

Signs Of The End

Jesus clearly taught that we would see signs marking the end of our present age. While many may look for exotic signs, the third chapter of Isaiah shows that one of the major signs is the break down of the family. The sin of disobeying God's principles brings judgement to marriage and to the family in an unexpected way.

Isaiah 3: 4–5 reads, *“And I will give children to be their princes and babes shall rule over them. People shall be oppressed everyone by another and everyone by his neighbor; and the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient and the base against the honorable.”* And in verse 12, *“As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err; and destroy the way of thy paths.”* The judgment here is a reversal of leadership roles in family and society. Look now, at Malachi 4: 5–6, *“Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and*

terrible day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.” God warns that family order is **very important**.

A vital key to harmony in the marriage and home is deliverance from evil spirits. However, many in the Body of Christ have yet to see the critical importance of personal deliverance. Yet, as we minister personal deliverance to husbands, wives, parents, and children, we see increasing evidence of sound victories in these lives. Our experience over time has forced us virtually to acknowledge that unclean spirits work in and through believers to destroy marriages and families. The battle for the family is not one of flesh and blood. The principalities and powers of divorce, discord and disorder cannot be pulled down with platitudes, psychology and perseverance.

We have discovered one cannot maintain freedom from evil spirits unless he walks in the Kingdom principles of God’s Word. Once the spiritual eyes are opened, casting demons is easy and wonderful. Moving into the life-style required to maintain the victory is another story. Almost every principle of today’s society is in direct conflict with the true Christian life-style; so, after we execute the victory of Christ’s cross by casting out demons, we find we must experience the agonizing death on our personal cross by dying to self and walking in Kingdom principles.

This walk can be carried out only in a local Body of Christ. A person or a family cannot live in victory apart from a local Body. The true Christian life-style can not be recognized, understood, or maintained in today’s society, nor in the vast majority of churches. The true Christian life is based on Kingdom principles which, in turn, are based on God’s order. The local church that follows the principles of God’s order has a pivotal role in society and in the home. Order is as critical to the effectiveness of the local Body as it is to the effectualness of home and society.

The world system does not and cannot see the role of the local church. When the church is in disorder, it impart disorder to the social and governmental structure. In like manner, and more basic, disorder in the home will flow directly into the church. As the marriage and home go, so goes everything. The

enemy knows this.

In Malachi 4:5, God says He is sending Elijah, the prophet, in the last days. Jesus said John the Baptist was Elijah. John came at the end of the age of the Old Testament and at the beginning of the New Testament Age. Can you see that Elijah must come again at the end of this New Testament Age and at the beginning of the next age? Elijah now comes as a Spirit sent from God, not in one prophet, but in a many-membered company of prophets. This prophetic ministry, as before, is given to prepare the way for the Lord to come, and it accomplishes this purpose primarily by turning the hearts of the fathers (family and church fathers) to the children and hearts of the children to the fathers.

The first release of this spirit on earth was through Elijah. His life and experiences are a prophetic picture for our day. Elijah had a confrontation with a wicked woman who was the wife of the King of Israel. Her name was Jezebel. The confrontation came because King Ahab was a failure. His failure as husband and leader affected the entire nation of Israel and brought repercussions for generations to come.

Ahab's failure opened the way for the evil deeds of his wife, Queen Jezebel. This was the manifestation of God's judgment which came through the prophet Elijah to Ahab. Ahab had broken the Godly principles for marriage and home; therefore, as head, he was accountable. The same principle holds true today—God holds accountable the head He has appointed in the home, church and government.

We can learn from Ahab's failures. Like Ahab, many men today are not walking in God's required principles as men, husbands, fathers and leaders. I call it the Ahab spirit. Follow with me to see what it has been doing in our lives.

The Great Abdication

When one gives up a high office, authority or function, it is called an abdication. When a king abdicates, he rejects and abandons his right or power. When a husband and/or father gives up or rejects his place of leadership in the family, that too is abdication. The difference is that leaders of countries are easily replaced, but who can suitably take the place of a husband or father?

King Ahab obviously was not aware of his place of authority in the home; consequently, he relinquished his power as a husband and father. Ignorance and rebellion caused him to break important principles of God's Word. In breaking these principles, he opened doors for many problems in his marriage and family. After sowing, he reaped quite a harvest.

