



Satan's DEADLY TRIO

DEFEATING THE DECEPTIONS OF
JEZEBEL,
RELIGION AND
WITCHCRAFT

JENNIFER LECLAIRE



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Minneapolis, Minnesota

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This book is dedicated to the real Trinity

—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—

who helped me expose the wiles
of the enemy for His glory.

His Word equips us with the weapons
of warfare that allow us to enforce
Christ's victory here on earth.

Thank You, Father, for sending Jesus
to disarm principalities and powers.

Thank You, Jesus, for conquering death,
hell and the grave.

Thank You, Holy Spirit, for leading and guiding me
into all truth about who I am in Christ
and my authority in Him.

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Foreword

There are few people mentioned in Scripture as wicked as Jezebel. Her name has become synonymous with *rebellion*, *witchcraft* and *seduction*. She hated the God of Israel, promoted idolatry throughout the covenant nation and seduced the people of God into apostasy.

Jezebel was very religious. She was devoted to Baal, and was used by demons to recruit and force others to worship idols. Religion and witchcraft operate together, and these spirits are being exposed through this book. Every believer needs to be educated in this area. We cannot be ignorant of how Jezebel, witchcraft and religion work together to enslave and destroy the lives of many.

Jezebel was controlled by demons, and she released a horde of evil spirits throughout the land. The nation of Israel became demonized as a result of her rebellion and was judged for her witchcraft and whoredom.

God used the prophet Elijah to contend with Jezebel. It is not surprising that one of the strongest prophets in Israel's history came at a time of the greatest danger. We need

prophetic insight and revelation in contending with these dark spirits, and Jennifer LeClaire has answered this call to be a prophetic voice to this generation. Her insight into how Jezebel works is as much needed today as it was in the days of Elijah.

I have seen families and ministries devastated by the influence of Jezebel and related spirits. It is heartbreaking to see immorality, control, division and witchcraft destroy the lives of people who seem to be defenseless in stopping the destruction caused by Satan's minions. Thank God for today's prophetic voices who will raise up a standard against the works of darkness.

Jennifer LeClaire has been given an assignment to expose the works of Jezebel and other spirits that work together to destroy the lives of people. Her experience in contending with these unholy spirits will help those in similar situations overcome and receive victory.

A lack of discernment in dealing with problems can be very frustrating. Insight and understanding will help believers overcome the strategies of hell and achieve victories and breakthroughs. God does not want us ignorant of Satan's devices and wiles. The church needs the information in this book. Pastors and leaders need this information. Prophets and intercessors need this information. I highly recommend this book and welcome it as an additional resource to believers everywhere.

This book is a revelation of how Jezebel works with religion and witchcraft to hinder the Church from moving forward and advancing the Kingdom. Satan hates light and truth. Light and truth will disarm and defeat the agenda of hell. We are living in a day of increased understanding and revelation. The saints are arising with a new understanding of the spirit realm. We will see more breakthroughs today and

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in the years to come as a result of this increased knowledge. We are now disarming and stopping the works of darkness through prayer and deliverance. I believe that multitudes of people will be released from captivity as a result of books like this that expose the works of darkness.

As you read this book, do it prayerfully with humility. Let your faith be stirred to do exploits, and let your wisdom in spiritual warfare increase. Let the insights from this book open a new chapter in your life, and let your future be filled with victory after victory and breakthrough after breakthrough in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John Eckhardt, apostle and overseer,
Crusaders Church, Chicago; founder,
IMPACT Network and Apostolic
Institute of Ministry (AIM)

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I am grateful to those who have walked with me through the spiritual warfare that came against me while writing this book, like Robin, Esther, Mary-Alice, Ruth and Jim. And I appreciate all those who first taught me about these spirits and gave me the inspiration to dig below the surface to see the deeper evils—then expose them.



1

The Unholy Trinity

I had been on the mission field in one-hundred-degree weather in a nation known for its false gospel for more than a week—and battling principalities and powers every step of the way. Laboring to take the Good News to a nation where the spirit of Jezebel wields an especially wicked influence brings an onslaught against your mind and sometimes even unpleasant manifestations in your body. I was not wrestling against flesh and blood, but it sure felt as though I had been in a heavyweight boxing match at the end of some days.

