

THE SPIRIT OF JEZEBEL

by Shora Kuetu

*“To the angel of the Church in Thyatira write:
‘These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are
like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.
I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service
and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than
you did at first.
Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that
woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess.
By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual
immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols’.”*

Revelation 2: 18-20

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INTRODUCTION

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron." 1 Timothy 4: 1-2

Undoubtedly, we are living in the latter days before Jesus-Christ's glorious return. In fact, all conditions are set for the Lord Yehoshoo/Jesus to return; so each child of God must prepare himself/herself to meet the Groom. The Prophets and especially the apostle Paul have made us know that, for most Christians, the end of time will be characterised by deceit (seduction of all sorts) and by apostasy.

Beside all the natural disasters and the various political & economic crises facing nations today, a terrible religious spirit is about to emerge with great devastations in the Evangelic circles and in the Christian homes, in general. This spirit is one of the demons serving satan and whose purpose is the destruction of the faith of many of Jesus' followers/disciples.

It is in fact the spirit of Jezebel, a religious spirit and of false prophecy, the more seductive, the more powerful. Its only objective is the seduction, if possible, of as many of God's children as possible, especially of those who look after/pasture the flock.

That is the reason why we have to be careful in proving the persons who claim to be Christians *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."* 1 John 4: 1

The word 'to prove someone' comes from the Greek word 'dokimos' meaning 'to test'. Until modern times, there was no bank system the way they are today and all money were made out of metal. So, to make the coins, the metal had to be melted. To make the coins, the metal was melted and then poured out into a pattern (mould). And later, after the coins had been taken out of moulds, many persons wished to collect the residues remained after this striking because the metal was the one that gave value to those coins; the metal in itself was the one that was worth something. Thus, for instance, in Athens, only during one century more than 80 laws were promulgated to fight the practice of falsifying the coins in use in that time.

Nevertheless, during those times, there were still honest exchange currency tradesmen who didn't accept false coins and who used to put in use only coins with a law-approved weight. These men were called 'dokimos' or 'tested men'. (2 Timothy 2: 15)

Timothy, of Greek origin (on his father's line, according to Scriptures) knew for certain the story of these dokimos. In his encouragement letter from Paul, this last one compares the false coins with the false doctrines and the true doctrine – with the true word; the coins exchange tradesmen with the men tested by God.

So, the apostle Paul used here an analogy between the history of these dokimos and the spiritual realities which confronted the church during his time. Jezebel belongs to these unrighteous currency exchangers and her teaching is thus assimilated to the false money. Our generation needs righteous men and women, such as Timothy, to protect the holy doctrine and fight Jezebel and her works.

Your brother,
Shor

CHAP. 1: JEZEBEL'S ORIGINS AND OPERATION WAY

Jezeel is a biblical character possessed by one of the demons who followed satan in his rebellion against God/Yehoshooa: *"Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads."* Revelation 12: 3-4

In fact, in his rebellion, lucifer was followed by a third of angels who thus became, through disobedience, demons or devils. Demons are spirits who seek desperately to possess human bodies in order to execute the diabolic plans of the enemy.

Ahab, the king of Israel had been seduced by Jezebel's spirit and ended up marrying her: *"Omri rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. And Ahab his son succeeded him as king. In the 38 year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel 22 years. Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than did all the kings of Israel before him."* 1 Kings 16: 28-33

I. JEZEBEL, THE SIDONITE

1. Sidon, the Cursed City

The Antic Sidon was one of the oldest cities on the Phoenician Coast founded by Canaan's son, Noah's nephew. It was the capital of the Canaan Kingdom around the 15th century B.C.

Jezeel or Jezebel (in Latin), a princess of Sidonian origin and Ahab's wife was a great worshipper of Baal, the rain god. Sidon, the founder of the homonym city was Canaan's oldest son, Noah's nephew. But, Noah had cursed Canaan and this curse fell upon Sidon- the first born son born out of Canaan. *"Canaan was the father of Sidon his firstborn, and of the Hittites."* 1 Chronicles 1: 13

According to the Scriptures, the first born kids have received a double portion of their parents' inheritance. (Deuteronomy 21:15-17). So, Sidon, the first born of Canaan had received a double portion of his father's curse. And Noah's curse had terrible consequences upon Canaan and his posterity/descendants, consequences which meant: homosexuality, idolatry, prostitution, deification, rebellion, human sacrifices etc. The Bible talks about it especially in chap. 18 of the book of Leviticus.

Jezebel, as a descendant of Canaan people was cursed, too. Jehu, Israel's king confirmed this curse in 2 Kings 9: 31-34. *"As Jehu entered the gate, she asked: 'Have you come in peace, Zimri, you murderer of your master?' He looked up at the window and called out: 'Who is on my side? Who?' Two or three eunuchs looked down at him. 'Throw her down!' Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot. Jehu went in and ate and drank. 'Take care of that cursed woman,' he said, 'and bury her, for she was a king's daughter'."*

The cursed Jezebel should have been the slave of Shem's descendants or the Jew's slave. But instead of being their slave, according to the prophecy said by Noah, Jezebel managed so well that she became their queen, their boss. She grabbed all the power by dominating completely her husband Ahab. She initiated him in the occult practices and officially introduced the cults of Baal and Astraea in Israel. She is mostly known for abolishing the cult of Yahweh- replaced by that of Baal and Astraea and also by the killing for the Most Eternal One's prophets and the fight against prophet Elijah, the

taking control of the entire country of Israel and organising Naboth's death whose inheritance she gave to her husband Ahab. (1 Kings 21: 11-22)

"Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel." This was God's judgement for this woman due to her wicked deeds and trespassing of the moral law. (1 Kings 21: 23)

2. A Spirit of Prostitution and Idolatry

"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said: 'The two will become one flesh.' But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit." 1 Corinthians 6: 15-17.

Jezebel is a spirit which leads people into prostitution: both physical and spiritual.

The word '*prostitution*' comes from the Greek '**porneia**' which give sin English: illicit sexual relationship, adultery, fornication, homosexuality or pornography.

"The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries/ {prostitution}." Revelation 17: 4

It is to be noticed that this term 'prostitution' is also used to design sexual relationships with a divorced man or woman. (Mark 10: 11-12)

Spiritual speaking, the cult of idols is all stain/mark of idolatry originated from eating of food sacrificed to idols. (Revelation 2:20)

This prostitution is also translated by *making a god out of a thing or being*, replacing God 'I am', through *fortune telling*, through *astrology, magic, witchcraft, spiritism, consulting mediums, yoga* etc. (Isaiah 8:19)

That is the reason why, in Deuteronomy 18:9-14, God warns us: *"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. **But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so.**"*

These idolatry practices are wide spread amongst heathen nations, but God formally forbade the Jews to imitate them.

The king Nebuchadnezzar erected a statue of 90 feet high and 9 inches wide (around 30m x 3m- see chapter 3 verse 1 in the book of Daniel) for everybody to adore it. Those 3 friends of Daniel: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown alive in the burning furnace for having refused to obey the royal order. These 3 young men prefigured the saints of the Church who are persecuted in the present because of their love for God's Word. They represent the saints who will be persecuted by the Beast during the Great Tribulation.

The statue of Nebuchadnezzar represents religion or the church animated by Jezebel's spirit who forced people to bring a cult to a statue, to a man-made work. This phenomenon started in the first empire: Babylon.

Plenty dictators, such as Nebuchadnezzar, imposed the adoration of their own person and images to the subdued people (for instance the cult brought to the Roman Emperors, to the Japanese Emperors

of Shinto order, to the fascist and communist leaders etc.) people will be forced to adore the dragon (the devil, the ancient snake), the beast and her image. This religious constraint, inspired by satan, will appear during the great tribulation.

Note that the Bible speaks of Jezebel's spirit, firstly by denouncing it as a spirit of prostitution and idolatry: *"When Joram saw Jehu he asked: 'Have you come in peace, Jehu?' 'How can there be peace,' Jehu replied, 'as long as all the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?'"* 2 Kings 9:22

Idolatry is also translated by a physical prostitution. In fact, the service in the high places of the Canaan, Babylonian and Greek temples was provided 'sacred' prostitutes. Similarly, the cult for Baal, Astraea and Dionysus were characterised by debauchery led to extremes. Manasseh, Judah's king put 'sacred' prostitutes (men and women) into the temple of Jerusalem. We are told that there used to be sexual orgies between men and men and women and women during the cult offered to the goddess of Astraea: *"He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes {sodomites}, which were in the temple of the Lord and where women did weaving for Asherah."* 2 Kings 23: 7.

Notice that today, too, these practices of the past seem to win popularity in our modern societies. This thing concerns Christians, too because many have idols which they truly worship, such as: cars, design clothes, even their spouses or their children whom they cannot live apart etc.

What is an idol?

An idol is an image, a resemblance, something that represents the shape of an object, real or imaginary, the image of a heathen god, a false god. Finally, an idol is a **person or a thing who takes the place of God in our heart.**

"He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance to the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood {idol}." Ezekiel 8: 3

In this passage, the word 'idol' means also 'lodgement', 'to lodge'. (1 Samuel 4:13). The idol of jealousy took the place of God inside the temple: *"Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."* 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4

Jezebel's spirit pushes people to idolatry or prostitution. Jezebel loves the cult of personality and makes people focus on her persona and totally depend on her.

The Spirit of Jezebel affects numerous churches making most Christians bring a cult to their leaders who unfortunately accept this cult of personality among their ministries.

It is a good thing to be involved assiduously in the programs of your assembly, but watch that these moments don't prevent you from spending time in personal meditation and that they don't replace your intimacy with the Lord. In other words, watch not to become an easy prey for the spirit of Jezebel who is a religious spirit.

The Lord has forbidden idolatry; He has formally commanded the Jews not to have other gods but Him: *"And God spoke all these words: 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.'"* Exodus 20:1-4

But the spirit of Jezebel always fought this word and dragged people into idolatry: *"The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittered with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries."* Revelation 17: 4.

The cup in this passage is the image of the communion the Babylonian Church keeps with demons who inspire her false teachings: *"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too;"*

you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons" 1 Corinthians 10: 21
Read also 1 Timothy 4: 1.

In the Babylonian Church, the assembly is led essentially towards creation and creatures: *"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen."* Romans 1: 25

Notice that the people this verse talks about have preferred to adore and serve the creature (the church building, the pastors) rather than God. Many Christians serve in a ministry today and worship without knowing their assemblies more than God.

The Influence of Jezebel can be translated through the cult of images. We live in an image era with the TV, the photography through satellite, the mobile phone etc. Many Christians are idolaters, worshippers *of this new technology and most of them ignore that this way they worship the Beast and her image.*

"He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed." Revelation 13: 15

3. Jezebel's Bed: the Adultery

Jezebel, who is a seduction and idolatry spirit, has a bed where she attracts her future victims. Unfortunately, numerous of God's ministers ended up and still end in her bed.

I know a pastor who fell due to his sexual relationship to a woman animated by Jezebel's spirit sent by satan into his local assembly. His life was so much connected with this spirit that he had extra conjugal relationships with more than 50 women from his assembly during a period of 10 years. Around 30 of these women came forward and saw me and my team to receive prayer for being delivered and for moral and spiritual help.

But unfortunately this case is not the only one. Many Christians practice the cult of debauchery in plain view and plain hearing of the world.

We can't dissociate Jezebel from her **bed**, the place where after seducing her victims, she commits her physical and spiritual adulteries: *"I have covered my bed with coloured linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love! My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon."* Proverbs 7: 16-20

There are some main characteristics of Jezebel's bed:

Adorned with Egyptian bed sheets: a blanket of high quality and very expensive. But why from Egypt? This name means the country of nervous breakdown or has the meaning: 'sieged', so this Egyptian carpet/blanket causes spiritual breakdown and assaults or rapping/veiling of up Jezebel's victims. All persons who fall into the sexual sin of Jezebel become their prisoners and end up with a nervous breakdown.

Perfumed with myrrh: Smyrna is an aromatic plant produced by a tree with similar name. It is used as part in many medicines (due to its stimulant and antispasmodic properties) and especially in the perfume industry which made its fame. Especially in the Far East, myrrh is used for the rise of sensuality.

The person possessed by Jezebel's spirit releases a spiritual odour of myrrh; more precisely he/she is so seductive that causes irresistible physical reactions and rise in you sexual desires and impure thoughts if coming into contact with this being. If you feel attracted to someone in your entourage, meaning that your body reacts despite your own will to resist, know that you deal with someone possessed by Jezebel's spirit.

Made out of Aloe: The Aloes are flower plants and of liliaceous family such as: lilacs, lilies, onions, garlics, tulips, dandelions, etc. They belong to the oily and succulent plants.

For the Antic Egyptians, the aloes had the fame of emphasizing women's beauty and brightness. In the Pre-Columbian America, the Maya young girls used to moisture their faces with the aloe juice to attract young men, such as Cleopatra used to do it, too.

The Afrikaans and Zulu tribes believe the aloe is 'the plant which heal it all' and state that her odour has an immense power for sexual attraction.

Some desert nations extract soup out of the aloe plant and then wipe their bodies and hair with it, which gives a certain finesse and brightness to the skin, as well as an abundant, luxurious and love-inspiring hair display.

Made out of Cinnamon: This is a tree from the Far East. In Antiquity, it used to be considered the fragrance of seduction. Mixed with myrrh and aloe, it was used by the women in love to perfume their beds in order to seduce men.

Jezebel uses the same aromatic plants employed in Yahweh's temple to bring a cult to idols and to commit fornication. (Exodus 30: 22-37)

She says her man is gone in a far-away country. But in Luke 19: 11-27, Jesus tells us the parable of noble man gone in a far country. That man is Jesus Christ Himself. Jezebel or the Apostate Church prostitutes herself as she says the Lord is late in His return.-2 Peter 3

The king Solomon was seduced by Jezebel's spirit, fact which attracted the Lord's disapproval. In fact he was married to 700 women and had 300 concubines. He is very well placed, isn't it, to talk about Jezebel's bed! His foreign wives with Jezebel's spirit departed him from Lord Yahweh and from His commandments:

"King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites: 'You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.' Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord; he did not follow the Lord completely, as David his father had done. On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molech the detestable god of the Ammonites. He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods. The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command." 1 Kings 11: 1-10.

The angel of Thyatira's Church was him too seduced by this spirit; that is the reason why many Christians of that city commit fornication in the bed of this spirit.

"So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways." Revelation 2: 22.

The same thing happened with the Christians of Corinth. Many were those who lived in fornication and disorder, to the point that the apostle Paul was forced to ask their women to be quiet in their assemblies: *"As in all the congregations of the saints, women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church. Did the word of God originate with you? Or are you the only people it has reached? If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am*

writing to you is the Lord's command. If he ignores this, he himself will be ignored. Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:34-40.

*"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! **Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said: 'The two will become one flesh.'** But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body."*
1 Corinthians 6:15-18.

In this passage, the prostitute is represented by Jezebel and also by the religious system. In fact, Jezebel sets up her own religion, her own prophets and her own cult. Corinthians were so seduced by this spirit that one of them was sleeping with his father's wife. (1 Corinthians 5: 1-13). Nevertheless, the churches of Corinth were the only assemblies who had the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 1: 7). These assemblies had known a true spiritual awakening, but had fallen in Jezebel's seduction so much that they became the most carnal churches of the 1st century A.C. "*For a prostitute is a deep pit and a wayward wife is a narrow well. Like a bandit she lies in wait, and multiplies the unfaithful among men.*" Proverbs 23: 27-28.