A principle is a fundamental truth or rule of conduct. It is a general truth on which rules, methods, or practices depend; in this case, God's word. The Word "works" according to principles. We can preach the Word, but it will never do much

good in our everyday lives until we put it to work in practical application. Biblical principles are the application of the Word in our daily living.

Ahab's life shows us principles to avoid. His life is a prime example of what a man should not be. We do not want to walk in the carnal principles he lived by. As we see these things in his life we say, "No, that is not a principle I want to apply in my life." We can learn from his mistakes.

"How has there been an abdication?" "Why and how have men stepped down from their places of leadership?" Look at Ahab's examples. *"And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa, king of Judah, began Ahab, the son of Omri, to reign over Israel; and Ahab, the son of Omri, reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years. And Ahab, the son of Omri, did evil in the sight of the Lord above all who were before him,"* (I Kings 16:29–30). Men have to step down from the place of leadership because they do evil.

Ahab considered the things of God as trivial

Look at the 31st verse of I Kings 16, as we consider the why and how of the abdication. *"And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, that he took as his wife Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him."*

One principle that we find in Ahab's walk is that he considered the things of God as trivial. The New King James version uses the very word, trivial. God's Word was not important to Ahab; therefore, sin was something trivial—not to be taken seriously.

When a man considers the things of God unimportant, he's in trouble, whether he knows it or not. Ahab was saying, "Sin is not the issue. You're too hung up on sin! Sin, sin, sin, that's all you talk about. I will do as I please."

Because of his attitude toward Kingdom principles, Ahab left the things of God to his wife. Consequently, she led him into her pagan religion instead of him leading her to follow the true and living God.

Today's reasoning on the part of a man may go some-

thing like this. “You decide where we go to church. That’s for women folk to decide. It’s not for me to bother with. I have the kingdom to think about. I have battles to fight and an income to bring home. You want to eat, don’t you? I don’t have time for such trivial things as church.”

Ahab held marriage in low esteem

When men consider things of God trivial, they begin to draw back. See who Ahab married: Jezebel, the daughter of Ethbaal, the king of the Sidonians. He knew better than that!

So, we see that Ahab had a low esteem of marriage. Marriage as a God given institution was not important to him. Had it been, he would have married an Israelite, not a pagan unbeliever.

Ahab married for position. He thought this woman’s father, who was a king, would be a good man to have on his side when it was time to go to war. Ahab was looking for political power and money. He never gave thought to what God might think about his choice of a wife.

Another insight into Ahab’s disregard for the principles of God is the Scripture’s description of Jezebel. We know she was a pagan; she was sexually promiscuous. She painted her eyes and surrounded herself with castrated men. Ahab, like many men today, probably married for lust. Jezebel, through lustful eyes, was a good looking woman all painted up and all decked out. When lust stirred in Ahab he couldn’t resist. When men do not understand the importance God places on marriage, they will marry for the wrong reasons. Satan knows this and today he is putting great emphasis on sex. Pornography, is rampant. It’s being channeled into our homes through television, rental movies and cable. Convenience stores, service stations, airports and bookstores are full of various printed pornography making it readily accessible. The advertising world seeks to captivate our attention through not-so-subliminal messages of sensual content.

This emphasis on sex and pornography degrades and weakens the marriage covenant. The effect is the holding of marriage in low esteem. As in so many lives today, Ahab’s values were upside down. In the book of Isaiah, we read the

warning, *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil”* (Isaiah 5:20). This prophecy is being fulfilled today before our very eyes.

Ahab followed after other gods

Look again at the last part of verse 31, in I Kings 16. It says he served Baal and worshipped him. The next thing we see this man doing is following after other gods. Ahab followed after Baal.

When you follow another god, you will have an altar for that god in your life. We often call certain places in church buildings altars. Today, there is no place for physical altars because God has done away with such traditions and things of man. The altar now is to be in our heart.

However, we still build altars. Unfortunately, these altars become places of homage—places of respect and influence in our lives. Most of the time we are unaware they are there—in our heart.

Primarily, an altar is a place of input. It is where I receive things into my life. It is a place where I let down my defenses. I will open up and say, “Anything can come in. I am receptive now. I’m open.”

At God’s altar, I will open myself up to Him. Wherever in my life I am totally receptive to God, there is my altar. The patriarchs of the Old Testament knew altar experiences in their lives.

Ahab built an altar and opened his life to follow after other gods. You may say, “I am glad I don’t do that.” But don’t we? What about sports? What about being out on the lake throwing a little piece of wood on a string across the water time and time again? What about the big thick newspaper that comes every day to hide behind? Devotion and focus to such activities cause them to become altars in our life—places of input. They become a Baal, because they take away from family and the Kingdom of God. They become high places in our lives.