Granted, I was unprepared for the level of spiritual warfare I would encounter in a nation where the effects of witchcraft regularly make headlines. And I was not yet acquainted with the way the religious spirit impels us into morphing the image of Jesus from One who delivers to One who demands superhuman performance to find His favor.

Indeed, I had no idea how Jezebel, the spirit of religion and witchcraft work together to put us in bondage, strip us of

our God-given identity and derail our Kingdom purpose. But I would soon get a firsthand lesson from what I call a deadly trio—the spirits of Jezebel, religion and witchcraft—that I will never forget.

When immature or inexperienced believers enter harvest fields that strongly oppose the Gospel, the dynamics are ripe for this unholy trinity to wreak havoc on the whole evangelistic endeavor. This is because these participants, though willing to minister, are not usually trained to guard their hearts and minds against high-level spiritual attacks.

Indeed, even experienced warriors can fall prey to the workings of Jezebel, religion and witchcraft in Gospel-hostile nations. I have seen missionaries in heated arguments over who will maintain possession of the room key during day-trips. I have watched full-blown strife in the midst of a vote to decide whether the team's bus will stop at a restaurant so famished people can eat or go back to the mission base so exhausted people can rest. And I have witnessed plenty of unhealthy competition over who gets to use the microphone at outreaches. Of course, I have also seen God move for His glory despite the fleshly or childish mindsets, because it is not His will that any should perish (see 2 Peter 3:9).

The point is, however, that the potential demonic inroads to our souls are real—and alarming. No one can submit to the flesh and submit to the Holy Spirit at the same time. The works of the flesh are especially wicked—and when we sow to the flesh we reap corruption (see Galatians 6:8). *The Amplified Bible* says we will “reap decay and ruin and destruction.”

This deadly trio of Jezebel, religion and witchcraft stirs up the flesh, tapping in to tired bodies, hungry stomachs, prideful tendencies in our souls, as well as traditional mindsets

that have not been renewed. As a young believer on my first mission trip, I was not prepared for these dark attacks.

If you run in spiritual warfare circles, you have no doubt battled the spirits of Jezebel, religion and witchcraft. But until you receive the discernment to distinguish the subtle working of each individual enemy—and until you get a revelation of how these three spirits work together to hold people in bondage—you are not fully equipped for war.

In this chapter, I will expose the prophetic partnership of this deadly trio: Jezebel, religion and witchcraft. In brief, the Bible speaks of Israel's Queen Jezebel and "her witchcrafts" (2 Kings 9:22 NASB). We know from the account of her life in Scripture that she was religious—even if her religion was false. By the end of this chapter, you will have a solid foundation on how this unholy alliance works to steal, kill and destroy God's plan for your life, so that you can prepare for victory in your next battle against these spirits.

The Subtlety of Witchcraft

The danger in any spiritual warfare teaching is sending students running off with new revelation based on partial understanding. When that happens, you are in danger of buffeting the air—or provoking another enemy to attack without ever dealing with the first enemy. In other words, while you are busy dealing with the wrong spirit, the spirit you need to battle continues its assault against your mind. With that understanding, let's get more clarity on how these spirits work together.

During my first experience on the mission field, I managed to avoid strife over room keys, pit stops and other potential conflicts inherent in large missions trips in a country where Jezebel rules. I failed, however, to realize the impact that this trio was having on my mind.

Despite being trained and equipped to combat forces of darkness, I was actually fighting only half the battle. I focused on binding evil in the atmosphere, but failed to guard my own heart in the inner battle against my mind.

The subtle attack started with “religious” thoughts about how I was doing more work than everyone else and no one appreciated it—or even noticed. In one sense, this was true, and that fact gave me plenty of grist for this demon-inspired mill. I was up two hours before the rest of the team on some days. I did not stop for lunch with the rest of the team on many days. And I ran around the city or stood on my feet during team rest periods on most days.

A humble heart, one that was ministering these things out of generous service, would reject such a “religious” thought at its inception. Instead, my soul meditated on this “injustice” every day for more than a week, as I wore myself out performing the work of the ministry.

This is a good example of how subtle the enemy can be. He does not need to tell you a full-blown lie to bind you. The devil can bind you with partial truth by twisting your perspective. He does this by shining the light on your wants and your needs, effectively distracting you from God’s will and provision of grace for the work He has called you to do.