Jezebel has more weapons in her bag, she also has a table and around it she gathers her victims.

4. Jezebel's Table: The Communion with Demons

The person possessed by Jezebel likes to invite her future victims at her table, so that she can manipulate them and make them join her organisation.

The apostle Paul talks about 2 sorts of tables: Jezebel's table (or the demons' table) and the Lord's Table.

Lord Yehoshooa's table has been revealed to Moses (Exodus 25:23-30 and Leviticus 24:5-9). There were 12 breads on it meant for the food of priests/sacrificators. These breads were renewed each Sabbath and represent Christ, the Bread of God, which is the food for the believer-priest. (John 6:33-58)

Jezebel's table is thus presented in 1 Kings 18: 19 "*Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring **the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table.***"

Jezebel had at her table 850 prophets who shared the food! Imagine the number of animals needed to be killed daily and the number of persons entrusted with preparing these tables! A considerable number of Jews surely must have been employed into the service of Jezebel – the great priestess and prophetess. In the meantime, Jezebel and her husband became thus the greatest employers in Israel... These prophets had a real communion with this queen of perdition.

Jezebel's table represents the communion with the occult powers.

"Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?" 1 Corinthians 10:19-22.

The meat offered by Jezebel and her prophets was sacrificed to demons. So, those 450 ministers of Baal and 400 of Astraea were in close connection with impure spirits who were sending them messages and orders.

Satan is master in disguise and imitation (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) He imitated the Lord's table and offers to people foods of kings and the wine of debauchery (Daniel 1). Jezebel invites God's people to her table to deter them from God's Word.

The apostle John received great revelations while exiled because of the Word of God in the Island of Patmos. The angel sent by the Lord says that this woman is mater' or 'meter' in Greek, 'the source' of impurities and abominations of the Earth (like a jet of water emerging and flowing rapidly.)

In conclusion, this woman, Jezebel or better said **Babylon** is the source/foundation of all sects, of all religions, of all false prophets, of sins, of idolatries, etc.

*"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me: 'Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and **the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.**'"*

*Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a desert. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a **golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries.***

And on her forehead a name was written: <Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth.>

I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus." Revelation 17: 1-6

To realise the deviation of many churches and various ministries, despite their initial calling by God, we have to go to the source, to Babylon in other words. We need to treat problems at the root and not at surface (like plague or cancer.)

The woman in Revelation 17 is a religious entity represented by a great city with royal right over the kingdoms of the earth, meaning the Vatican or the Roman Catholic Church. The Bible says that she will succeed in making all earth kings /presidents/ governments drunk.

For seducing the Lord's ministers, this woman makes them drink the wine of debauchery contained in her golden cup *"One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me: 'Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits on many waters. With her the kings of the earth committed adultery and **the inhabitants of the earth were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries.**'"* Revelation 17: 1-2

This golden cup is the cup of demons talked about by Paul: "You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?" in 1 Corinthians 10:20-22. Jezebel uses the wine of debauchery to bring the assemblies she intends to destroy into the depths of satan.

This wine makes the Lord's ministers drunk and blinds them completely to the point that these people depart from the Lord. It represents the false doctrines and sin which took place into the midst of most churches. Jezebel's doctrine consists in minimising the teaching of the cross and introducing a humanist gospel where man is the centre of all that exists. All teachings based upon faith in God, upon sanctification, upon love for the truth and especially upon repentance are rejected.

Despite the emperor's order, Daniel stood firm and refused to drink Nebuchadnezzar's wine because he feared Yahweh more than men. Daniel didn't accept this wine because if he had consumed it he would have spoilt himself by adoring false gods and demons.

"Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way." Daniel 1: 6-8

This wine represents the materialism which seduces many Christian leaders. The love for nice things of this world loses many pastors and priests or whatever their title might be. The materialism is the general attitude and behaviour of he who is attached joyfully to goods, values or material pleasures.

II. JEZEBEL, THE GREEDY PROSTITUTE

"The woman was dressed in purple and scarlet, and was glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls. She held a golden cup in her hand, filled with abominable things and the filth of her adulteries." Revelation 17: 4.

We hear more and more Christian say we must live in excellency, or thin other words we need to have beautiful cars, beautiful houses, beautiful clothes, lots of money and a high social stand in the world. However, the Bible teaches us that the multitude of material goods belongs to satan: *"We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one."* 1 John 5:19.

The word 'world' here, in Greek said 'kosmos', means that the affairs of the world, the table of terrestrial things, the totality of earthly goods. In other words, richness, luxury, advantages, pleasures (tough ephemeral, fragile

The Lord Jesus Christ/Yehoshooa Ma'shia said Himself that money, coins belong to the kings of this world:

'Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said: 'You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought him a denarius, and he asked them: 'Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?' 'Caesar's', they replied. Then he said to them: 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God'." Matthew 22:17-21

How could then imagine we could touch the rich of this world with the Gospel using the banknotes which are themselves the weapons of the enemy! The excellency, according to the Bible, is to live in simplicity, within our strict needs, obeying God's Word and not like the rich of this world. (1 John chap.2 vs.15-17.)

1. The Personification of the Church of Laodicea

The Antic city of Laodicea, Ad Lycum in Latin, was placed in the vicinity of the Goncali village about 6 km away from Denizil. This Hellenistic city bore the name of Antiochus's wife: Laodicea I, the princess of the Seleucid dynasty, dead in 240 B.C.

In 188 B.C., the city passed under the Pergamum Kingdom and thus, under the Rome's control from 133 B.C. The abundance of its sheep with soft black wool allowed Laodicea to become a great centre of marketing the wool and of textile industry. Because of the fertility of its region, its calm climate, its flourishing commerce and its privileged geographical on the commercial route, Laodicea became one of the most important and prosperous citadels of Asia Minor.

In the Roman Era, around the years 60 A.H., despite an earthquake destroying all the cities in the region, the rich inhabitants of Laodicea rebuilt rapidly their city and were able to adorn it with numerous monuments and all this without Rome's help. Laodicea used to press its own coin and went thus far that proclaimed herself 'the metropolis of Asia'.

An important Jewish community used to live here that time, thing which led to the rapid conversion to Christianity of this city, later important episcopal siege.

Unfortunately, the Gospel didn't spread due to the riches accumulated by the Laodiceans. In fact, the love for material goods put a brake often into the work/action of the Holy Spirit.

Laodicea means 'the people's justice' or 'the reign of the people'. This word consists of 'laos'='people' or 'laic' and of 'dike' which means 'judgement', 'custom'. Laodicea is in fact a democratic church. Democracy was born in Athens in the 6th century B.C. It regards a political system where the nation is sovereign. Abraham Lincoln, the 1st American president said that "democracy is the government of the people by the people for the people."

In the Church of Laodicea, God's Word has been replaced by human rationalisms. (Matthew 15:6). This 7th church of revelation is characterised by a synthesis of 4 churches:

- **Ephesus**, the church nibbled by apostasy;
- **Pergamum**, the centre of the god of medicine Esculape and the spreading of the doctrines of Balaam and Nicolaites;
- **Sardis**, the church which is dead spiritually;
- **Thyatira**, the church in complete control of Jezebel.

"And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay." Daniel 2: 43

The Church of Laodicea pushes the ecumenism to paroxysm, because this church is supported by this world's governments. She is the 7th and the last church that exists/proceeds the Lord's return upon the clouds.

Like the Christians of Laodicea, billions of Christians believe material and financial richness is the sign of an abundant spiritual life. Plenty of pastors and priests desire to be influent, to have lots of money, to accumulate material goods and plant new assemblies. That is the reason why they propagate this deeply subversive message axed upon the material sphere, thus polluting the hearts of believers by spreading the love for luxury instead of the love for God!

2. Luxury

Luxury is defined as the character of something expensive, refined, and sumptuous. It is also an environment which consists of costly things, an expensive and refined way of life.

People with luxury taste like sumptuous and superflux spending, and have as unique purpose the sumptuous refinement through their taste of ostentation.

So, luxury is the object of Babylon's desire: *"For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and **the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.**"* Revelation 18: 3

*"Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and **luxury** she gave herself. In her heart she boasts: 'I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn'.* Revelation 18: 7

*"When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared **her luxury** see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her."* Revelation 18:9.

The Church of Laodicea seeks more the exterior richness than the interior one. For her, the appearance is much more important than the transformation of hearts. Unfortunately, today, this influence of Jezebel touches many pastors & priests and many ministries – initially called by God. The seduction of earthly things has taken hold of many people who succumbed due to their lust for profit and their greed. They have abandoned their simple way of life demanded by the Lord for His servants who asked us not to run after the perishable treasures of this world.

*"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your **sincere and pure devotion to Christ.**" 2 Corinthians 11: 3 (akeraios= sincere or simplicity in Greek)*

*"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as **innocent as doves.**" {be simple as doves- **akeraios** in Greek} (Matthew 10: 16)*

In this passage, the word 'simple' comes from the Greek 'akeraios' meaning : 'unmixed, pure; a spirit **without any evil mixture** ,a free of all artifice, an innocent, a simple spirit.'

Have you ever noticed the number of Christians and pastors who try to drive the last design cars, vehicles which on the road are but a huge number of wheels?

Thus, the train of life for many preachers is purely scandalous. Great figures of the prosperity gospel in U.S.A., Australia, Africa and even France advertise with no shame whatsoever their luxurious cars, their villas, their private jets, their clothes, their jewelleries and thus make people believe that God has blessed them, when actually they have lost the Lord's vision long ago. In fact, instead of using this money to invest in God's Kingdom, helping especially the needy (the widows, the orphans, the poor) and to finance the mission, the printing of Christian works and forming the Lord's servants, they collect these terrestrial treasures in order to satisfy their own ego and belly. And worse, to maintain their high ostentatious level of life, they don't hesitate to deform the Gospel and preach false doctrines to legitimise their trespassing/derailing. They misinterpret the Biblical passages and I give you two examples:

a)" *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.*" 2 Corinthians 8: 9

According to these Jezebel possessed persons; Christians must become rich according to the world criteria (money, beautiful cars, big houses etc.)

Nevertheless, treasures here have nothing to do with material goods. It is rather about being rich in God (Luke12: 21) and this richness consists in good deeds: love, goodness, compassion, peace, joy: *"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share."*

1 Timothy 6: 18

We must understand that the Lord, through His death, has enriched us with all that we have lost due to sin, meaning THE ETERNAL LIFE.

b) Often the parable of the talents, in Matthew 25, is deformed to justify the gospel of prosperity. This thing causes such a great confusion that many end up mixing the ministry with business, thus transforming the church into a company or a PTL LTD.

Some Christians take the example of the servant scorned by his master for having put his only talent into the ground (verse 27) and make people believe that Jesus encourages people to make bank deposits! (because of the interest they get-n.tr.)

This is another example very agile to make a business out of the Lord's service. These people forget that in Leviticus 25: 35-37, God has forbidden the Jews to borrow money with interest to their brothers.

The interests that the Lord speaks of in the parable of the talents are of spiritual nature, in short it is about the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the works that the Lord has prepared in advance for us (Ephesians 2: 10). In conclusion, Jesus reproached to the lazy servant who had only one talent the fact that he put it into the soil instead of putting it in (planting it into -n.tr.) God's Kingdom.

Any person seduced by luxury is disconnected from God's will; he/she has lost the Lord's vision and became adorned with dreams and fantasies: *"In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings."* Jude 1: 8

In this passage, the word 'dreams' comes from the Greek 'enupniazomai' whose root is 'hupnos', which give in English the word 'hypnosis'. So you can see to which point they are fascinated, truly charmed for real with the earthly treasures. This term suggests not only the idea of a dream or vision, but also the fact that people can be deceived by sensual images and led towards an impure behaviour.

Today, many Christians have completely lost the sense of priorities and forge which is the purpose of their walk as Christians or the Christian Race, as Paul calls it.

Although blessed materially speaking, Abraham, the father in faith, wasn't attached to material things because he was waiting *"For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."* Hebrews 11: 10.

Regarding Jesus and the disciples, they have never stop preaching God's Kingdom so that Christians have a heavenly hope and not a terrestrial one.

"People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them." Hebrews 11:14-16.

On the contrary, plenty of modern Christians live as if they will spend an eternity here below. All their short-term or long-term projects are connected with their earthly life. They invest all their energy in the things of this world- goods called to be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10), instead of being preoccupied more for their future after their physical death.

Let's remember the parable of the unwise rich man in Luke 12: 15-21.

"Then he said to them: 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions:'" Luke 12: 15

The persons affected by the lust/desire for profit hide often inside their heart the problem of rejection due to various wounds. The luxury they surround themselves with has the purpose of showing those who had wounded them in the past that they have succeeded in life, that they took revenge. In reality, the true consolation is only in God, all the rest are but artificial things.

The persons possessed by Jezebel have as motivation: greed *"For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things."* Philippians 3: 18-19.

The angel of the Church of Laodicea has also fallen into this trap because he was only thinking of *terrestrial things*.

"You say: 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see." Revelation 3:17-18.

Have you noticed the adjectives used to describe the Church of Laodicea?

Wicked Although the money doesn't make people happy, this church believed she has found happiness in richness. However, how many rich men are not unhappy today despite their fat bank accounts?

Miserable: this is the state of a person who inspired pity due to its poorness.

Poor: because she lacks in Christian virtues and eternal treasures, this church is reduced to spiritual begging.

Blind: this is the state of a person lacking the Kingdom's vision. This church was and will be blind again during the Rapture regarding spiritual realities; that is the reason why the Lord offered her

medicine (collyre) for her conjunctivitis - disease symbolised by the image of material goods which made her blind.

Naked: despite the development of the textile industry and the richness which come as a result of this commerce, this city was naked before God.

Let's remember that Adam and Eve acknowledged their nakedness after having eaten from the tree of knowing good and evil (Genesis 3). Then, to cover their nakedness they have made themselves clothes out of fig tree leaves. In fact, Adam and his wife have lost their clothes in front of God's glory – ('shekinah' in Hebrew)-Romans 3:23. So, this derisory adornment didn't succeed in covering their sin.

Today, these clothes represent religion which sets emphasis on appearances (Luca 20:46), on humanism, on human justice (Isaiah 64:5-6).

„Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.“ Revelation 16: 15

Therefore, the Church of Laodicea is no longer in the Lord's presence due to her nakedness (her sin) , while the true Church is adorns her clothes with right deeds.

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)“ Revelation 19: 7-8

To be holy, we must be therefore dressed with right deeds, righteous works which God has already prepared for us from the beginning. (Ephesians 2:10).

In addition, Christ is our **'CLOTH' by excellency**. *“ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”* Romans 13: 14

What is the Lord's opinion regarding the rich men? He said to them to sell all their goods and give them to the poor and then follow Him – the Richness by excellency. (Mark 10:17-27)

The Lord Yehoshoo/Jesus doesn't want us to run after material goods: *“Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.”* Proverbs 23: 4-5

According to the Holy Scriptures there are 2 types of treasures coming from God: **the spiritual richness and the natural, earthly richness**.