I am not against football, I played it avidly at one time. I am not against fishing. I love to fish. I am not against reading a newspaper. However, I am saying we make altars out of these

things and follow after other gods. Satan will assist us in any activity that weakens our leadership in the home.

We find in verse 32: *“And he [Ahab] reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he had built in Samaria and he therefore erected a shrine to another god.”* There is a spirit involved in sports. There is a god of sports. Its influence is all over America, and it is weakening our families. It is channeling attitudes and emotions into our lives and our children’s lives that are not of God. They are not of God! A competitive spirit is not Godly. Competitiveness is not in His Word and is not a part of the Kingdom of God. Yet, we have received an impartation of this spirit, and it has flowed right into our churches. We find God’s people and churches actually competing with each other. How can such a thing be?

Ahab builds another altar. At this altar he worships enterprise, success, profit, promotions and wealth! You say, “Well I am not wealthy; that is not my problem.” But, you see, the drive is there to motivate. “Come on, succeed! Make more money. Get a little more. Have a bigger house. Drive a nicer car. Come on! Come on!” We build a shrine in our hearts to these drives, and Satan will help us every way he can.

We see in verse 34 the foundation laid for the worship of enterprise. *“In his days did Hiel, the Bethelite, build Jericho; he laid the foundation of it in Abiram, his first-born, and set up the gates of it in his youngest son, Segub, according to the word of the Lord, which he spoke by Joshua, the son of Nun.”*

To understand the significance of Heil building Jericho, we need to look at a bit of Jericho’s history. When Israel came to conquer Canaan, the first city they took was Jericho. When they destroyed Jericho, Joshua was led of the Lord to stand and pronounce a curse over the ruins. The curse declared that whoever laid the foundations of the city, his first-born would die; and whoever lifted up the gates thereof, his second born would die.

Hiel’s name means “Living of God.” He came from a town called Bethel, which means “House of God.” Here was a man of God, living of God, in a place called House of God, who built up what was a cursed city and in so doing sacrificed two of his children. The spirit of enterprise that flows through leadership will cause the sacrifice of children. We can see the

god of our job, the god of the corporation, the god of enterprise; we have laid our children on their alters and sacrificed them. Ahabs we are! "But," you say, "I don't worship Baal!"

Whatever is in leadership will flow down. We find this teaching again in I Kings 20, the 34th verse. The setting here is Ahab in battle. God told him to go out and do his thing. God always tells his people to spare not when they go into battle. Kill the kings! Get rid of everything! Wipe them out! This is an important principle in deliverance. To maintain our deliverance, we must not stop until the work is complete. If we hold back a little bit here and a little bit there, we eventually not only will lose the ground gained, but also will displease the Lord.

Ahab spared the life of Ben-hadad, the king, and that was displeasing to God. Ahab and the king made a deal. And Ben-hadad said unto him, "*The cities, which my father took from thy father, I will restore, and thou shalt make the streets for thee in Damascus, as my father made in Samaria*" (I Kings 20:34). In other words, Ben-hadad said, "I'll offer you a deal. I'll let you set up a business in Damascus and have some enterprise there." Ahab said, "I'll take it, and I will spare you."

Here is greed. "Whoopee, more income, more money, more riches. Now, I can buy a nicer chariot!" It grabbed Ahab. There he was talking to Ben-hadad whom he should have slain. There are many devils that will come and talk to you. They say to your mind, "Oh, have I got a deal for you!" They speak through people offering enticements to your lusts. "No," you should say, "You leave me alone. Don't speak to me. I got rid of you during ministry. You can not longer seduce me?"

Men, the spirit of enterprise lures us away from the leadership of the home. We get caught up in the whole system and sacrifice our children for it. There is not a job on this earth worth your child, your wife or your home. None! God is our source, We are to look to Him and we are to accept however He wants to channel the finances to us. If it is through X Corporation, Y Corporation, or whatever, He can do it. He is our source and the Kingdom is our career. Everything else is only an assignment.