This shows the partnership the spirit of religion has with another member of the trio, witchcraft. Religion plants thoughts in your mind, and then witchcraft magnifies them, blowing them out of proportion.

Religious witchcraft can also cause physical manifestations of sickness—fatigue, weariness and slumber are key manifestations. I went through a season earlier in my walk with God when I was learning about this spirit in which I literally slept my way to this revelation. Every day, I would battle witchcraft with a rote prayer. Every day, witchcraft hit

me back. And every day I ended up sleeping halfway through the morning.

When I finally made the connection, I stopped praying those rote prayers and asked the Lord for discernment in the face of enemy attacks. Later, we will take a closer look at how I believe the spirit of witchcraft attacked Bible personalities. Thank God, He always delivers from enemy oppression those who turn to Him.

Witchcraft can attack our minds and bodies through words—our own as well as others'. This means that words are not just sounds or vibrations. Jesus said that His spoken words were “spirit and . . . life” (John 6:63). Because we are spirit beings created in the image of God, I believe this applies to our words as well. Proverbs 18:21 says that death and life are in the power of the tongue. This means that the words we speak over our own lives, as well as words others speak over us, carry death or life. The force of witchcraft promotes death.

The Message translation says it like this: “Words kill, words give life; they’re either poison or fruit—you choose” (Proverbs 18:21). We should choose carefully the words we speak, but we do not have any control over what other people say to us or about us. Have you ever noticed the “yuck” you feel when someone attacks you verbally? Even if you give no credence to the verbal bombs—even if you know the accusations or angry tones are untrue and undeserved—those words are containers of poisonous power, and they can affect you.

The enemy can introduce “vain imaginations” into your mind through the words of others or your own negative words spoken about yourself. Either way, the effects of spiritual witchcraft are real. These vain imaginations are thoughts and ideas contrary to the Word of God. Paul speaks of this battle in the mind in 2 Corinthians:

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity, to the obedience of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

I mentioned above that the victims of witchcraft often feel tired, oppressed or depressed. That is just how I felt out on the mission field in the stifling heat with little rest and plenty of wrong thoughts.

The Enemy Closes In

Witchcraft was attacking from all sides. I theorize that witchcraft is one of the powers listed in Ephesians 6:11–12. This power can work in the actual atmosphere, having impact on the spiritual climate over a city or region—or your home. Have you ever noticed how in some cities you feel as though the heavens are as hard as bronze? That could be due to any number of principalities and powers exerting their force on the territory. In some cases, I believe witchcraft is behind a metallic-seeming atmosphere.

In regions where witchcraft's influence is extremely heavy, sometimes my eyes begin to burn as if I am in a smoke-filled room. I cannot see the haze, but I can feel it. When I “get hit with witchcraft,” as we say in spiritual warfare circles, I might also become confused, forgetful, irritable or tired. The imaginations that rage against the mind can be intense, especially if you are not quick to cast them down and choose to believe the Word of God instead. Thankfully, I now understand how to “break off” the witchcraft. But during that

first mission trip I was still green—and the devil took full advantage.

For starters, the heavens were hard. Added to that, my eyes were burning. My stomach was in knots from the unusual food. My back hurt. I was weary from well-doing. I was exhausted physically. But I was thirty minutes away from finishing my race, and I did not want to give up.

Now, I had felt like giving up after the second day! But the mission leader assured us that we should never give up and never give in—that we should finish what we start, no matter what. I took those words to heart, quite literally, and, while simmering under the “injustice” of my labors, pressed through the pain—and the spiritual warfare—for the duration of the trip.

The end was finally in sight. All I had to do was document a few testimonies, and I would have the satisfaction of knowing the enemy could not stop me. This was my first major battle, and I was determined to win it. I felt that if I let the devil stop me on this assignment, my failure would haunt me. I believed that if I gave up and gave in—despite my knotted stomach and aching muscles—the devil would use that against me. I was determined to overcome in the name of Jesus!

Sidelined by the Trio

Then it happened. A fellow missionary, who had offered me much unwanted advice about how to do my assignment, and who had suggested too frequently that he should take over, informed the leadership team that I was not able to continue. He told them I was in pain. He volunteered to finish the assignment.