This is the real richness that the Lord offers to the Church of Laodicea: the gold tested in the fire, her white clothes and the collier- the medicine put upon her eyes to remove the conjunctivitis.

1) Fire tested Gold - meaning Yeshoua Himself.

“If you ... assign your nuggets to the dust, your gold of Ophir to the rocks in the ravines, then the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you“ Job 22: 24-25.

The gold from the Island of Ophyr was the most valued during Solomon's time.

Ophyr means abundance, richness or free of ashes. The king Josaphat built entire ships to go and look for this kind of gold. (1 Kings 22: 48). Solomon also received as gift gold as this one. (2 Chronicles 9: 10) The Ophyr gold was so famous that it was used to adorn queens (Psalm 45: 9).

However, the Lord asks us to throw it in the dust because if we don't give up the treasures of this world, then Yahweh, who is a devouring fire, can't reign in us and he will be our gold (Philippians 3:7-8) Jesus is this gold, which has been tested in the fire (the cross) according to Hebrews 5: 7-10.

The gold melts at a temperature from 1,064°C up to 2808°C. Fire represents God Himself (Isaiah 33:14; Hebrews 12:29), but also trials and tribulations (1 Peter 1: 6-7). This fire is needed to sanctify God's children because this is the only way used by the Lord to make us give up the worldly residues.

"Gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, lead and anything else that can withstand fire must be put through the fire, and then it will be clean. But it must also be purified with the water of cleansing. And whatever cannot withstand fire must be put through that water." Numbers 31: 22-23.

Fire is also a symbol of persecutions suffered by God's true children due to their faith (2 Timothy 3: 12). That is why we need to see the persecution due to Christ as a true treasure (1 Peter 4: 1 and 4: 12-19). Fire also talks about God's judgement.

"However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?" 1 Peter 4: 16-17

2) White Clothes - the Image of God's Justice. Justice is the true treasure who few possess. Our era knows a major lack in righteous men and women. Noah was the only righteous man during his time. (Genesis 6)

A just is a person who experienced God's justification through faith in Yehoshooa Ma'shia (Jesus Christ in Latin). The justification is an act of divine recognition and not the recognition of man's personal justice. It comes from God's grace (Romans 3: 24; Titus 3: 4-7) and is and is like a juridical act of the Lord claiming he/she is just he who has received Yeshoua in his/her heart. (1 John 2: 29 and 3: 4-10) Thus, a Christian saved and justified through the work of the cross produces the fruits of righteousness.

"Then he (the angel) showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

The Lord said to Satan: 'The Lord rebukes you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?' Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. The angel said to those who were standing before him: 'Take off his filthy clothes.'

Then he said to Joshua: 'See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you.' Then I said: 'Put a clean turban on his head.' So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by." Zechariah 3: 1-5

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants: 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are invited, but few are chosen.'" Matthew 22: 11-14

3) Collyre - a liquid or semi-liquid medicine **applied over the eye's conjunctivitis.**

Some doctors in the Roman Era had the custom of preparing these medicines based on olive oil. The spiritual conjunctivitis is represented by sin, especially by the eyes' lust which prevents the Church of Laodicea to see the celestial things. Collyre is the remedy for the 'sight' recovery to be able to follow Christ.

So, all Christians are called to be spiritually rich in Christ and not in material things. In fact, the material richness, according to the Bible has no connection with money as coins or bank accounts. The material richness comes from God and is supplied by nature: Deuteronomy 28: 1-6.

We can see from this passage that the material blessings coming from God are firstly the fruit of our wombs, meaning children and then animals (Genesis 13: 1-2), lands and metals (gold, silver, iron, etc. Genesis 13:1). However, the enemy has succeeded in deceiving the man by making him artificial treasures such as: the mixed-up corruptible metal as coins, the pieces of paper as banknotes and more recently the numbers of bank accounts.

How sad it is to see millions of Christians ready to do all kind of compromises to procure for themselves this putrefied richness. *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you.”* 1 Peter 1: 3-4

3. Money: the Symbol of Men's Pride

Money (coins, banknotes or electronic invoices- 'chips') don't come from God; it is a pure human invention.

“Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians: ‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?’ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said: ‘You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.’ They brought him a denarius, and he asked them: ‘Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?’ ‘Caesar's,’ they replied. Then he said to them: ‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.’ When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away” Matthew 22:15-22.

This passage shows clearly that the dinar shown to the Pharisees by Jesus belonged to Cesar- the image of the Antichrist. Today, we can still do the same experience: have a look at the printed effigies on your coins and banknotes and you'll notice you'll even find Biblical verses on the. The need to strike pieces of precious metal appeared around the year 650 B.C. The 1st coins were made in Sardis by the king Alyates who reigned over Lydia between 610-560 B.C. The coins of Sardis had his emblem.



People noticed very quickly saw the many advantages of the coins, especially in making the exchange of goods/merchandises easier. As soon as their value (or better said their weigh in precious metal) was guaranteed by a king or by businessmen, these pieces were able to be exchanged easily against bigger or smaller goods (animals, cattle herds, cereals...)

That is how it became today the main exchange reference. From then on the monetary exchange replaced little by little the traditional exchange (good for good).

The Coin in the Service of the Roman Power

In the 3rd century .C., the Romans installed their artisan shop of striking coins in the temple of Juna, Jupiter's wife and sister, so-called the protector of women , also called Moneta (Coin in Latin; the verb 'monetare' in Latin = to give advice). The name 'monetary' comes directly from 'moneta'.

The Roman emperor Augustine reorganised the Roman monetary system on the principle of tri-metal circulation of gold, silver and brass pieces. The 'Aureus' were coins weighing around 8 grams of gold and then the silver dinar of around: 1/25 gold-silver. The dinar, in itself, weighs 4 sestars of brass ('sesterces'in Latin). But the progressive disappearance of silver attracted a split of proportion between gold and silver and thus a loss in value of coins.

At the beginning of the 3rd century A.C., the emperor Constantine imposed a mono-monetarism with a gold piece named in latin 'solidus' which gave the word 'solda' (=a salary for a soldier) or 'soldier'. The

first solidi coins were made in Treves, in Renania province, in the year 310. Their circulation will last for several centuries in Europe.

After the turmoils of the Middle Ages, due to the sufficient lack of gold supplies, Charlemagne, the king of Francs had to implement the mise-en-place/circulation of a new coin of reference, the silver dinar (of 1,36 grams up to 1,80 grams of silver). Thus, from the mono-monetarism based on gold people passed to multi- metal monetarism -usage based on silver!

This fact is so deeply enrooted in the modern morals that even the name of silver is synonym with money or with coins or with numerary. (for instance in French silver/'argent'=coin and we say Jesus was sold for 30 silver coins when in reality they were dinars.)

The Thaler, the 1st International Coin

In the 16th century (1559), the Austrian-Hungarian emperor Ferdinand I of Habsburg created a silver Reichsthaler (the coin of the Reich) - money which knew a great fame. The name 'thaler' comes from an Austrian city Joachimsthal (Joachim's or James' Valley), valley surrounded by great mines of silver in the Alps.

In 1750, in her turn, queen Maria-Teresa of Habsburg stoke a thaler of silver with her effigy. Then the thaler became an international coin used in plenty of European colonies, including in America. He was used until in the middle of the 21st century due to its persistent popularity in the world' countries.

The American Dollar

In 1792, U.S.A. created their own monetary instrument, a coin named 'dollar' which is but a phonetic alteration for the word 'thaler'- Maria-Teresa's coin, as the sound 'th' in English is almost identical to 'd'. The actual American dollar is in a certain way the true successor of the Austrian-Hungarian thaler.

So, seeing that money (coin or banknote) has been created by man to his own glory, how could then believe to use it to bring souls to God? However, many paganised Christian leaders are under Jezebel's cup because they teach their church goers that they have to be influent with their bank accounts and thus overwhelm the needy to make them believe they are cursed.

There are plenty of Christians who are told from the altar or pulpit that they are not blessed unless they drive an AUDI, Mercedes, BMW or even a Porsche! That is the reason why there are many those ready for all sacrifice and compromise in order to state their material success. What deceitfulness!

Plenty of God's children are bound by the love for the world to the point that they replace almost each year their TV, their car, their mobile phones and so on (they consider them unfashionable). However, the Bible invites us to simplicity, recommending us not to be conform to this present century (Romans 12:1-2) and not to love the world and its existent things (1 John 2: 15-17)

Paul gave us an advice and a precious warning:

"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many grieves." (1 Timothy 6: 7-10).

According to these verses, the love of money can make us fall into:

Temptation: the lust to possess always something, to become rich, to earn more money will end by making these people fall into pride, lie, duplicity (for instance fall into a conflict of interest-n.tr.), fornication etc...

Trap: from the Greek 'pagis' ='trap' "*Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.*"

Luke 21: 34.

This word suggests the unexpected, the unpredictable, and the surprise because like most birds and animals caught in the trap/net, greedy men fall similarly.

Unthoughtful and Harmful Desires: the harmful desires are numerous: that of having always more and more than others, the lust of all sorts, rivalries, competition, the foulness of titles and grandeurs, the love of money or buildings; all these take people out of the Lord Jesus' vision (Mark 4:19).

Ruin and Perdition: a greedy person will lose his soul by departing the Lord. (2 Peter 2) According to Solomon, money doesn't satisfy anyone. *"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless."* Ecclesiast 5:10

The world bank system will collapse during the next years (Revelation 18). The Christian must understand that the true richness is in Christ - the Eternal Life. " Matthew 13:44-46.

I personally don't believe that a Christian full with the Excellency the Holy Spirit is able to become rich according to the worldly criteria. God might allow surely for a Christian to possess goods in this world, but He won't allow it unless He wants us to help others. God's children could they do business? Could they open a company? Yes, of course, but the main purpose must be to cover his needs and then helping the poor and investing into the kingdom of God.

As soon as we fall into the trap of seeking richness, we end up with no doubt into compromise, making alliances with the god of this century (1 Timothy 6).

Indeed it is impossible to get rich and also remain honest/uncorrupted in a world that pushes us towards compromise. Thus, most 'lucky' persons make a covenant with Cesar, with the impious men governing this world and behind whom lays satan. That is the reason why the Lord tells us it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle than a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (Mark 10:25) Meditate upon Psalm 62: 11 and James 5: 1-5.

The greed for money (or all sorts of gain) loses many children of God and Christian leaders. Gehazi's story is a perfect illustration of this evil and of the destiny waiting for all those attached to this world.

4. Gehazi, the Corrupt Servant

"Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said to himself: 'My master was too easy on Naaman, this Aramean, by not accepting from him what he brought. As surely as the Lord lives, I will run after him and get something from him.' So Gehazi hurried after Naaman. When Naaman saw him running toward him, he got down from the chariot to meet him. 'Is everything all right?' he asked. 'Everything is all right,'" Gehazi answered. 'My master sent me to say: <Two young men from the company of the prophets have just come to me from the hill country of Ephraim. Please give them a talent of silver and two sets of clothing>.' 'By all means, take two talents,' said Naaman. He urged Gehazi to accept them, and then tied up the two talents of silver in two bags, with two sets of clothing. He gave them to two of his servants, and they carried them ahead of Gehazi. When Gehazi came to the hill, he took the things from the servants and put them away in the house. He sent the men away and they left. Then he went in and stood before his master Elisha. 'Where have you been, Gehazi?' Elisha asked. 'Your servant didn't go anywhere,' Gehazi answered. But Elisha said to him: 'Was not my spirit with you when the man got down from his chariot to meet you? Is this the time to take money, or to accept clothes, olive groves, vineyards, flocks, herds, or menservants and maidservants? Naaman's leprosy will cling to you and to your descendants forever.' Then Gehazi went from Elisha's presence and he was leprous, as white as snow." 2 Kings 5:20-27

Gehazi, whose name means 'the valley of vision' was a man with a terrestrial vision of the ministry. His vision was not that of a mountain (of God's Kingdom), but that of a valley (terrestrial kingdom). In Isaiah 40:4, the Lord asks the Jews to increase their valley, meaning the vision because their vision was narrow and earthly. Gehazi used to serve the man of God, but not God. He was preoccupied of material goods: money, clothes, lands, vines, cattle and sheep herds, servants and maids. His ambition was to be a landowner with servants at his service. Despite the fact that his master Elijah had refused to accept Naaman's presents because he knew that presents blind, (Deuteronomy 16:19), Gehazi accepts them.

However, this man used to frequent the most powerful prophet in his time, but instead of inheriting his anointing, he inherited Naaman's leprosy. And we know that during Moses, leprosy was considered the most repugnant disease in Israel. Thus, the leprous were exiled of God's presence and forever kicked out of the camp. (Leviticus 14)

Gehazi is the stereotype of Christians mixing with God's righteous men and women inheriting neither their sanctified life nor their message due to their lack of heavenly vision. Indeed, their earthly and belly vision prevents them to continue their fathers in faith's work.

5. Judah, the Traitor

"Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."
Psalm 41:9

Judah, the Iscariot was the only apostle who didn't spend his childhood in Galilee (in the North of Israel where Nazareth is) but in the village of Kerieth, in Judea (in in the South, where lies Bethlehem). He is therefore the unique originator from the same region as the Lord Jesus. He used to chase demons out, heal sick people, maybe even raise people from the dead, used to proclaim the Gospel, but his heart was attached to money. Despite the fact that he walked with Jesus for 3 ½ years, exercising a powerful ministry, he was but a thief and a traitor.

"Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected: 'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor?' It was worth a year's wages.' He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it." John 12: 3-6

Judah betrayed the Lord Jesus for 30 silver coins (around 7,200 euros, according to today estimations) or the price of a slave in that time.

Judah is the type of Christian who does the work with wrong motivations, in collaboration with visionary men called by God. They take advantage of these people's fame and grace to get a dishonest gain. They use God's children as cautions to ensure legitimacy for themselves and thus win the trust of those about to be deceived and later robbed.

They could very well have spiritual gifts, they could do miracles and even exercise powerful ministries in nations, but they end by betraying their fathers-in-faith' trust for money. Once discovered, most of them refuse repentance and choose spiritual suicide by rebellion.

"When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. 'I have sinned,' he said, 'for I have betrayed innocent blood.' 'What is that to us?' they replied. 'That's your responsibility.' So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself." Matthew 27:3-5.

Why these persons, such as Gehazi and Judah, end up so lamentably? The next passage gives us some clues for a better understanding:

"If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain." 1 Timothy 6: 3-5

These men have a problem with pride which pushes them to teach others false doctrines. They end up being attached more to the ministry than to the God of the ministry.

Because of their intellectual knowledge of God's Word and not of God Himself, they have in fact no spiritual knowledge and do deeds believing God is not seeing them.

"He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap." 2 Timothy 3: 7

Their lack of personal knowledge of God gives access to the spirit of falsehood which pushes them more and more into deforming God's Word.

Because they are not true workers in God's Kingdom, they quickly fall into the carnal competition with their fathers in faith whom they don't hesitate to calumniate or even kill.

"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ." Philippians 3:7-8.

The revelation and the knowledge of Jesus-Christ as both the Word and the Life has determined Paul to declare that this world (goods, fame etc.) are like mud; this also explains his simple way of living the Gospel. But all Gehazis and Judahs of today lack this individual and interior revelation- see Galatians chap.1: 15-16. This is why they believe they have the right to extort, more or less subtle, money from Christians.