Ahab desired what belonged to another man

Eventually the lust for material things caused Ahab to desire what belonged to another man. Look at I Kings 21:1–2: *“And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth, the Jezreelite, had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab, king of Samaria. And Ahab spoke unto Naboth, saying, ‘Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house, and I will give thee it for a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.’”*

Here was this king (you know, THE KING). He looks out his window and sees a little Israelite who has a little old vineyard he has been faithfully taking care of. In fact, Naboth’s name means “fruitful one.” It was just a little vegetable garden. But the king looked out upon the garden and said, “I want that.” He could have bought land anywhere in the country and done practically anything he desired. But, he wanted what belonged to someone else.

Eventually, the materialistic drive leads us to wanting what belongs to someone else. We will not be satisfied with something we can just buy in the marketplace. We will begin to look around and say, “Hey, this is not challenging enough. I am going to try to get something from this other guy over here.” This happens in the corporate race and business world all the time. Real estate people fight and clash over pieces of property. Executives jockey for titles and positions of power.

Lust is never satiated—it never will be satisfied. Ultimately, you will cross the line of just having. You will desire what rightfully belongs to somebody else.

This happens in the church/—the lust for another man’s ministry. “If I had his church; if I had his ministry....” This wicked spirit begins to rise up when we become ambitious in the ministry.

Ambition and competition are not Godly desires; yet, these are the motivators for much that is done in the Name of Jesus. These spirits are considered most valuable in the business world and all too much so in the church. When interviewing for a job they will scrutinize you for competitiveness and ambition. Many companies will not hire you if they feel you are not aggressive enough.

If you are a young man looking for a ministry and are ambitious, you are in trouble—and so is the church. It is ambitious men who have brought much trouble into the Kingdom. “I want a bigger ministry—a bigger church; I’m going to build a bigger building; I’m going to have more people.” Such drive reveals spirits other than God’s Holy Spirit.

Ahab wanted Naboth’s vineyard. Why could he not have it? Because Naboth was a man of God and knew that Numbers 36:7 said, “Do not sell, do not sell your inheritance. You can not do it.” Naboth reminded Ahab of this. Naboth said, “This is my father’s inheritance. I can not sell this to you. I can not do it!” So Naboth stood on the Word of God in the face of the king. This little Israelite said, “I’m sorry king; I’m going to do what’s right. I’m going to stand on God’s Word.” It cost him his life.

Oh, for men who would stand on the Word of God, even unto death. Men, this is what we must begin to do. We must stand on God’s Word at all costs. We may lose friends and jobs. We may have to lose everything to remain standing on God’s Word, but God is looking for men who are willing to take this stand. God will vindicate such men. God vindicated Naboth.

I Kings 21: 4, reads, “*And Ahab came unto his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth, the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, ‘I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers.’ And he lay down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.*” This man has turned into a little boy! What childishness! There is nothing more ridiculous than a grown man, married, with children, acting like a child.

Look at Ahab pout. Ahab is a pouter. It is amazing to see a successful executive, who controls corporations and empires, acting like a child. But you will see it in every one of them, if you can find them at the right moment. Don’t let them fool you. Their possessions and life-styles may give the appearance of confidence and polish, but underneath is a childish brat who pouts when he can’t get what he wants. Likewise, old Ahab covers up what is really inside.

The strength and wisdom needed for leadership is not there, so the marriage falters. The family teeters until it finally falls into the morass of unappointed and unanointed leader-

ship. Men have abdicated by default, yet, nevertheless, they have abdicated.

The Great Attack

The attack follows the great abduction. Satan is allowed to attack because of disorder. In I Corinthians 11:8–9, we read, *“For the man is not of the woman, but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man.”* And, in Ephesians 5:23–24, *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the savior of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”*

I am not going to teach on the wife’s submission. Many women probably misunderstand it, as do a lot of men. But, I will say that the wife is not inferior. God’s Word does not say this. The Word says that somebody has to be the head and it is not the wife. Somebody has to wear the pants in the family, and it is supposed to be the man. That is all that God is saying. A two headed thing is a monster. Somebody has to be the head, and God said it is to be the husband.

This is not Stephen Bell dictating order. This is God’s

order, revealed in His Word. We have to agree, “Lord, if I’m going to be blessed, I’d better do it your way.”

Satan Goes for the Head

Satan knows God’s order and goes for the head. We need to learn this principle in spiritual warfare: go for the head—not the toe, not the knee, but for the head. If the head goes, the rest must follow. Satan goes for the head because he knows God’s order. Actually, he knows God’s order better than we do. He is after the males. He starts early with the little boys.

