Kgs. 19:1-3). That is enough said about the ugliness of Jezebel, i.e., "Turpitude of mind; moral depravity" (Ibid.).

It is, however, not where Jezebel's moral depravity ends: There was a captain of Ahab's army that carried out Jehovah's judgment against Ahab (1 Kgs. 21:8-24), and now it is Jezebel's turn. "And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her eyes, and attired her head, and looked out at the window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Is it peace,

thou Zimri, thy master's murderer? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trod her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink; and he said, See now to this cursed woman, and bury her; for she is a king's daughter. And they went to bury her; but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. Wherefore they came back, and told him. And he said, This is the word of Jehovah, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall the dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel; and the body of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel, so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.” (2 Kgs. 9:30-37).

The influence of Jezebel reared its head in the Church in Thyatira nine hundred years after her death, i.e., Thus saith the Son of God, “But I have this against thee, that thou sufferest the woman Jezebel, who calleth herself a prophetess; and she teacheth and seduceth my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time that she should repent; and she willeth not to repent of her fornication. Behold, I cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of her works. And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he that searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto each one of you according to your works” (Rev. 2:20-23).

Jezebel is one name that not many parents would choose for their daughters and that, in and of itself, gives Jezebel the top billing of Ugly! ret