CHAP. 2: JEZEBEL AND SATAN'S DEPTHS

As we have already seen, Jezebel's spirit belongs to the most dangerous and seductive demonic spirits. Expert in satan's depths, he masters the occult arts and knows all the mysteries of iniquity, in other words of sin.

I. A SPIRIT OF WITCHCRAFT

1. The Testimony of a Former Witch

Let's have a look at the testimony of an ex-satanist who was possessed by Jezebel and who was set free by the Lord Yeshoua during a mission in Kinshasa, in Feb. 2012.

This young lady from DRC (The Democratic Republic of Congo) is now aged of 23 years old and studies at the university.

Aged but nine, she was initiated by her grandmother into witchcraft through food (meat). One night, while the girl was asleep, her Grandma came in to claim her meat. When the young girl told her she wasn't able to pay her back, the old witch suggested her to go and see her master satan to explain herself. Filled with panic, the young girl accepted and found herself out of her body in the company of her grandmother. Both of them were thus before satan in the astral world. Satan also asked for his debt. The girl refused claiming she had no means to pay back, to which he replied that there is no forgiveness in this world and that someone of her family had to be mystically killed for the debt to be paid.

Return home and entrusted with power of the dark kingdom, the young lady started to destroy, to place spells and to kill her close people. The first person she sacrificed was a family member. Her belonging to satanism was sealed the moment she drank her victim's blood in the company of other satanists.

Satan made her a true mermaid of air and waters and a true Jezebel. He entrusted her the mission of destroying men, especially Christian men. She married in the second world where she sacrificed her virginity to satan and thus became the mother of two demonic children. However, she was unable to have children physically as she sacrificed this gift to the devil.

She was involved in all areas of life: family, politics, businesses and of course churches.. She became part of an assembly of Kinshasa.

When a person used to tell her their future projects (marriage, travelling, business etc.) she made plans to destroy them all beforehand. She had no mercy not even for her own family which she ruined financially especially by paralysing her dad's business and she also blocked the studies of young men from her entourage.

Thus, when she didn't like to go to classes she used to put a spell on her class preventing them from concentrating. Out of pure jealousy towards her friend who was more beautiful than her, she cursed this own with sterility, as she wasn't able to kill her.

Through her works of destruction she determined/confessed the election failure for three persons. In fact, with her satanic working group she tried in vain cause a war in DRC during the elections of 2011. Nevertheless, she caused mortal accidents, mystic abortions to pregnant women, mystic sacrifices for more than 20 people and the witchcraft initiation of more than 13 children, of whom two were her cousins. Ten devils helped her in the ministry of destroying God's ministries. When visiting these churches, if the pastor/priest feared God she used to leave her witchcraft at the church entrance, but if that leader wasn't honest and fearful of God, she used to destroy both him and his entire assembly.

For 14 years she fought against each Christian, especially of those who prayed a lot. She was very well interested in the success of her ministries otherwise she used to receive blows from demons.

But, finally, one day, she started to ask herself questions about God and especially on the name of Jesus/ Yeshoua. Indeed, she had noticed that all astral and demonic worlds, satan included, were bowing each time this name was said. This thing intrigued her enormously She told to herself that if satan was prostrating on the ground each time the Name of Yeshoua was uttered, then why shouldn't she serve This One who seemed more powerful than the devil?

In the morning of the same day, when getting up, she decided to abandoned witchcraft but didn't know how. She found no one to confess to all her evil doings. One day when she went to a pastor to be set free, but this one had another idea and suggested this freedom through a sexual relation!

In 16-02-2012, I went to Kinshasa in a two-week mission. During a prayer meeting God gave me a word regarding a person who was practising witchcraft in that assembly. I invited this person to come and see me after the meeting for Christ's deliverance. This young lady took hold of the opportunity and confessed all her sins. I prayed for her in the Name of Yeshoua and God has set her free completely!

May that all the glory be given to the Lord of Lords before whom each knee will bow!

Let us understand from this confession that witchcraft is a demon that creates a liaison or a connection between the human spirit and the spiritual world. In fact, through witchcraft, Eve, too, had been seduced by satan.

2. The Initiation to Occultism

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." Genesis 3: 6

In your opinion, which or what kind of understanding this passage talks about? Hasn't God already given Eve and her husband Adam intelligence? It regards intelligence according to satan. In reality they have been initiated in witchcraft.

The word 'intelligence' is said 'sakal' in Hebrew and has several meanings:

Overcoming: the spirit of witchcraft wants people to overcome difficulties without God's help, without going through Him. More and more Christians want to succeed in their ministry by relying not on God, but on people. That is why; plenty of pastors forge alliances with the world in order to succeed in making a name for themselves, or in other words to get famous. (Isaiah 30: 1-6, 31: 1-5).

I personally know many Christians who have received an authentic call but who let themselves seduced by the enemy. Satan made them believe they must overcome financial burdens and succeed financially at all cost, so they ended in selling their birth right as Esau for uncertain and ephemeral treasures.

Wisdom: please read James 3: 16. Satan succeeded in many people believe their wisdom (philosophy and rationalism) is the absolute truth (1 Corinthians 1: 18-21; Colossians 2:8). Unfortunately, this diabolic wisdom is preached by plenty of churches in order to strangle the truth.

Sadly, millions of Christians are seduced by this wisdom which wants to hide the truth and doesn't denounce sin:

"Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: 'To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse." Proverbs 8: 1-8

Success: In many present churches all is based upon the personal success. The worldly methods are used by a great number of pastors to obtain success in their ministries (management, marketing, coaching –like for the sport teams etc.) For many success is measured in connexion with the number of persons attending their assemblies, though we know God is the God of a remnant.

Prosperity: How many pastors don't want to become prosperous today? God, of course, offers prosperity (Isaiah 45: 7), but we must know that the word 'prosperity' (said 'shaloun' in Hebrew) gives in English 'peace, tranquillity, perfection, etc.' The spirit of witchcraft is so subtle that we are unable to identify him easily this way.

The word 'wizard' is said 'farmakeus' in Greek and is translated by us through 'enchanter, wizard or magician'.

"But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts/witchcraft, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur. This is the second death." Revelation 21: 8.

Witchcraft is synonym with sacrilege, enchanting, magic, and divinisation.

*"When Joram saw Jehu he asked: 'Have you come in peace, Jehu?' 'How can there be peace,' Jehu replied, "as long as all the idolatry and **witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?"*** 2 Kings 9: 22

Using witchcraft, Jezebel transforms her victims in puppets in order to control them spiritually.

She could cause false dreams or thoughts in order to manipulate God's people. She works with the spirit of Piton to appear as great prophetess. . (Revelation 2:20)

Generally speaking, Jezebel or the spirit of witchcraft and control animates more women than men. Satan knows that the man is the head of the woman, that Christ is the head of the man and that God is the head of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1). So, he tries with all means to reverse God's order and this spirit used to break God's authority and that of man is the spirit of Jezebel.

3. Rachel and her mandrakes

A woman who has/is possessed by the spirit of Jezebel could use all sorts of implements to reach her goals.

Rachel, Jacob's wife, wanted to have children and for this she opted for a mandrake- a plant used by witches to put a spell on their victims.

*"During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah: 'Please give me some of your son's mandrakes.' But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?' 'Very well,' Rachel said, **he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes.**" So when Jacob came in from the fields that evening, Leah went out to meet him. 'You must sleep with me,' she said. 'I have hired you with my son's mandrakes.' So he slept with her that night."*

Genesis 30: 14-16

The mandrake is also named *'the magical plant of witches'* or *'the apple of love'*. It is used especially in witchcraft for healings and predictions. People claim it has aphrodisiac and hypnotic properties. This plant is an excitant of sexual desire and, according to some, it favours procreation.

Rachel wanted to excite Jacob, make him sleep and put a spell on him in order to get pregnant. She surely was used to practise witchcraft in order to reach her goals: by the way she stole the statues of her father's heathen deities.

"Jacob answered Laban: 'I was afraid, because I thought you would take your daughters away from me by force. But if you find anyone who has your gods, he shall not live. In the presence of our relatives, see for yourself whether there is anything of yours here with me; and if so, take it.' Now Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen the gods. So Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent and into the tent of the two maidservants, but he found nothing. After he came out of Leah's tent, he entered

Rachel's tent. Now Rachel had taken the household gods and put them inside her camel's saddle and was sitting on them. Laban searched through everything in the tent but found nothing. Rachel said to her father: 'Don't be angry, my lord, that I cannot stand up in your presence; I'm having my period.' So he searched but could not find the household gods." Genesis 31: 31-35.

According to Scriptures, Rachel had a very beautiful face and lovely in form/waist. (Genesis 29: 17). Jacob was completely in love. But this wasn't enough for Rachel whose wish to control him drew her to sue witchcraft. She was in strong competition with her sister. She wanted children and that is why she put pressure on Jacob and had suicidal tendencies: "*When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob: 'Give me children, or I'll die!' Jacob became angry with her and said: 'Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?'*" Genesis 30: 1-2

A wife who is not submitted to God will make all that is in her power to manipulate her husband(s) and men in general, like Rachel, Jezebel and many others. In reality, Rachel used the (demonic) power conferred to mandrake to have children. She didn't submit to God's will and didn't simply expose her problems to God. It was because of her husband Jacob's calling that she had two twins: Isaac and Esau, because her occult mandrakes had no effect whatsoever. God only gave Rachel children at the right time.

II. THE DOCTRINE OF THE GOD HADES

1. Satan's Depths

"Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you)" Revelation 2 : 24

Jezebel's doctrine is also called 'satan's depths' by some 'enlightened' members of Thyatira Church. Revelation 2: 24.

In the book of Isaiah, 14: 12-15, it is written that satan wanted to take the place of the Creator, which brought his fall into the depths of the grave.

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart: 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit."

Satan's depths also bear the name of 'Sojourn of Dead' or 'Sheol' in Hebrew and 'Hades' in Greek. This is the place of provisory suffering for all impious men. In the Greek mythology Hades reigned under the earth and that was why he was considered in the past as the 'master of hell.' He corresponds with Pluton, a god of the Roman religion.

In Matthew 16: 18, the Lord states that the gates of hell 9 the sojourn of dead or Sheol/Hades or satan's depths , Jezebel's doctrine) will never prevail against the Church. Despite it all, Jezebel tries to bring the Church down towards Hades through her doctrine; but the Lord has set the Church's doctrine in heaven (Ephesians 2: 4-9; Colossians 3: 1).

Jezebel has as ambition of transforming Christ's Church into an earthly, carnal and captive church.

Already in the time of Solomon, this king warned his son against the seductive and destructive power of the foreign woman: *"My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to Hades."* (Hades=the dead people's dwelling place). Proverbs 5: 1-5.

This foreign woman is identified easily with Jezebel.

There is also a parallel between Eve and Jezebel, between Adam and the angel of the Church of Thyatira: *"The man said: 'The woman you put here with me-she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God said to the woman: 'What is this you have done?' The woman said: 'The serpent deceived me, and I ate'."* Genesis 3: 12-13

Adam was deceived by his wife; he loved Eve so much that he ate the forbidden fruit. Similarly, the angel of Thyatira loves Jezebel so much that he consumes the meats sacrificed to idols. The feelings we have for our close ones could make us depart from God's plan. (Luca 14: 25-26)

Eve let herself seduced (be under the snake's illusion and spell). Jezebel, the false prophetess of the Church of Thyatira is also the victim of the ancient snake. Satan knew he couldn't touch Adam directly, so he used the person Adam loved most: Eve.

It is written in 1 Corinthians 2: 10 that the Holy Spirit searches God's depths. In other words, if someone wants to know God's heart, he/she must at first receive the Holy Spirit.

One of the Spirit's roles is to reveal God's heart, His will, His plan for each one of us.

Jezebel's spirit, well, him, he reveals people Lucifer's heart, his plan and will, which means that Jezebel is the siege of the 'false Holy Spirit' because she is a false, lying prophetess. While Jezebel of the New Testament is both a prophetess and also a teacher of the demonic gospel, a voice using her tongue to destroy the Lord's ministries, a true prophet is God's word bearer or His mouth unlike Jezebel who uses prophecy to control men.

Knowing that men need to hear God talking and like to know the future, Jezebel-through false prophecies and false visions, succeeds in giving them false hopes. Thus, she can destroy a church, a marriage, a ministry. Jezebel communicates also a false anointing, false miracles and falsified spiritual gifts.

This demonic prophetic spirit by excellency is the basis of practices such as: enchanting, astrology (2 Kings 21), usage of mediums and foretelling. Those who set their hearts on these things put their own foot into the pit and without repentance these practices lead them inexorably into satan's depths. *"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the Lord your God. The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so."* Deuteronomy 18: 9-14.

Jezebel's spirit establishes a connexion between his victims and satan. He makes them drink the cup of demons: *"No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in the Lord's table and the table of demons."* 1 Corinthians 10: 20-21

All souls seduced by this spirit are on the death path and walk surely towards Hades, in the devil's depths, in Hell. That is the reason why those men or women who are in the grip of this demon must repent.

2. The Mystery of Inequity

"For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way." 2 Thessalonians 2: 7

In this passage, the inequity/wickedness is a mystery and as you know, only God can reveal us the mysteries of the Kingdom. (Matthew 13). Paul teaches us that this mystery was already at work amongst the primitive churches.

The prophet Zechariah, in chapter 5 in his book, has personified this mystery in his vision where he sees 'two women with stork wings' carrying the basket of iniquity of the children of Israel. There was a woman sitting on this basket/vessel and she was the symbol of Israel's iniquity or the woman of the Impious Man: the Religious Babylon. These two women with stork wings go to build a house in Shinar country (Babylon, according to Genesis 10: 6-14.)

The apostle John was so troubled by this woman that the angel had to intervene: *"When I saw her, I was greatly astonished. Then the angel said to me: "Why are you astonished? I will explain to you the mystery of the woman and of the beast she rides, which has the seven heads and ten horns."* Revelation 17: 7.

Similarly to the Church being Christ's wife, Babylon or Jezebel or the mystery of iniquity is the Antichrist's wife (notice that she has more heads / denominations/ associations etc., while we have ONE: Christ).

The mystery of iniquity is the Babylonian religion that fights all true prophets of God.

The stork is the symbol of fecundity and of maternity. It is qualified as unclean according to Leviticus 11:19. In fact, this word 'stork' is said 'hyssada' in Hebrew and means 'sensitive, pious, faithful', which proves the paradox and the subtlety of such an image! An appearance of piousness for a demonic manifestation!

The apostle Paul teaches us that the mystery of iniquity or the wife of the impious man, the Apostate Church was already at work in the first century. From the birth of true Church, satan has sent his wife to seduce /deceive saints (1 Corinthians 6: 15-18).

Several Bible women incarnated the Spirit of Jezebel: **the stubborn wife of Potiphar** at whose insinuations Joseph resisted, thing which led to his false accusation and jail sentence. (Genesis 39: 6-20).

Similarly, **Heroiade**, the symbol of adulterous and manipulative wife, obtained the death of John the Baptist thanks to her daughter's charms (the young teenager danced to seduce her uncle Herod, see Matthew 6: 11)

Truly, remember that if Jezebel hasn't succeeded in seducing you with something, she will try to soil your testimony through calumny.