In the Bible, we see this warfare principle used by Satan. What happened in Moses’s day? What did the Pharaoh do? He ordered every Israelite male child in the land killed. Satan was the real force behind this order. He saw the Deliverer coming up, and was after him before the child was even big enough to talk. Remember what Herod did in the days of Jesus. He sent out a decree to kill the male babies. It says in the Word: *there was a voice heard crying in Rama..., Rachel weeping for her children*, her sons, her seed.

Satan understands the principle, therefore, he goes for the seed. It begins in childhood. If he can not do it in the womb, he will begin in childhood. He will try to put rejection on a little boy. He will put hurts on that child to make him fearful of relationships, especially with women. He will try to pump a macho spirit into that little boy, “Now this is what a man is supposed to be: DON’T CRY! GROW UP! BE TOUGH!” The walls begin to come up, and the little guy begins to get a distorted idea of what a man really is. The stage is set for, guess who? Ahab—enter the spirit of Ahab.

Men do not get over things as quickly as women. Men are more prone to keep things inside and carry them around for years. They build hidden mountains of buried emotions. Every man needs deliverance from bitterness and deep hurts. It’s very difficult for a man to admit that. It’s hard to say, “Hey, I’m just going to open up and expose myself and risk getting hurt,” but we must do it. If we don’t, we are a prime candidate for the spirit of Ahab, good old boy Ahab, who withdraws, keeps his cool (most of time) and dies daily inside.

Satan throws men off balance, to keep them from fulfill-

ing their responsibilities as priests and leaders of the home. Men, this has been the attack upon us in our lives and in our homes!

Return to I Kings 21:5–8: *“But, Jezebel, his wife, came to him and said unto him, ‘Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?’ And he said unto her, ‘Because I spoke unto Naboth, the Jezreelite, and said unto him, “Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it;” and he answered, “I will not give thee my vineyard.”’ And Jezebel, his wife, said unto him, ‘Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, and eat bread and let thine heart be merry. I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite.’ So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles who were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.”*

So we see the childishness—the pouting. In verse six we read, *“And he said unto her, ‘Because I spoke unto Naboth..., and he answered, “I will not give thee my vineyard.””*” This childishness and pouting lead to a weakening and finally the relinquishing of the power and authority that God has invested in the man.

Ahab laid too much on his wife

There are still more principles. As Ahab began to relinquish his power, he made some big mistakes. It happens the same way today in many homes. What were his mistakes?

First, He laid too much on his wife. He brought a problem home to her that she could not handle. One of the things that I am learning in the ministry is this: there are people who will rise up against me and say things. They may call me on the phone and let me have it. I can handle that. Mostly, my wife cannot. I may have a disagreement with somebody in relation to church decisions or through counseling. In most cases, I am able to resolve my conflict with the offending party since I am the one carrying the responsibility in the ministry. On the other hand, my wife will be left hanging on a limb of unresolved emotional questions. So many wives have taken up their husbands offenses never being able to lay them down. This is an important area of ministry for every husband in

protecting his wife.

Consequently, I have learned that I should not burden my wife about some things. She was not made to handle some of the burdens and blows that I find to be part of my day to day responsibilities. I am stronger in some areas of emotions and decision making than she. God was speaking prophetically about the His bride, the church, when He made us that way (see I Peter 3:7).

Many men lay too much on their wives. In a minister's meeting I attended, a brother's wife shared about this principle. She said, "If my husband comes home and says 'Honey, you know, I got laid off today, and I don't know what we're going to do,' I am just devastated. But, if he comes in and says, 'Honey, I've got something to tell you, but don't worry I've sought The Lord, and He has promised to show me what to do.' And then he says, 'I lost my job today.' It makes all the difference in the world." A wife can handle that.

Old Ahab never used such wisdom. He is too tough to pray. After all, this is a good way to get back at "the old lady." So he runs home and "dumps" on the wife.

Ahab expected too much from his wife. He came home with heaviness and depression. Every wife wants a joyful husband. She does not want an old crank in the house. When this cranky spirit goes throughout the house, the entire household shuts down—everybody in the home is affected. "Daddy's in a bad mood. Stay out of his way." Everyone tiptoes around, and "Mamma" says, "What can I do to cheer him up? We don't want a gorilla in the house like this because, eventually, he'll hurt somebody." He usually does through words.