The words this individual spoke, which I believe were based on his desire for personal gain, released witchcraft over my

already overloaded mind and body. Since words are spirit, they hit me with the impact of death.

Out of genuine concern, the mission leader told me to let my teammate take over. At this point, I had about fifteen minutes left to the finish line. I explained that I was able and wanted to finish. But the mission leader—the same one who had made clear at the outset that we must *always* finish what we start—insisted that I sit down because I looked as though I was hurting.

The directive to “sit down” knocked the wind out of me. It meant the end of my genuine desire to serve. It meant quitting when I had been coached to finish. And it meant that my sense of injustice was further outraged by my teammate’s usurping my assignment. I immediately became sick to my stomach and walked quickly to the restroom, embarrassed and defeated.

I was not in there long before the final attack from the deadly trio came my way—again, through the mouth of a believer. This woman, influenced by a controlling Jezebel spirit, waited for me to emerge from the bathroom stall, and then, with an angry tone, asked, “What do you think you’re doing? You are out of order! You are embarrassing our ministry leader with your tantrum!”

I was taken aback. This was not a tantrum; this was a bathroom emergency!

When I emerged from the restroom, thank God a more mature, discerning believer gently laid a hand on my shoulder and spoke a simple prayer and words of life. But, honestly, I was left battling imaginations in my mind for days. It took years for me to understand the dynamics of how witchcraft (the man’s words of death) tag-teamed with the spirits of religion (my sense of overwork and injustice) and Jezebel (the woman’s condemning words) to destroy my confidence and effectiveness on my first mission trip.

One of Jezebel's goals was to keep me from returning to the mission field—and it worked through religion while using witchcraft as a weapon. Of course, the strategy failed. I went back again and again and again. Many souls were saved. Many were delivered. Many were equipped. Praise God!

Jezebel and Her Witchcrafts

The Bible makes the connection between Jezebel and her witchcrafts. Second Kings tells us of a confrontation between Joram, who was a son of Queen Jezebel and Israel's reigning king, and Jehu, a military commander in Israel. God had chosen Jehu to replace Joram as king and obliterate the house of Jezebel.

When Jehu approached King Joram on this mission, the suspicious king asked if Jehu was coming in peace. Jehu replied, "What peace, so long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?" (2 Kings 9:22 *NASB*). Queen Jezebel was a spiritual harlot well versed in witchcraft—divinations and enchantments—and religion. (We will discuss a "Jehu anointing" against Jezebel in chapter 4.)

Indeed, this idolatrous queen took Israel to new heights of evil by seducing her husband, King Ahab, into embracing her idolatry. Idol worship provoked the Lord to anger—and still does. (Mind you, idol worship in Christianity today typically takes on a different form. We idolize wealth, status, our bodies, sports and so on.)

Some years before this encounter between Joram and Jehu, the prophet Samuel offered keen revelation about the connection between rebellion against God and witchcraft. When rebuking King Saul for his disobedience to one of God's commands, Samuel said, "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you

have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king” (1 Samuel 15:23).

The hallmarks of spiritual witchcraft are rebellion and stubbornness. If you are exhibiting these behaviors, you are effectively serving the idol of self and opening yourself to spiritual witchcraft.

Witchcraft and Religion Unite

Jezebel's witchcraft often finds expression through sorcery. The word *sorcery* comes from the Hebrew word *magic*. *Magic* means “to whisper a spell.” Today we call these “word curses.” This is why negative, intimidating, judgmental, critical or otherwise unkind words can carry the power of death. We see clear examples of this in Scripture. The spirit of Jezebel uses people—often those with religious mindsets—to release witchcraft against us.

There is no mistaking one of the word curses that Queen Jezebel released against the great prophet Elijah. Elijah had just defeated and slain hundreds of the queen's false prophets at Mount Carmel. When Jezebel learned of this, she sent a messenger to him with these words: “So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time” (1 Kings 19:2).

The result: Elijah was covered in witchcraft, which released imaginations against his mind. The next verse says that “when he *saw* that, he arose and ran for his life, and went to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there” (1 Kings 19:3, emphasis added). I believe that Elijah, being a prophet, saw a fearful vision in his mind and ran after he heard the words of Jezebel's messenger. He saw a picture of the outcome Jezebel was threatening.