Jezebel's spirit can use music to seduce the Church and to drag, if possible, even God's chosen people in satan's depths. That is the reason why we find her/this spirit at work in the praise and worship groups and in the chorales of assemblies. It is important to understand that the Spirit of Jezebel tries desperately to destroy those churches living a real spiritual revival by making light the Lord's ministry. (by behaving frivolously and not taking seriously their tasks-n.tr.)

Jezebel is both the Queen of Heaven (Jeremiah 7:18) and the Mermaid of Waters. In the Greek mythology, the mermaid had as main characteristics:

- 1) she was the prophetess of the Kingdom of Hades (the god of dead); and
- 2) she was an excellent musician who used to devour the shipwrecked sailors.

In Isaiah 34: 14 "*The night ghosts will meet with hyenas, and wild goats will bleat to each other; there the night creatures will also repose and find for themselves places of rest.*" The word 'ghost' or 'desert creature' in some Bibles is said '**Lilith**' in Hebrew, in the Jewish Bible and is translated by 'mermaid' in English.

Lilith is the name of a nightly goddess known as a nightly demon who used to haunt the deserted land of Edom.

The Mermaid of Waters belongs to those demons thrown into the sea (Revelation 12:7-12) and she might have a great voice like the mermaids of the Greek mythology.

I personally know a woman who sings who is possessed by this spirit because she uses these musical talents to captivate, to charm and to hold captive God's children. She has *the appearance of being pious / holy* but *denies it*, which gives her power. (2 Timothy 3: 5)

Remember that the musical instruments have been especially created for lucifer ('a bright star') in the purpose of serving God. (Isaiah 14: 12).

*"You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. **Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared.**"* Ezekiel 28: 13

Amongst the demons that followed satan in his rebellion, many were those who used to sing at a musical instrument. It is not surprising to see that most of Christian musicians and singers live today in debauchery, in sexual promiscuity, in avarice etc.

The first inventor of musical instruments was Jubal, one of Cain's descendants (Genesis 4: 21) and his name means 'current of water', which is not surprising because today the paganised music so-called 'Christian' drags plenty of people into sin as quickly as a water stream. Satan has inspired his descendants in the musical abilities and his purpose is to stop people adoring God through a seductive and corrupt music such as: rap, rock and disco etc.

In the Scripture, the first mentioning of the verb 'to adore' appears in Genesis 22: 5 when Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son Isaac. Let us understand that for God adoration/worship is synonym with the sacrifice of our lives and not with vocal techniques or musical abilities.

"Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Amos 5: 23-24

The Christian music is but one of many expressions of worship. According to the Scripture, the true adoration is translated with the sacrifice of a sanctified life. (Romans 12: 1-2) We sing songs of praise to Lord Yeshoua because our life is consecrated to Him and not the other way around.

More recently, people use a new term for Christian singers: that of 'artists' – term which has no Biblical basis. For the first time this term was used at the beginning of the 19th century to name the Renaissance musicians and actors and then later for other art-makers and profane singers.

Lord Jesus doesn't look for artists, but for true worshippers. (John 4: 23-24)

CHAP. 3: JEZEBEL AND HER RELIGIOUS SYTEMS

I. A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

Jezebel's spirit can be made manifest under the shape of a religious system. In order to deprive Christians from their freedom, people have created one of the most evil inventions: religion. The Catholic religion in particular is the mother and the source of all Christian religions. The Catholicism is the Jezebelical system described by John in the book of Revelation in chap. 17. The term 'religion' comes from the Latin word 'religio' which has two etymologies:

-the verb 'religare', meaning 'to rebound' or 'to bound' for short; in other words, the religion is used for gathering, for bringing people together.

-the Latin verb 'relegere' is said in English 'to retell'; so we have to understand that the religion is the result of a cumulus of customs, traditions, myths, laws, oral transmissions from generation to generation...

*"For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and **was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.**" Galatians 1: 13-14.*

Before his conversion to Christ, Paul was more zealous in keeping his parents' traditions (in religion) than in worshipping God. Similarly, millions of Christians today are more zealous concerning traditions than adoring the Lord; they serve the church/ the buildings/ the cults and forget to adore God Himself. Amongst these traditions we note a few of them in no particular order:

- Sunday declared as the Lord's Day ;
- The piece of bread (sometimes a biscuit!) and the little cup of vine (sometimes apple juice!) as 'the Holy Mass' or the Lord's Table;
- The Sunday garments;
- The Clerical collet;
- Toga/soutane fore priests or the suit with the tie as pastoral clothes;
- The theology;
- The sermon;
- The Liturgy;
- The Chorales (worship groups or orchestras etc.);
- The tithing;
- The Sunday School;
- The Ordination;
- The pastor considered as the leader of the local church;
- The doctrine of spiritual covering;
- The assimilation of buildings with the Church of Christ;
- The Pastoral Pulpit or the altar;
- The nuptial blessing etc.

All these religions are terribly attached to things, such as the Pharisees during our Lord Yeshoua/Jesus.

The control is the action of mastering and leading someone; it is the total absence of freedom.

Remember that the Holy Spirit in His quality as God let us choose to serve Him or not:

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Corinthians 3: 17

Jezebel doesn't let anyone get close to her prey for fear of losing her/him. She cuts all connection between her victims and people able to expose her.

A leader possessed by the Spirit of Jezebel could stop you from listening to other servants, from following other people's teachings, from watching DVDs/movies or reading other books. He will try to diabolise others by inspiring fear for a better manipulation.

Lord Jesus Christ's death has set us all free from sin, from the demons, from Moses' Law, from this world and from the human flesh (John 8: 32-36; Romans 8: 1-2).

Freedom is the ability to act according to God's will – the divine will revealed in His Word- and according to the means the Lord has set in place for us, without submitting ourselves to the power of others. It is also the ability to decide for ourselves the contingent choices.

"You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men." 1 Corinthians 7: 23.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5: 1

But Jezebel's spirit imposes his victims his own will, thus putting a joke upon them. But man has been created not to be dominated, but to rule. (Genesis 1:28) Thus, religion has as a role the establishment of a control over souls.

1. The Pharisaic Spirit

The word 'Pharisee' means 'set apart'. The Pharisee group was a sect appeared, apparently, as a reaction against the acceptance of Hellenistic customs by some Jews. The Pharisees defended the doctrine of predestination; they believed in the immortality of the soul, in the after death compensations and sanctions. They succeeded in dominating the Jewish spiritual life by making the Judaism observe the law and be complaint to commandments. But their piety became formal; the exterior act became gradually more important than the heart's disposition. ***"having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them."*** 2 Timothy 3: 5

In their beginnings, the Pharisees were easily identifiable from other Jews because of their justice and great courage, but gradually their moral and intellectual standards declined so much that John the Baptist treated them as '*race of snakes*' and Jesus qualified them as '*satan's children and hypocrites*' (John 8:44).

In Greek, the word 'hypocrite' means 'someone who answers back, an interpreter, a theatre actor, he who dissimulates, someone pretending to be somebody else.

Today, thousands of pastors/priests touched by Jezebel's spirit play parts, they have the appearance of piety (claim to sanctify themselves) in front of believers, but in their homes they are totally different. Similarly, many Christians seem righteous and holy in their church buildings, but in their day-to-day life they act as heathens. Sadly, Jezebel has been successful in introducing the Pharisee spirit in many assemblies.

"The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.) So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus: 'Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?' He replied: 'Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: <people honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.> You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.' And he said to them: 'You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said:

<Honour your father and your mother,> and, <Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.> But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: <Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban> (that is, a gift devoted to God), then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that!'" Mark 7:1-13.

In the New Testament, the Greek term translated religion is 'threskeia' and the adjective 'threskos' refers to the term 'religious'. These words only appear three times in the New Testament: Acts 26: 5; Colossians 2: 16-18 and James 1: 26-27. But in the James, the author doesn't speak of 'religion', but addresses to all those who seek to know how God must be served and how His will must be followed. He propose a sanctified behaviour, especially the control of desires and urges, helping the poor, the widows and the orphans, advice given also by apostle John (1 John 3:17-18).

Unfortunately, in the 4th century, the bishops took hold of the temporal power. They abused their ecclesiastic functions in order to exercise a despotic authority for 16 centuries or even more, thus aggravating the relations between the clergy and people. In addition, the mysterious practices of the Babylonian wise men found refuge in Pergamum, from where they spread in the entire Christianity. In fact, from the 4th century, plenty of elements (such as: the liturgy called 'mass' by the Catholics, the hostie or the Lord's table for the Catholics, the Christmas celebration, the soutanes, the cult of the dead etc.) which couldn't be understood by believers were incorporated in a imperceptible way in the traditional cult claimed, falsely, to be Evangelic/Biblical.

2. The Nicolaite Spirit

Jezebel's spirit is indeed terribly infiltrated in the Catholic system and it also takes the shape of the Nicolaite spirit. Once installed, he transforms the leaders into true businessmen pushed to establish a sophisticated system so diabolic that its unique purpose is to control the saints.

« Nicholas » means 'he who dominates others'. Some 'parents of the Church' believed that it regards the disciples of Nicholas of Antioch, one of the 7th deacons of the primitive Church. For Irene, the bishop of Lyon (the 2nd century A.C) the Nicolaites were gnostic. In almost the same era, Tertullian, the bishop of Cartagena (160-240 A.C.) accused the Nicolaites that they were preaching lust, but it appears he had no direct knowledge of their doctrine. He was content to reproach these Cainites who then preached a Saviour God opposed to a Creator God – these Cainites were actually rehabilitating Cain who according to them had been persecuted by God!

Clement of Alexandria (150-220 A.C.), the bishop of this town, described the Nicolaites as 'stubborn goats' and believers in sharing spouses. He said that Nicholas had been married to a very beautiful woman and because his disciples used to reproach his jealous, one day during the assembly he brought his wife in and offered her to whoever wanted her. Clement states that after this event, Nicholas led a monk life and his children, too.

Another interpretation explains the word 'Nicolaite' using its etymology: 'niko'=dominator and 'laos'=people, which means literally 'people conqueror or dominator'. Today this spirit operates even in the Evangelic assemblies. More and more, Christians end up as prey for certain pastors/priests who think they are allowed everything.

These so-called God's people manipulate Christians and rob them financially.

The Nicolaite doctrine is based on domination, manipulation, death threats and curse (if the people don't obey the pastor's will). This doctrine creates a gap between leaders (apostles, prophets, doctors, pastors and evangelists), and men...

A person possessed by Jezebel's spirit will exercise especially domination upon God's people. This person will refuse all advice come from brothers and sisters; he/she will see others as real adversaries about to take his/her place. A leader possessed by this spirit will live in uncertainty, insecurity and will

always fear the people used by the Lord, so that he/she will end up by destroying these servants so that he/she can keep his/her position. (3 John)

Those affected by this doctrine use their ministry as a position and not as a function, which is Biblical.

The apostle Paul warns the elders leading God's people to be vigilant against these practices:

"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

1 Peter 5 :1-3.

This doctrine has as base a wrong understanding of ministry; it creates a gap between leaders and believers. Due to the fact that many churches give themselves the status of clergy, this practice turns the ministry into a profession. Thus, *'the professionals of religion'* oppose *'the laics'*.

The Nicolaites considered themselves superiors to others; they used to believe that they had the monopoly of the Word, of the anointing and of spiritual gifts. But the Bible teaches us that all Christians are servants and are thus equal before God.

A great number of churches are powerless due to this doctrine that makes everything to be focused on a single man – the only one allowed to preach, to baptise, to bless marriages, to bury the dead, to pray for the sick, to practise deliverances of demons and human spirits, etc. Thus, Christians have completely discharged their entire grace upon the priests and pastors, abandoning thus the practice of spiritual gifts or the expression of the talents given to them by God.

It is not Biblical for a pastor (or priest) to be the only one bringing God's Word in the assembly of saints because each of us must put the gifts received from God in the service of others. (1 Peter 4: 10) The unique authority above all others (such as: the veridical authority, the authority of conscience, the civil authority etc.) is that of God.

The veridical authority is imposed by the truth. The word 'veridical' means 'truth'. God says always the truth. (Numbers 23: 19) Jesus is the Truth (John 14: 6), The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth (John 14: 17). The Scripture is given to us by God as an expression of the Truth and it becomes thus the veridical authority. The Bible is the highest authority, higher than any position in all churches. Any man knows the difference between good and evil even he/she has never read the Bible; it is what we call the conscience authority. (Romans 2: 12; 1 Corinthians 8: 12; Romans 14: 20-23).

The Bible teaches us that as sons and daughters of God we must submit to diverse authorities established in society. (Romans 13; Titus 3)

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men" 1 Peter 2: 13-15

Regardless the job of a man, regardless the function he works in (apostle, prophet, doctor, pastor, evangelist, elder/deacon), if he falls into sin, he must be sanctioned and disciplined as the Bible asks: *"Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. 20 Those who sin are to be rebuked publicly, so that the others may take warning."* 1 Timothy 5: 19-20

"When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. 14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I

said to Peter in front of them all: 'You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?'" Galatians 2: 11-14

Paul wasn't afraid to correct Peter before all the people because he was the apostle of the Lamb.
"They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons."
 1 Timothy 3:10.

The Veritable Authority

The ministerial authority: the Apostolic, Prophetic, Pastoral one... it is not above God's Word.

The supreme authority is the greatest of all powers. This level of power is never under any doubt as it is an absolute and infallible power; it belongs to God.

However, the pope of Rome and many other people like the so-called 'gurus' claim for themselves this unique prerogative reserved to God Himself.

Let's remember that Jesus is the only leader of the Church which doesn't belong to no man. (Ephesians 1: 16-22). Jesus is the only one who has the supreme authority over His creation. Those who exercise this authority or those who delegate it sit directly in the position of antichrist. The words 'antechirst' or 'antichrist' don't only mean 'against Christ', but also 'before Christ' or 'someone who substitutes Christ.'

For instance, the Catholic theology declares that the pope is 'the Vicar of Christ on Earth'. But 'vicar' in Latin is 'Vicarius' which means 'the replacement, the substitute'.

Pope's statements 'ex cathedra' are considered infallible by the Catholic Church; his opinions come to replace God's Word. The so-claimed term 'Holy Father' usurps the Lord's place because despite the fact that the pope is a man, he appears as Christ Himself.

This is the reason why the only acceptable hierarchy amongst the true Christian Church is the one that God has established, vertically that is, with Jesus-Christ as the only head and the only leader (Ephesians 1 : 22-23) and then horizontally, we have all brothers equal despite their functions or spiritual gifts. (Hebrews 7: 24)

In conclusion, the pastors/priests are not absolute powers, nor mediators between God and the Christians. A good leader will encourage Christians to seek the Father's will in prayer. Similarly to all believers, pastors have also received the authority in Christ to exercise a function entrusted to them by the Lord. (Luke 10: 19; Mark 16: 15-20; Acts 1: 8).

3. The Control through Spiritual Covering

Therefore, Jezebel is a powerful spirit of both witchcraft and control. This spirit made 'the fathers of the church' such as Ignatius al Antioch (35-107 A.C.), Clement of Rome (dead around 100A.C.) and Cyprian of Cartagena (250 A.C.) to put the foundation of the doctrine of spiritual covering.