It is built into wives to want their husbands to be happy, joyful and to have peace. They know his mood the moment he comes in the door. Most wives will do anything to have peace in the home, even perverse things. She wants peace and to have the children to be raised in peace. She wants a man to be a man, and she will do anything to make it so, including manipulation and conniving. She will give any kind of favor—do things that would go against her conscience—just to have her man full of joy. An Ahab man provokes his wife to sin and doesn't even realize what he is doing.

Some men play on this desire of their wives. I had to seek forgiveness for such behavior, because I used to do it to my

wife. I would manipulate her by my moods, and she would try every way in the world to get me to be happy. I would manipulate her to get from her what I wanted. I'm being very personal, but I want to help you become honest and break free.

When a man expects too much from his wife—expects her to carry this load and that load—it causes him to become weaker and weaker. Eventually, other spirits find grounds to come into the man's life. One that I've seen is a spirit of an invalid. We had a situation in our church where the man was an invalid because of his wife. It didn't start out that way, but by his own refusal of responsibility, he allowed it to happen.

Men, I'm putting the burden on us. We have talked about Jezebel, joked about Jezebel and laughed about Jezebel. But we have received what we deserve. Jezebel is what we deserve if we do not grow up and become men of God.

Ahab let his wife do something about his problem

An additional principle is that Ahab let his wife do something about his problem. What he wanted done, although it was against God's Word, he should have done himself. He was the one who wanted the property, so he is the one who should have gone out to get it. It was not his wife's place to do so, but he let her, and she messed up. You can read about this in I Kings 21. When a man begins to let his wife do the things he ought to do himself, it has devastating results in his personal life and on his relationship with God. The most deadly effect is passivity. Such a man will grow numb to the things of God.

My wife and I have had couples live with us from time to time. God has told us not to do it again. We learned a lot. When you let couples live with you, it destroys the husband's initiative. Without the sole responsibility of leadership and provision in his own home, a man becomes passive. It was so bad in some situations, I had to ask Christian brothers and sisters to leave.

Men, if you have a problem at the school with your children, it is your responsibility. If there is a problem with the bills, it is your responsibility. If there is a problem with the car, this is your responsibility. If there is a problem with the wash-

ing machine, it is your responsibility.

Jezebel assumed her husband's authority because he relinquished it. He could have stopped her. The whole mess could have been stopped right there. He could have said, "No, you are not going to do this. I will take care of it."

But, a lot of women, in fear, will jump up and say, "Honey, let me do it." The real man stands up and says, "No, I will take care of it." I do not care how tired we are, nor even if we've been through it before. We will take care of it. But Ahab lets Jezebel take care of it. Here begins the pattern of the Jezebel influence.

The Jezebel spirit is not just in the home. It spills over into everything else, including the church, business, and political system. Our political offices are increasingly being filled with women. That is not pleasing to God, because it is not in His order. "Male chauvinist pig!," you might say. Amen! Call me what you will, but I know what will bring peace and the blessings of God, and that is what I want. I want to see you blessed, and I'll get tough with you because I love you.

Someone asked me, "Why did you get into deliverance?" And I thought, "Why did I?" It has to be from the Lord, since no one would want this ministry in the flesh. The deliverance ministry is difficult for people to accept and to understand. For example, a brother called me up and said, "You know, I don't think you realized what you were saying, Brother Steve, when you said that most Spirit filled Christians have demons." I replied, "Yes, that's what I said and I realize what I said." It became quiet on the other end of the phone. Many people are afraid of the truth about deliverance. Later, I was put off the radio in Dallas.

You see, the reason we minister deliverance is because God puts a love for His people in us. And we begin to say, "God, we want to see them blessed. We want to see them free. We want to see them victorious. What can we do?" Do you know what God always says when a man comes to that point? He says, "Deliver them!" We say, "Deliver them of what?" God says, "Of demons. Deliver them of demons."

Ahab was afraid of his wife

The principle of striving for peace at any price can work both ways. The husband manipulates the wife by his moods. The wife can also manipulate the husband by her moods. The unwritten rule in some households is “Whatever you do, don’t upset Mamma.” Everyone knows there is hell to pay if Mamma becomes upset.

Many homes suffer playoff contests between Ahab and Jezebel until Ahab finally wears down, hands the ball to Jezebel and goes off to fish, or to watch a football game (which real men play), never to return to the court.

Why will most men not stop their wives when they get off into this Jezebel thing? Here is a great revelation—FEAR! Men are afraid of their wives. In all honesty, they are afraid of what she might do. Where does fear come from? It comes from the spirit of Ahab. Jezebel may gripe and groan and cuss and tear the walls down, but Ahab, in some strange way will both fear her and love every minute of it.