Where does the spirit of religion fit into this mix? Consider how Elijah defeated Jezebel's pagan religion on the show-down at Mount Carmel. Jezebel had 850 false prophets on her payroll—400 prophets of Baal and 450 prophets of Asherah. Elijah told King Ahab to gather all Israel and the 850 false prophets on Mount Carmel for a showdown. “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word” (1 Kings 18:21).

After the false prophets failed to prove their god was alive, Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord and went on to prove by fire who the real God was—Jehovah. Elijah effectively exposed Jezebel's false religion. The Israelites acknowledged the true God, seized the prophets of Baal and executed them at Elijah's order (see 1 Kings 18:40). Shortly thereafter, Jezebel released witchcraft via a word curse against Elijah. He ran for his life. And soon enough the religious spirit went to work on his mind.

Religion's Self-Righteousness

Let's take another moment to connect the spirit of religion to Elijah's story so you can see how Jezebel uses it in partnership with witchcraft. Once we connect these dots, we can begin to build on this revelation and expose the attack against you by this unholy trinity in greater detail.

The spirit of religion wields a double-edged sword through legalism and self-righteousness. On one edge of the blade, legalism offers rules and regulations that supposedly justify you in God's eyes. The only problem is, of course, keeping rules and regulations is not what justifies you in God's eyes. Faith in Jesus Christ is. While we should set our hearts to

obey God's commands, we do not find our righteousness in rules. We find our righteousness in the work of the cross and our trust in the God who did the work.

The other edge, self-righteousness, results when you are convinced you have met legalism's rules and regulations—and especially when you see that others have not performed to your standards. Once the spirit of witchcraft was at work against him, Elijah gave in to the imaginations and expressed self-righteousness. Twice he told the Lord, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life” (1 Kings 19:10; see also verse 14).

The children of Israel had just made a clear choice for Jehovah by seizing the prophets of Baal and executing them. Yes, Israel had turned to idols in Jezebel's kingdom, but once they had seen a sign from the God who answers by fire, the Israelites had submitted to Elijah's orders. Elijah seemed to have forgotten all about that and set himself apart as superior to the children of Israel.

Influenced by the spirit of religion and exhibiting self-righteousness, Elijah reminded God of Israel's past sins and puffed himself up. And that is part of religion's warfare strategy: It uses self-righteousness to keep you wallowing in condemnation over your failure or to puff you up into spiritual pride over your accomplishments.

Still, we need to give Elijah grace upon grace—after all, he made those statements after enduring a battle of biblical proportions with Jezebel, witchcraft and 850 false prophets, and the spirit of religion had already been working on him.

How do we know it had been working on him? Because he had made a similar statement to the Israelites at Mount Carmel before the battle had ever begun and before Jezebel's

direct witchcraft curse had been released in his hearing. Specifically, Elijah had said, “I alone am left a prophet of the LORD” (1 Kings 18:22). That was his mindset—it was not the truth. He had not had prophetic revelation on the matter. He was wrong. I believe it was the religious spirit working on him even then.

Elijah was hardly the only one who remained loyal to God, but the spirit of religion had convinced him otherwise. Yet the Lord did not correct Elijah’s presumptuous religious thinking until after the battle with the false prophets. When Elijah complained to the Lord twice that he was the only one left to stand up for God’s honor, God told the prophet, “I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him” (1 Kings 19:18). Our gentle God did not rebuke Elijah for his wrong thinking, but nevertheless set the record straight.

I mentioned that self-righteousness can keep us wallowing in condemnation. If we fail to live up to the standard that self-righteousness establishes, religion cuts us down. Religious condemnation cannot strip us of the righteousness we have in Christ, but it is part of religion’s agenda. We will talk more about that in a later chapter.

For now, I trust you can see that the spirits of Jezebel, religion and witchcraft do not work in silos. In other words, they are not isolated one from another. Satan’s army is highly organized. I believe demons plot and plan together for our destruction. Where you find one member of this deadly trio you will usually find another—and often all three. As you read the pages of this book, I pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you the shrewd strategies by which these wicked spirits work together.