This heresy is revealed from the letters written by these people on the subject of church unity:
"If a man separates himself from the Church, avoid him, run away from him, He is a perverse a sinner, condemned by his own behaviour. And how! He imagines that he is with Christ, he who acts against the priests of Christ and he who separates himself from the assembly of the clergy and of Christ's people? Armed against the Church, he fights God's institution. The enemy of the altar or of divine sacrifice, treacherous concerning the faith, sacrilege concerning religion, disobeying servant, impious son, rebellious brother, he despises God's bishops, he abandons the priests and stands up as a foreign altar; he makes a sacrilege-prayer climb up to Heaven and profanes the holy hostie by a false sacrifice. So, he doesn't know that those who stand against the divine order are punished for their reckless audacity? Kore,

Datan and Abyron, rebelled against Aaron and Moses wanted to attribute for themselves the honour of offering God sacrifices."

Some pastors use this doctrine of intimidation by citing Hebrews 10: 25 to close Christians in their system: *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Studying this passage we notice that the author has never forbidden Christians to leave a paganised assembly where sin is tolerated and on the contrary asks us rather not to abandon the brotherly fellowship as it is indispensable for the spiritual growth, thing confirmed by the verse 24: *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."*

So, a Christian is allowed to leave a local assembly because of sin and join another one where Christ is indeed the centre.

The passage 2 Corinthians 6: 14-18 talks clearly that there is no connexion between light and darkness. According to Hebrews 10: 24 the church meetings' role is to urge Christians to love God, keep the holy doctrine and do good deeds (Ephesians 2: 10; Revelation 19: 7-8).

If an assembly doesn't encourage you in exercising love, truth or good deeds, (sanctification, fear of the Lord, justice...) you can leave it. Church reunions are meant so that Christians can perfect one another and not make them worse than before:

"In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good."

1 Corinthians 11: 17.

If as many others, you have already left the local assembly due to sin that reigned inside it, don't stay without brotherly fellowship despite all the past disappointments because we are a body composed of many members. Pray that God will lead you towards brothers and sisters who live in sanctification so that you share the Word together. (1 Corinthians 12)

Some pastors don't lack imagination and thus invest new no-Biblical doctrines to keep the Lord's people under their control. (For instance the gospel of prosperity, diverse manifestations of the Holy Spirit which are in fact demonic manifestations: uncontrolled outbursts of laughter, snake winding and coiling, falling onto the floor as if the pastor is the Holy Spirit incarnated, etc.) But is this doctrine of 'spiritual covering' Biblical? According to it, each Christian must pray to have a pastor, to have a sort of guide whose role is that of offering advice, of showing the right direction and especially of protecting people against satan, but is this all Scriptural?

In the Bible there are many Hebrew words talking about the spiritual covering, but we only look at two of them:

-**'kacah'**= to cover, to dress, to forgive, to veil.

" Exodus 40: 34. This term is used to speak of protection and of covering the tabernacle- the image of Church.

-**'kafar'**= redemption, to redeem, the victim for redemption act, to bend, to press down, to buy back, to forgive, to impute something to someone. To redeem is the translation of the Hebrew word 'kafar' meaning primarily 'to cover'. And secondly, the word 'kafar' means: redemption, expiration, covering with blood, to calm/to sweeten, but also: the redeeming sacrifice, redemption, forgiveness, to claim someone's responsibility for himself. Therefore, the verb 'to redeem' is translated from the Jewish verb 'kafar' meaning 'to cover'.

Thus, in Genesis 6: 14, the verb used here to explain the building of the arch is 'kafar': *"So make yourself an ark of cypress wood (kafar); make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out."* This verb then takes the meaning of: covering, lifting, redeeming. A redeemed sin is one which has been removed from God's sight or a covered sin.

"Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered." Psalm 32: 1

So, this verb had a connexion with the redemption of sins. Leviticus chap. 16 teaches us that each year, on the day of Yom Kippur, the Israelites 'sins had been covered. But even then, it was still the Lord He who covered the sin of the people through the animal blood.

Let's understand that when the pastors/priests have the courage to present themselves as spiritual covers they use incorrectly the verb 'kafar' and thus substitute Chris - the redeeming sacrifice by excellency and whose sinless blood covered all of our sins. What a pretentious claim!

What exactly is the Bible saying? *"But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood."* Hebrews 8: 24

Nowhere in the New Testament is it said about a spiritual covering of a pastor. The first Christians understood that they were all brothers and sisters and that only the Lord Yeshoua Ma'shiah is their head (said 'kefal' in Greek.)

"Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." 1 Corinthians 11: 3

The apostles were simple brothers in the service of assemblies. (Revelation 1: 9) They didn't have the pretentious claim to be leaders above other saints; on the contrary, they lived in a real communion and this communion was horizontal, meaning they were all on the same level and that only their functions were different.

If we want to speak about spiritual covering let's rather use this passage that teaches us clearly that the man is the cover for his wife (the boss or the head) and that God is the boss (the head, the cover) of man. (1 Corinthians 11: 3)

The spiritual covering involves permanent protection of the person being covered and only God Himself is able to protect the people non-stop.

"I lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip- he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you- the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121

We have to submit to God's authority- authority by excellency and then to the authorities established by Him. .

God is the real cover the saints need. *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."* Psalm 91: 1.

But Jezebel makes us believe the opposite, by proposing her cover.

A woman who calls herself apostle and leads a home church sought to meet me because the Lord would have told her that she was my mother in faith and that I had to be under her protection/spiritual cover.

In conclusion, remember that the spirit of Jezebel is a spirit who seeks to manipulate and control God's children.

II. THE WAY JEZEBEL OPERATES IN CHURCHES

1. Several Signs which Characterise Jezebel's Presence in a church

The signs of Jezebel's presence are many, but they pass often unnoticed.

Fear

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Romans 8: 15

The presence of Jezebel's spirit in a local assembly inspires fear of man. The saints will do things to please not the Lord, but men. Although they see sin in the life of a Christian leader, they don't dare to denounce it for fear of not being cursed, suffer reprisals, etc. even if the Bible tells us to go and talk to the brother or sister who has sinned and to bring him/her back to God. (Matthew 18:15) Fear paralyses saints in both the exercise of their spiritual gifts and also in their freedom. Plenty of Christians work voluntarily in their churches under their leaders' constraint and not full heartily.

Intimidation

This is threat, blackmail or peer-pressure to make people quiet. *"So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."* 1 Kings 19: 2

Intimidation is often used by the possessed leaders to prevent Christians from speaking.

This is an intentional behaviour whose purpose is to touch Christians psychologically, at the soul level. Fear of being hurt or humiliated paralyses many and leaves them totally unable to act.

One of the verses used by some Church leaders to intimidate Christians is the Psalm 105: 15 *"Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."*

This passage incorrectly refers to pastors; in fact it regards all God's children. Truly, all believers are anointed because they have the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). Intimidation can be also made manifest through several aspects: physical violence, evil looks and threatening proposals, emotional manipulations of all sorts etc. and its consequences are often dramatic. The person who is the prey of intimidation could thus develop self-esteem.

Servitude or Slavery: the Abuse of Power

Slavery is the socio-economic system based upon the maintenance and exploitation of persons found in the condition of slaves. It is often the state of a person who for interests or pleasure accepts the dependence of another and whose will he/she follows blindly.

"You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men." 1 Corinthians 7: 23.

In this verset, the verb 'to redeem' comes from the Greek 'agorazo' and means 'to be in a marketplace.'

Sometimes 'agora' means 'public place' or 'market'. We have been sold by our masters who were: satan, sin and men in a market (the world), but Jesus has set us free. (Colossians 1: 12-14).

Sadly, many Christians have become the victims of their pastors: *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ."* Colossians 2: 8

It is possible to be the pastor's slave without even noticing it: e.g. you do his shopping, you look after his children, you deposit money into his bank account each month, to feel obliged to help him, to do his house chores, etc. – all these are only a few signs which must warn us of the presence of the Spirit of Jezebel, a spirit of control, of servitude and manipulation...!

Many pastors are masters in the art of subtle manipulation: thus they don't ask directly for money, ; they tell you for instance ' my car is broke so I don't have money to fix it' or ' I have a problem with my rent'.

Some call for their collaborators each Sunday to know how much money has been collected from offerings and they even manage to recover most of the sum.

Others surrender themselves with persons found in their service and not in the Lord's service. There are all sorts of works around the so-claimed man of God:

- One job for he who knows how to fix cars , so that it is unnecessary for the pastor to take his car to a mechanic as this brother can fix the car of God's man for free ;
- The monthly financing from certain believers; The pastor possessed by Jezebel's spirit will manage to ask for money indirectly so that you might think the idea of a financial support is coming from you and not from him. It often happens that women get together and help him monthly, thus becoming victims without even realising it. In fact, the pastor receives envelopes from all over the place and adopts a lifestyle above his possibilities: big cars, nice watches and ostensive jewellery, villas, design clothes, last TV screens, etc.
- By the way, when he is gone in a mission he calls his brothers and sisters to ask for money, sometimes under threats of all sorts, including curse.
- A person who babysits the children of the pastoral couple;
- A driver to drive the pastor and his spouse everywhere they like. And of course the man of God doesn't contribute at all with the fuel cost to lift the burden from the driver.
- One or several cooks to prepare foods worthy of a refined and delicate taste such as the pastor's.

There are some Christians who work for free selling coffee, making juices and teas, serving cakes etc. in the assembly's cafeteria.

Christians found next to such pastor are not at all in God' s service, but they serve a man, his wife or their organisation. At least if all these persons were paid, all this would seem less serious and would have the appearance of a business, because that is what it is in fact that assembly. But in reality, these people work completely for free and voluntarily for 'God's man'.

Christians have been set free to serve the Lord and not men.

"Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness, his upper rooms by injustice, making his countrymen work for nothing, not paying them for their labour." Jeremiah 22: 13

Amongst the main characteristics of Jezebel's spirit in a church is also: **Division**.

Jezebel separates people for better ruling and that is why she causes troubles wherever she goes. This spirit ignites tensions between husband and wife, between brothers and sisters, between children and parents etc. He feeds himself through fights, tensions, and gossips of all sorts. Division ignites problems and then comes to put them out to gain the trust of all. Jezebel is pyromaniac (with her tongue) and also the fire-fighter claiming to put out what she had lit herself.

Jezebel's spirit is compared to a hurricane that makes devastations wherever it goes. Families are destroyed, churches are finished, best friends become greatest enemies etc. She is a master in souls connexions bounding her victims.

Mockery

This kind of people likes the assembly of gossipers. This spirit uses the persons with big mouth to mock brothers and sisters inspired by the Lord in order to discredit the local assembly and especially to discourage these Christians. He pushes his victims to leave the local assembly or even to abandon faith. *"I never sat in the company of revellers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation."* Jeremiah 15:17.

Calumny

Jezebel spends her time spreading poison over others.

"Their wine is the venom of serpents, the deadly poison of cobras." Deuteronomy 32: 33

Paul speaks of women who walk from house to house to gossip: *“As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.”* 1 Timothy 5:11-13

A person controlled by this spirit criticizes others all the time, staining them with insults of all sorts.

Defamation

*“Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and **did not want to expose her to public disgrace**, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”* Matthew 1: 19.

In this passage, the verb ‘to shame’ comes from the Greek ‘to defame’ with the meaning: ‘to expose/ to make a public example out of someone in a negative way’, to bring infamy, to state a public disgrace... *“if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and **subjecting him to public disgrace.**”* Hebrews 6: 6.

Defamation is an accusation or an imputation of a fact that brings dishonour of a physical or moral person.

Jezebel will put everything she has in place to stain your testimony by falsely accusing you. For this, some even does videos and publish them on the internet.

Gossip

This person will visit you to gossip other brothers or sisters and not to pray or meditate the Word with you: *“Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to.”*

1 Timothy 5: 13

Sometimes even meetings could be organised in your name or surrounding your ministry only to criticise you. If this is the case, keep calm because the Lord is on the way to set a table in front of you and your adversaries to anoint you. (Psalm 23)

Pride

Jezebel is so prideful that she believes she doesn't need any advice from anyone. She often uses her physical, artistic and oratorical strengths or even her richness to impose herself in an assembly. This pride is made manifest through her permanent justifications. *The persons touched by this spirit will refuse to repent though caught in flagrant crime (in sin).* To justify her sin she will always accuse others and find **someone to blame (an escape goat)**: Genesis 3: 11-13; Genesis 4: 8-10. When Adam fell into sin, instead of repenting, he accuse God for giving him an evil wife: *“The man said: ‘The woman you put here with me-she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.’”* Genesis 3:12. Adam justified himself by blaming God. Eve, his spouse, acted similarly: *“Then the Lord God said to the woman” ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said: ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’”* Genesis 3: 13

Susceptibility is the manifestation of pride. Jezebel doesn't like contradiction and can't stand seeing someone opposing her. The possessed person by this spirit loses temper easily (especially if people openly oppose him/her) and keeps the bitterness inside the heart. He can't stand contradictory opinions: let's remember Herod who put John the Baptist into the jail due to a remark made regarding Heroiade, the wife of his brother whom this governor took as spouse. (Matthew 14: 1-12)

Disobedience

If Jezebel is a woman, she doesn't recognise masculine authority. This person, man or woman, doesn't accept to be told what to do. In fact, this spirit can't stand the authority set by God. All advices, all reproaches and all warnings sent by the Lord are rejected systematically by Jezebel.

Lie

Jezebel's spirit is master in lying. Jezebel can lie regarding age, origins and is even able to use different identities to play several roles as a true actress.

Greed

Greed is the burning desire to have more and more, especially things that belong to others. If the greedy person can't get what he wants legally, he will try to access it by illicit ways.

Let's remember the story of Naboth. Jezebel likes to use the power of money to order and destroy God's people. She manages always to ask directly or indirectly for money to serve her own interests. The person touched by this spirit has debts to brothers and sisters with no intention of paying them back. .

"In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping." 2 Peter 2: 3.

Jezebel likes to be surrounded by rich people.

"With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed-an accursed brood!" 2 Peter 2: 14

Erotomania

Erotomania is a person's psychosis (especially for woman and seldom for men), based on the conviction that she/he is loved by the person who she/he wants to destroy. It is a serious mental disease, a depression manifested by a passionate state which has 3 stages: firstly there is hope, especially for a long period while the sick person waits for the loved one to declare his/her affection. During this time the sick person enters a kind of paranoid delirium which could trouble the close people. The second stage is the period of 'no-hope love', when the sick person becomes depressive, aggressive and sometimes suicidal. The last third stage called bitterness is the stage when the aggressiveness turns against the loved person and could lead to murder.

If the idol doesn't answer Jezebel's attentions, she does all in her power to destroy him. The loved soul is often superior socially or spiritually: writer, missionary, lawyer, musician. Jezebel suffers schizophrenia.

The Seduction

To seduce and control her victims, Jezebel often uses prophecy or the gift of vision. She could even send you SMSs regarding her visions on you. One of the Hebrew words translated 'seduction' is 'nasha' meaning 'illusion', 'fantasy'. While she can make you believe she is in love with you by even getting engaged with you or marrying you, she will end up by getting rid of you.