Men need deliverance from the fear of women. It says in I Peter 3:7, the woman is “*the weaker vessel*.” Why is she the weaker vessel? What is Peter talking about? He is saying that the woman is not anointed for leadership. When we put a woman in that position, it opens the door for witchcraft spirits every time—every time.

Another door opener is hatred for women. Old Ahab is afraid of his wife, and he hates her for it. Now, we have lust in a new dimension, because every man that has a lust problem has a hatred problem. When a man lusts after a woman he is not respecting her, he is hating her. This is where perversion comes in. A man who is full of hatred for women will become perverted eventually, if he doesn’t get deliverance. You’ll find this spelled-out in Romans the first chapter. (You might want to listen to my teaching, Sexual Snares).

It doesn’t stop here. Now, self hatred comes in. The man hates himself for being such a pansy. Then comes lack of confidence, then failure, then joblessness, and then comes more fear—fear upon fear. This is a different kind of fear, not fear of the woman, but a general kind of fear. “I am not going to make it. I can not pay the bills. I can not keep a job.” It’s like a literal hell.

Finally, communication breaks down. This is the final flaw that brings divorce. When your communication breaks down, your marriage is in serious trouble, because this breeds resentment and deepens the chasm between the two.

Satan and his demons have done their work.

The Great Aftermath

There has been an abdication of the headship in the marriage and home. This abdication has left the family spiritually uncovered, and Satan has launched a great attack. Look, now, at the Great Aftermath.

In I Kings 21:17–22, we read that God sent Elijah to address the mess. God finally does something! He is patient, long-suffering and merciful, however, if you are out of order and you do not take the responsibility to place your family in order, the Word of the Lord will eventually come to correct. It is going to come. I am not trying to put fear in you. I am telling you, “Get your act together! We don’t have time to mess around anymore. Get it together!”

I have learned something in church. I have prayed with people. I have loved people. I have tried to love and draw them into deliverance. Sometimes folks just need to be told, “Quit that! Don’t do that anymore! In the Name of Jesus, I tell you to stop it!”

This is what God finally did. He sent the prophet Elijah

down to Samaria. He told the prophet to meet Ahab, the king, not Jezebel who did all the dirty work. Why? Because God's principle is that the husband is the head. He is the one accountable when things go wrong in the marriage and family. He may not be the cause, but he is always accountable. (You might want to study Numbers 30:6–15 to enhance your understanding of this principle).

Look in verse 19 of I Kings 21: *“Thus saith the Lord, ‘Hast thou killed, and also taken possession?’ And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord, “In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.”’ And Ahab said to Elijah, ‘Hast thou found me, O mine enemy?’ And he answered, ‘I have found thee, because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord.’”*

Ahab sold out to his wife. See verse 21: *“Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male, and him who is shut up and left in Israel.”*

The aftermath of disorder is the curse of God

Here we see another principle in God's Word. The aftermath of disorder is the curse of God. If your home is not in order the curse will come just as surely as the devourer comes to those who don't tithe. It is not the devil in this case—it is God who sends the curse. It is directed to the men. It is the man who has to take the responsibility and say, “I have to do something about this.”

Do you know what God is saying in verse 19? *“In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.”* He says an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. When we sin we bring ourselves back under the law, and the law has no mercy. Only repentance by changing our ways will open the way for the mercy and forgiveness of God. Mercy **will** triumph over judgment if we do our part.

The sins of the father do not stop with the father

The next principle is that the sins of the father do not stop with the father. Men, what we are messing up now will not stop with us. It will pass down to our children, our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. Isn't that awesome? What I am doing right now will continue. It will live on. I am going to be remembered. Generations are going to pray and say, "Oh God, what did I do?" And God says, "Nothing, it was your great grandfather. He was an Ahab."

It especially affects the males in the family. Do you know why there is such an increase in homosexuality? Ahabs! "Oh," you say, "It is Jezebel." No, it is Ahab! Without Ahabs, Jezebels would be rare.

You receive the reward of who you emulate

I Kings 21:22 reads, "*And [I] will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha, the son of Ahijah, for the provocation with which thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin.*" It needs to be understood that you receive the reward of whom you emulate. If your Dad was an Ahab, and you emulate him, you will receive the same. You can say, "Boy, my Dad, sure messed up. Man, I don't want to be like him." Well, quit emulating him then. You receive the reward of whom you emulate.