But before of this, Jezebel has to make sure that you are weak emotionally and spiritually or better said completely dependent on her. Thus, she creates soul connexions to be able to control you from the distance.

The Soul Connexions

Some Christians *"have lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow."* Colossians 2: 19

The Bible talks here about spiritual connexions which unite the members of Christ's body.

One of these connexions is love: *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity."* Ephesians 4: 1-3

Jezebel, on the contrary, she uses her won connexions to control her victims. These connexions are at soul level – the centre of emotions, feelings and will.

*"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing **soul and spirit, joints and marrow**; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."*

Hebrews 4: 12

As the name says, the soul connexions are related to the soul, the place of human will. Jezebel's spirit paralyses the will of her victims, making them dependant on him.

He veils **the human spirit** of the victim (2 Corinthians 4:3), meaning the spiritual side of a human being. Jezebel's spirit is controlling this part of him/her by communicating false visions, thoughts and prophecies.

He interferes with **the joints** (a joint connects 2 bones) and precisely creates associations of persons-alliances unwanted by the Lord.

He acts over **the bone marrow** – tissue placed in the middle of bones, which determines the various types of blood cells such as: white globules, red globules and plaques. Because the blood is life, Jezebel practically takes the life out of her victims so that she can enter into their intimacy such as the bone marrow placed amongst bones.

Jezebel manipulates **feelings, flesh** and the Adamic man (Galatians 5: 16-19), so that the **man's heart**, the siege of unclean thoughts (Mark 7). At the new birth, the spirit is he who is renewed and not the heart, because the fight with the feelings and the flesh lasts until death and only God's Word – the true sword with two cutting edges can destroy the soul connexions from the man's heart.

Jezebel wraps her victims as a snake and suffocates their ministry without these persons even noticing it. To create soul liaisons she uses human feelings easily manipulable. A woman possessed by this spirit will do all in her power to get closer and create a filial or matrimonial connexion with her victim. Remember Ahab who married Jezebel as his soul had been already conquered. Samson (Judges 16: 4-22) is another example of a fallen victim who succumbed under the devastating charms of Delilah, another type of Jezebel.

Jezebel is indeed an expert in sweet, flattering and full of honey words.

"My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart. Say to wisdom: 'You are my sister,' and call understanding your kinsman; they will keep you from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words." Proverbs 7: 1-5

Many of God's servants have fallen due to the women they used to work with due to soul connexions.

Some of them go that far that they share very intimate, extremely personal things- which normally confessed to wives-with 'their spiritual daughters' as they call their collaborators, secretaries etc.

These women become their confident in the detriment of their real wives who are thus delegated/positioned somewhere in the background or 'stored into the closet' as we might say. Some Christians justify this less or more adulterous relationship by invoking the relationship between David and Jonathan, forgetting that these two men fearing God were men and not a man and a woman.

The connexion between souls might be so strong that it can cause an addiction to Jezebel for the servant of God: e.g. these soul relations can push the godly servant to separate from his legitimate spouse or even divorce her so he could remarry at ease.

In addition, the emotional connexions could cause for the victim an estrangement from his family or the separation from his long-time collaborators. After having controlled the victim, Jezebel brings destruction upon the aimed servant and that is the reason why sometimes Jezebel will diabolise his entourage/ his close ones, his wife and children included.

The person possessed by this spirit might study his/her victims' habits for years in order to cause an enormous fall and once this is done, Jezebel controls her prey by threatening to disclose the sin. In addition, after having pushed her victim to such great physical and spiritual dependences, Jezebel threatens him/her at ease to destroy him/her.

Artificial Means

The word 'artifice' comes from Greek and means 'to conquer through subtle means' (Acts 7: 19). Jezebel works in the logistics of conquering souls. To control them, she uses all kind of artifices such as: prophecies, visions, thoughts, money and rhetoric.

1) The Prophecy is a usual mean to attract her prey because she uses expressions as: 'God has told me' or 'The Eternal One says' to prevent her victims from exercising their judgement/intelligence.

"In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories {deceitful speeches in Greek-n.tr.} they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping." 2 Peter 2: 3

All prophecies must be judged and tested. *"Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said."* 1 Corinthians 14: 29

But Jezebel doesn't ever accept the others' judgement.

2) She succeeds in controlling her victims easily through thoughts and visions regarding her victim's family and his ministry/work for the Lord.

"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions {talking about things he has not in fact seen in Greek -n.tr.}. He has lost connection with the Head from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow". Colossians 2: 18-19

It might happen that Jezebel be a rich person and then she uses money/ richness to control and destroy your testimony. *Plenty of pastors have lost their ministry because of Jezebel's money.*

"When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said: 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit'." Acts 8: 18-19

3) Rhetoric – see above 2 Peter 2: 3.

"For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error." 2 Peter 2: 18

In these passages, the persons controlled by Jezebel's spirit use their tongue to manipulate God's Word to seduce people.

Rhetoric is defined as the art to talk or the technique to convince someone by using language as means. Jezebel's spirit masters rhetoric and uses it to seduce God's children. There three notions in rhetoric:

- Logos: logic, rationalism, the way people construct arguments (introduction, main subject and conclusion) also called sermon;
- Pathos: the way to convince is by touching the emotions of listeners: music, cries, beautiful words, love, piety etc. Jezebel is able to cry with the unique purpose of seducing you.
- Ethos: it means to stage the moral quality of the orator/speaker. It is also a style adopted by the speaker to cap the attention and to win the listeners' trust in order to prove his credibility: e.g. professional clothes/ soutanes, beautiful hair style, well-studied gestures and words.

All this is but communication. Know that in the New Testament the word 'hypocrite' is used for Pharisees and for nobody else (18 times). In Greek, this word means 'an interpreter, an actor who plays a role in a theatre play.'

The Holy Spirit is the one who convinces man of sin according to John 16: 7-8, but Jezebel uses rhetoric to bound people to her, to a false spirit. She is a good imitation who copies brilliantly God's true servant. **She can also have a great knowledge of God's Word and even imitate the anointing of the Holy Spirit but her preached message lacks life. Thus, she is able to denounce the sinful**

things she practices herself. On the contrary, the true knowledge is not intellectual (gnos) but spiritual. (John 6: 63-65)

2. Jezebel, the Tars which Brings Division and Makes People Drunk

It is vital/ redemptious for the saints to know how Jezebel's spirit operates because the same way Eve had been seduced by satan (he proposed her to open her intelligence), Jezebel's spirit, too, succeeds in seducing many of the Lord's servants.

"But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough."

2 Corinthians 11: 3-4

When Jezebel enters an assembly, she aims for sure the church visionary and that is the reason why she tries firstly to become a friend of his family. Once the pastor's trust is won, she plants division between his collaborators.

When a woman animated by Jezebel enters an assembly, she tries to separate the pastor from his wife in order to destroy him. Thus, she starts to denigrate his wife before him and before other believers. Then she will manage to be formed and supervised by the pastor and nobody else. She will get involved in the pastor's family and will be as a cancer or infection, without anyone noticing it.

Most of the time Jezebel makes the pastor's wife believe she doesn't deserve her husband. Once she was won the pastor's heart and trust, Jezebel will destroy his house and will leave to hunt other preys. Jezebel goes from house to house to defame the workers set by the Lord. If she is single, she tries to be hosted by couples to destroy them easily. Jezebel's spirit acts exactly the same way with men.

Jezebel seduces Christians through gentleness (kindness), playing with their feelings and using the so-called 'spiritual gifts' to hold captives Christians. Thus, she might work in the ministerial team..

She visits people at home and calls them often to have news from them in order to keep them dependant.

She also organises all the activism in the assembly: there are meetings of all sorts in the church all during the week, from Monday till Sunday, thus preventing people to think, to have prayer time and spend time with their families.

Jezebel's spirit is tars planted by satan in churches to destroy them. I recommend you reads the parable of the wheat and the tars from Matthew 13: 24-30 and 36-43. Tars were planted amongst wheats and when the grass grew and fruited, the tars too showed up. This means that these two plants cross each other; they are so similar that we can set them apart only when they reach maturity.

Thus, when a ministry begins to bring fruit, the tar (or Jezebel's spirit) acts too. Each time there is a spiritual revival in a local assembly or in a country, the enemy raises too and his children too...

The term 'tar' said 'ebriacus' in Latin gives drunkenness in English (ebriete in French). So, one of Jezebel's roles is to make the wheat/ the Lord's children drunk. In the Scripture, drunkenness is synonym with spiritual debauchery or with the physical immorality. The tar that makes people drunk: '*Lolium temulentum*' is the only graminacee whose grains are toxic fore man if in big dosages. Consumed in small quantities it has as effect drunkenness which gave its famous Latin name.

Jezebel tries therefore to make the Lord's servants drunk through her teachings and debauchery: *"Be careful, 'Jesus said to them. 'Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.' They discussed this among themselves and said: 'It is because we didn't bring any bread.' Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked: 'You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no*

bread? Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the 5,000, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the 4,000, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees'. Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees."
Matthew 16: 6-12

3. Jezebel, the Killer of Prophets

We live in an age completely 'Jezebelised'. Plenty of churches are controlled by this spirit who fights vigorously the true prophets. (Mica 2:11; Isaiah 30:8-10). Jezebel means '*without cohabitation*', '*Baal is the husband*' or especially '*impudicity*' or '*the adulterous lady*'.

The Bible talks about two women called Jezebel who exercised a very important influence over men: the first one was Jezebel, Ahab's wife – the king of Israel and the second one is member of Thyatira Church.

The study of personality of the first Jezebel – the wife of the king Ahab allows us to understand the evil done by Jezebel in The Church of Thyatira of the New Testament.

Ethbaal's daughter – the king of Sidon people, she dragged the entire Israel into a monstrous idolatry, (1 Kings 17, 18 and 19). The Bible recounts that under Ahab's reign there were: 400 of prophets of Astarte and 450 of Baal. (1 Kings 18: 19)

Ahab was coward and weak, while Jezebel had an authoritarian character. She used to do what she pleased, acted according to her own will, knowing her husband couldn't resist her at all.

Her wickedness was so great that she didn't hesitate to use the royal sceptre to order the killing of an innocent man (1 Kings 21). Jezebel was therefore a spirit of death who tries always to depose people of their inheritance.

On Carmel Mountain, Elijah confronted ALONE the people of Israel and the 450 prophets of Baal. But, strangely, at the first threat uttered by Jezebel, he runs away as this woman terrified him terribly. In fact, she didn't hesitate to send to death all Yahweh/YHWH's prophets and wanted to do the same with Elijah. "*While Jezebel was killing off the Lord's prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.*" 1 Kings 18: 4. Read also 1 Kings 19: 2.

Today, Jezebel's spirit has another dreadful weapon to destroy the prophetic ministries: her tongue used non-stop to utter calumnies and to sprout around nervous breakdown and discouragement.

"Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness." James 3: 4-9

Calumny means to speak falsely about someone or to defame him or her. It is important to know that the word 'devil' from the Greek 'diabolos' means also 'he who calumniates' / 'calumniator'. So, the devil uses the tongue to start fires in ministries, homes, etc.

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour." Exodus 20: 16

To testify falsely against someone is also calumny, or false accusation of a serious crime. Calumny such as gossip comes out of the man's heart. (Mark 7: 22) and it had been forbidden during the Old Testament time (Leviticus 19: 16), it comes from an evil heart and must be forbidden within the Christian community (2 Corinthians 12: 20; Ephesians 4: 31; Colossians 3: 8; 1 Peter 2: 1).

"They said: 'Come, let's make plans against Jeremiah; for the teaching of the law by the priest will not be lost, nor will counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophets. So come, let's kill him with our tongues and pay no attention to anything he says'." Jeremiah 18: 18

The tongue is a small organ but it is able to bring much evil such as a sword, according to James in chap. 3 of his letter. It is similar to the world of injustice, to fire, to the unstoppable evil or to venom.

The world of injustice here refers to all the evilness hidden inside a man's heart and EXPRESSED USING THE TONGUE.

"You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." Matthew 12: 34

The tongue is able to start a fire and then cool down a relationship or better said cause a fight between brothers (Proverbs 15:4). It is so hard to control that it needs to be disciplined daily by keeping it in check. (Proverbs 13: 3) It is full of venom.

The animal venom causes: a) neuro-toxic effects upon the nerves system, upon the brain and the bone marrow, b) paralyzes the respiration, c) makes blood coagulate or alters the blood vessels by causing haemorrhages and destroying the red globules, d) it has a negative action upon the heart: a low arterial tension, e) produces an intense salivation which could cause suffocation, or f) the alteration of cells, of tissues and even of organs such as kidneys and g) causes especially suffocation if the bite is on the victim's face or neck.

The animals inject their venom through stabbing or biting their prey.

Jezebel's tongue is so full of venom that once bitten you could be destroyed for life.

In conclusion, Jezebel uses calumny to paralyse, suffocate and destroy her victims both interiorly (spiritual death) and also exteriorly (the loss of physical health). What she really wants is the destruction of the testimony of God's servants, of all those who walk in justice and who live in simplicity, because she knows that *"A good name is better than fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth."* (Ecclesiast 7: 1).

Jezebel will try to cause nervous breakdown and discouragement in order to reach her goal: the abandon of ministry by her victim. Jezebel's claims have greatly touched Elijah that this one almost had a nervous breakdown to the point of asking the Lord for his death:

'So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say: 'May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.' Hearing this, Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said: 'Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors'." 1 Kings 19: 2-4

The harmful tongue of Jezebel succeeded in making Elijah leave his ministry, his post. We must therefore understand that the enemy's purpose is to destroy your ministry while this is in its egg. But it must be also said that many are the Lord's people who actually abandon their work due to the other Christians' calumny and intimidations!

"There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the Lord came to him: 'What are you doing here, Elijah?'" 1 Kings 19: 9

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.” 1 Peter 4: 12-14

It is not a surprise that the apostle Paul uses the word insults ‘in the above passage. An insult is an extremely serious offence which consists of bringing blame upon a person’s honour or dignity. It involves a word, a gesture, a threat, a written word, a drawing or even an object/parcel sent to discredit or show disrespect to a person established in a public ministry.

As the Lord’s servants you will suffer surely insults because of your call. All those who are to respond to the Lord’s call must be ready to suffer all this kind of calumnies from very close persons. If the devil doesn’t succeed in destroying you through sex, love for money or pride, he is going to use men’s tongues to touch you.

If you are the victim of the evil power of someone’s tongue, keep tight onto the Lord Yeshoua and keep on going without fear.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12

4. The Demons- Jezebel’s Collaborators

Jezebel, Ahab’s spouse took her power from two main deities: **Astraea and Baal**.

1) **Astraea**, also called Asherah was a great deity of Canaan origin. This character was the goddess of fecundity whose cult with sexual connotation was a source of degrading immorality because her priestesses were practising a ‘sacred’ prostitution. (Judges 2: 13; 1 Kings 11: 5; 2 Kings 21: 7; 23: 13) The cult of Astraea was celebrated in isolate places and in the middle of the forest and the women and young girls were prostitutes during these orgies/ immoral ceremonies.

“He {Josiah} also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes, which were in the temple of the Lord and where women did weaving for Asherah.” 2 Kings 23: 7

Associated with *Istar*, the morning star or better said the planet Venus, ‘the goddess of love and beauty’ for the Greeks; she represents the land fertilised by rain/Baal.