If you want to emulate some movie star or the like, fine, you follow suite. I went into the office of a Spirit-filled brother who had a picture of John Wayne hanging on the wall behind his desk. The thing was oozing spirits.

I said, "Brother, why do you have that thing on your wall?"

He said, "Oh, one day before I was saved, I was walking down the street about half drunk and bought the thing."

"Wow," I said, "Have you looked at that thing?"

We prayed and the brother said, "I'd better take that thing down hadn't I?"

"Yes, you had."

He was finally discerning the spirits, but he did have a

desire to be like John Wayne. Many men today believe John Wayne to be a real man and they try to emulate him. Listen, God wants us to be who we are—what He has made us to be. A Godly man who truly walks in the principles of God’s Word is a real man. A real man is one who bears the fruits of the Holy Spirit, not the fruits of Hollywood or the sports world.

In I Kings 22:34–40, Ahab heard the prophecy. He went out to battle and tried his best to hide—he even disguised himself. *“And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of his armor.”* (There it is! Verse 40.) *“So Ahab slept with his fathers; and Ahaziah, his son, reigned in his stead.”*

When God speaks a word about something, it will be fulfilled. This is guaranteed. It may take thirty years, but it will come to pass, unless Jesus intervenes. Oh, what Jesus has done for men!! It doesn’t matter where the mess is or how big it is, you run to Jesus.

Finally in II Kings 10:11 we read, *“So Jehu slew all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his familiar friends, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.”* Ahab’s entire prodigy was cutoff. Jehu was the man that God used to kill Jezebel and clean out this whole family—the whole mess. Jehu’s name means, “Jehovah is he.” He was “The Hand of Jehovah.”

The Great Atonement

Galations 3:13 says that Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law. He has become a curse for me. Jesus has become an Ahab for me, on the cross. Praise God, He is our answer. We have to become Jesus men. How do we do this?

First, admit you are an Ahab. Admit that it all begins with the head—the man. It begins with YOU. Don't say, "Okay, I am going to watch the wife." Quit sitting back. Come on! It starts with us. Nothing will happen until we move out.

God will start a movement with women, but He will wait on the men to bring it to completion. The women that are smart—that God will use—will recognize this. As the men come forth, they will step back. Deborah understood and said, "Okay, Barak, you take it from here." Bless his heart, he was an Ahab, too—scared, weak and fearful (See Judges 4:1–10).

First of all, we have to admit, "I am guilty." Throw yourself on the mercy of God and say, "Jesus, I need you. Deliver me of the curses on me and my family. Deliver me that I may be a man again, the man you planned for me to be since before

the beginning.”

Then, after you have called upon Jesus, renounce the spirits. Break the curses by your own words. Speak the prayers of deliverance.

Pray in front of and over your family! Open your mouth and pray. Speak the Name of God in front of your family. Don't be fearful anymore. Recognize yourself in the following list:

Men who won't pray with their family;

Men who will not say the blessing at the table;

Men who will not read the Bible out loud at home;

Men who will not speak the Name of Jesus;

Men who will not raise their hands—are Ahabs!

Come on men! It's time to take hold and get going! Seek deliverance. Ask to be delivered of these things. Start with the sins of the fathers.

Then, delve deeply in the Book, the Word of God, and walk ye in it! Walk in that Word. Fill your life up with it. Finally, Praise God, your home will become a little heaven on earth.

Amen!

Model Prayer for Deliverance from the Ahab Spirit

Father in Heaven, I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, my Savior and Lord. Father, it is my desire to see Your Kingdom come into my life and into my family.

Right now I make a decision to forgive any and everyone who has had influence on my life to cause me to be less than the man of God You want me to be. Father, I forgive the following (Name anyone who comes to mind):

I repent of being like an Ahab and ask You to forgive me. I confess my sin of abdication of headship in my marriage and family and now take back the authority and responsibility you have given to me. Lord, forgive me for allowing disorder in my life and disobedience to Your Word. By the power that works in me according to Your strength and anointing, I will watch over and minister to my wife and children. Father, I ask for wisdom and guidance as I do this.

In the Name of Jesus, I break every curse that has come upon me and my family because of my sins and the sins of my ancestors. I command every demon spirit that has come in through curses to leave me. Go out of me, now, in the Name of Jesus Christ! You must also loose my wife and family. I say to you demons, GO!

Thank you, Father for deliverance and healing, now and