Yesterday as today, Astraea is the symbol of sexual promiscuity. Today we meet her in all that is connected to debauchery, promiscuity reigning even in many assemblies (see the divorce for many Christians and especially pastors.)

2) **Baal**, whose name means ‘master or lord, ‘the knight of clouds’ and ‘the master of lightning’ was a god of Canaan origin. And remember that Canaan was Noah’s cursed grandson. The Jewish people was made of farmers who were completely dependent on two rain seasons: Jeremiah 5:24.

- Firstly, the rain of the last season (‘megowsh’ in Hebrew = the spring rain-[for the Jews autumn was the first season and not spring like us-n.tr.) which was made out of strong storms, well appreciated due to the fact that it fell before the wheat harvest and after long periods of summer drought).
- Secondly, the rain of the first season, (at the end of October, so autumn: ‘moresh’ in Hebrew= torrential rain) which used to open the agricultural year by smoothing the harden soil after the summer drought and thus preparing the soil to be cultivated for planting. (In Europe the wheat is still planted in winter-n.tr..)

Jezebel made the children of Israel believe these two rain seasons came from Baal. So, we can easily understand her anger when Elijah claimed there would be drought. In fact, Elijah made the rain stop for 3 ½ years. (1 Kings 17: 1 and James 5: 17).

Rain was the image of blessing. (Deuteronomy 28:12) and so, Baal was the god of prosperity.

The god Baal is also associated with Balaam, whose name means 'he who devours' (Revelation 2: 14; Judah 1: 11). Balaam is the image of being lost. Better said of those persons fell into apostasy, with a hermetic heart closed to all warnings and calls for repentance made by the Holy Spirit.

Truly it is known that Balaam has preferred the richness of king Balaac rather than the Lord, despite the warnings he had received. (Numbers 22)

Balaam is thus a spirit who loves honours, good wages (not necessarily a monthly contribution, but often that is the case) and who has no hesitation in selling the Lord's grace for the goods and the pleasures of this world. And to reach his goals, a person animated by this spirit doesn't think twice to misinterpret or misquote the Bible by using cunning and manipulation. (Revelation 2: 14)

"I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things?" 1 John 3: 12

The spirit of Balaam is connected to that of **Cain** and that of **Kore**.

Genesis 4 tells us the story of Abel who was killed by his brother **Cain**. It is interesting to note that these two were serving and praying to the same God. However, both had the same idea of bringing an offering (the image of adoration) to the Lord. Abel, knowing his Lord's heart, offered Him the first born of his flocks, the image of redeeming sacrifice made by Yeshoua.

On the contrary, Cain offered God the fruits of the soil and we know He cursed the land after Adam's fall and thus, his fruits were merely the result of his hands. Seeing he was disapproved, Cain kills his brother out of jealousy instead of repenting and seeking God's face. So, Cain's spirit is a spirit of jealousy, of persecution, of revenge and of murder.

Thus, the persons possessed by this spirit can prove jealous towards the grace found in your life and do all in their power to kill your ministry.

Kore is a spirit of rebellion who can't stand the leading ministries set by God in Church. Similar to Kore of the Old Testament (who used to set plots against Moses- Numbers 16), the rebellious people will contest the visionary's place and the order set by God. In fact they will seek other people to join their ranks to organise a rebellion in order to replace God-set servants.

Kore rose against Moses because he wanted to monopolize the priesthood. A fire came out from the Eternal One and consumed those 250 famous men following Kore in his revolt.

14,950 people died in total in the rebellion because of Kore. This is the spirit of rebellion against a person set by God in a public ministry. In other words, Jezebel's spirit acts like Kore. (Numbers 16).

In the same time we have the example of Absalom who rebelled against his father: kind David. He died young. (2 Samuel 15: 16-17). He is a symbol for all persons rebelled against those who form them (their fathers in faith).

Such as Absalom, these people go and see their brothers and sisters between closed doors to incite them to rebellion, through denigration of their fathers in faith. (2 Samuel 16) Absalom's spirit incites hate in the hearts of frustrated persons who are unsatisfied by their own life.

In conclusion, Jezebel's spirit incites to rebellion against: parents, fathers in faith, but in the end the result of rebellion is always the same: death.

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them." 2 Timothy 3: 1-5

Our generation is characterised by rebellion; that is the reason why we have watch and be firmly set upon the TRUTH until the end and not follow men with own ambitions such as Kore, Absalom and many others.

CHAP. 4: JEZEBEL'S SPIRIT AND THE POLITICS

It is important for saints to understand Jezebel is also a spirit practising politics. Ahab's Jezebel was a princess of Sidon. *"In the 38 year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel 22 years. Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those before him. He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him."* 1 Kings 16: 29-31

Jezebel, as a princess, has sailed into politics world since little and so she is very attached to power in particular, to honours, fame and all that attracts the human eye. She likes to give orders, to lead and to control others.

There are three types of kingdoms: God's kingdom, the kingdom of darkness and the human kingdoms.

The human kingdoms are generally led by the kingdom of darkness and it will be like this until the Lord returns. In fact, satan is the god of this century. (2 Corinthians 4: 3-4)

"The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendour, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." Luke 4: 5-7

I. HEAVENLY OR EARTHLY CITY?

Ahab and Jezebel reign with Baal's and Astraea's help. Similarly, most politicians are members of mystic lodges and atheist groups. Plenty of pastors are seduced by the idea of entering politics, ignoring the fact that politics is under Jezebel's influence.

1. Seduction and Confusion

Before developing this field, let's have a look at some declarations of yesterday's and today's politicians:

'In politics, you must have what you don't have and promise what you can't give,' said Louis the 14th.

Surely this king was right because you can't ever promise peace to people when we all know Jesus Himself will be the one who will establish it during His return on Earth. Edward Herriot's declaration (1872-1957), a French politician confirms this thing: 'In a state, when you notice there is no noise of conflict, you then must be certain there is no freedom in that country.'

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882-1945), the 32nd American president (between 1932-1945), has stated: 'In politics nothing happens randomly. Each time an event takes place, be certain it had been foretold to unroll that way.'

According to these statements, the politicians know they can never answer the true needs of the people they govern.

Sadly, many are the Christians who are seduced by this spirit. To justify their engagement into politics some use the word 'ekklesia' with a bad smell. While, in the past, they say this term has been fused to describe the assembly of citizens of Antique Greek cities (especially of Athens), in fact these people met to vote laws for their 'polis' / city.

In addition, some Christians claim they must care for their cities/states and thus need to get involved into politics because the Lord Himself was pro it. On the contrary, the City Jesus was talking about was

a heavenly city and not an earthly one: *"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."* *Philippians 3: 20*

"For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come."

Hebrews 13: 14

In these passages, the word 'city' is 'pol-it'-yoo-mah' in Greek, which in English is translated by 'administration of civil business, a community, or the establishment of a community of citizens, a government form and laws by which this is to be administered.'

"By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." Hebrews 11:9-10 ('architect' is someone who does detailed and precise calculations-n.tr.)

Our father Abraham was waiting for a heavenly city and not an earthly one: *"Instead, they were longing for a better country--a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."* Hebrews 11: 16 and see also Hebrews 12: 12 & 13: 14. Also the city ('polis' in Greek) the Christians are about to lead is a heavenly one, not terrestrial.

In fact, the Lord Jesus-Christ told Pilate that His Kingdom is not of this world. (John 19:36).

Others use the story of Joseph (the prim-minister of Egypt) and of Daniel (high dignitary at Nebuchadnezzar's court) to justify their political ambitions; but these two Jews haven't chosen by themselves to enter politics because they were prisoners in a foreign country. The Eternal One YHWH/Yahweh/ God used them to save His own people and placed them in a position of authority to save His people and thus manifest His Glory/Shekinah and His Will.

In addition, these persons forget that in that time God was Himself the king of the Jews. The Jews was under theocracy and had as constitution the Word of God (Torah). But, at present, we live in democracy (the people's power) which has nothing to do with theocracy.

"You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.' The sight was so terrifying that Moses said: 'I am trembling with fear.' But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel." Hebrews 12: 18-24

According to the author of the letter to Hebrews (the apostle Paul), the true Church has never got close nor is close to the Mount of Sinai, mount represented by:

- Agar, meaning slavery (Galatians 4: 24-25);
- The below Jerusalem;
- Moses's Law;
- Egypt,
- Sodom (Revelation 11: 8).

The veritable Ekklesia is never close to the cities/governments of this world, but only to God's city whom she is connected with:

- The Mount Sion (the heavenly kingdom, the elevated place);

- The heavenly Jerusalem;
- The heavenly Assembly.

This dreadful Jezebelised seduction attracts many Christians in the world today. For instance is the case of Laurent Gbagbo, the ex-president of the Ivory Coast who was surrounded by pastors who foretold him a glorious future, making him believe he was the next David and that U.N. was Goliath. These pastors had at their fingertips the entire people and Laurent's regime with its top leaders. At the peak of the crisis, they have organised prayer nights in the presidential palace in which all the country's dignitaries were involved.

'These men of God' kept all this island's dignitaries to respect through false prophecies and false predictions. As an irony of destiny, when Gbagbo fell, the pastors who foretold him the conservation of power (under the pretext that he had been chosen by God) haven't stayed with him in the presidential palace's cave...

They all have left in Ghana, the neighbouring country, abandoning the sheep to wolves. But the bible so dear to them says: *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."* John 10: 11-13.

This kind of pastor is but a mercenary.

But where is the president Gbagbo today (2014)? In jail, at Hague.

The Church hasn't been established to do politics. The true Church, the one the Messiah is going to come for is and will be persecuted because she preaches a message that is opposed to the morals of this century. (John 16: 33; 2 Timothy 3: 12; 1 Peter 4)

Some servants of the past wanted to do politics and thus have finished badly. Zwingli, a reformator of Swiss origin (1484-1531) said that the temporal and spiritual powers must be united, contrary to Luther who saw the power divided in two parts: a temporal one (the kingdoms/ the government of Earth) and eternal (God in heaven). Zwingli taught that the Church had to win the Swiss Confederation on the side of the Reform through any kind of means (political, military etc.) He joined the troops of the Swiss mercenaries and under the French king took part in many military campaigns in Italy, of which the most famous were Marignan and Novare between 1513-1515.

In 1531, heavy confrontations between Catholics and Protestants took place. Zwingli accompanied his troops as an amatory leader. He was wounded and then killed. The Reform's expansion in Switzerland stopped.

2. The Origins of This Seduction

The apostle Paul recommended the Christians of Rome not to conform to the present century (Romans 12:2). But during that time, the Roman Empire was the greatest and the most powerful one politically, economically and military speaking. That is why the Roman emperors were regarded as gods. While Rome was the most important kingdom, the Christians have announced another King: Jesus-Christ and another kingdom: the Heavenly Kingdom. In addition, some Christians of Rome were afraid to announce clearly the Lord as the King of Kings due to persecution. In fact the Caesars didn't want to hear about another king but themselves.

Sadly, from the 14th century, Constantine, the Roman emperor, in sec. al-IV-lea, unified the Catholic bishops in order to officially give birth to a political and religious system under his own rule.

In 397, Theodosius organised the Council of Thessalonica when he convoked all bishops and declared that Catholicism was the official religion of the Roman Empire. Thus, after the fall of the Roman Empire in 476, the political and religious Roman Empire tried to establish the divine kingdom on earth through the manslaughter of all who opposed its ideology.

Poverty and ignorance were generalised, the study of the Bible was forbidden to the people. Those who had even a tiny portion of the Scripture were burnt alive. The pope abused his powers and the clergy in his dominant position massacred thousands of dissidents and so-called 'heretics' who had refused to obey 'the Holy Mother Church'.

Therefore, the Church became a political organisation with a government centralised in Rome. This heresy of Catholic origin affects many Protestant and Evangelical churches. Many movements have been formed to have power over Christians. Among these there is 'the Kingdom Now' which understands the instauration of Church on Earth. On the contrary, this thing is but an illusion and a cheating.

II. THE CHURCH'S REIGN ON EARTH: AN ILLUSION

1. The Movement 'Kingdom Now'

The teaching of 'Kingdom Now' or 'the Restoration' has purely earthly roots. Its partisans are based on a false vision regarding the role of the Church, saying that Christians must dominate this earth and make it better so that Jesus could return. These sorts of doctrines don't encourage the true Church at all in focusing on the Kingdom to come, but keeps it grounded, attached to earth foretell the unity of all believers, which is the ecumenism. In addition, they encourage the meetings between Protestants, Evangelistic and Catholics. To repress any tidal wave of opinions they avoid talking about fundamental doctrines such as salvation by faith in the unique name people not to talk about the imminent return of the Saviour and teach the so-called replacement of Israel by the Church. In other words, they shadow voluntarily the capital Biblical prophecies concerning the end of the world (the apostasy, the wedding of the Lamb).

For them, the Church must be rich financially and materially. They want to establish a divine Kingdom on earth by forming political Christian parties in order to take power and impose thus the reign through Biblical principles.

Daniel saw the mixture between iron and clay during his stay in Babylon. (God has never liked mixture- e.g. after the Egyptian slavery Israel sins due to foreign nations joining them-n.tr.)

"You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue-an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace.

But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. 'This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all.

You are that head of gold. After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron-for iron breaks and smashes everything-and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. Just as you saw that the feet and

toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay.

As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay. Daniel 2: 31-43

In this passage, , *the iron* is the symbol of the Roman Empire, Europe of today and *the clay* is 'the Roman Church' or the Pope or better said the Apostate Church, the Jezebelised church, who will lead the second Beast from Revelation 13: 11-18. This church is an ecumenical church, a diabolic and carnal one, such as the church of Laodicea who wants to govern and rule over the earth. This is the prostitute that Paul and John talk about in 1 Corinthians 6: 15-18 and Revelation 17.

These Christians who establish political parties in order to change the world are on a wrong path, like the zealots during Jesus' time.

2. The Modern Zealots

The term 'zealot' or 'zealed' comes from the Hebrew word: '**Qiniim**' (whose root is 'Cain'), which means 'jealous, exclusive'. The zealots fought weapons in hand against the Roman power during the Jewish-Roman war.

They are connected to the story of Phineas, the son of Elihazar who was himself the son of Aaron the priest. Phineas was a honest man, full of zeal for Yahweh; but he is famous because he killed a prince of one of Israel's tribes, a man who lived in luxury amongst all the others.

Instead of being rebuked, his execution was highly praised to the point that it had been used to seal a peace alliance between the nation and the Eternal One.

Phineas is considered the first zealot because the Bible tells us that he proved to be 'jealous' for divine glory, meaning he was willing to see God's Shekinah. By disobeying the commandment 'you shall not kill' he stated the religious principle of the Mosaic Law and thus he reinstated the religion as the engine for human action. The story of Phineas formed the main theological legitimacy for the zealot activism.

The zealot movement is described through an intransigent and aggressive nationalism. They desire passionately the instauration of God's Kingdom on Earth and that is the reason why their followers believed they could fasten this reign through violence. During Jesus' time the Romans were their enemies who had to be eliminated. In fact, it was them who instigated the revolt of 66-70 A.C.

Flavius Joseph tells us that the nationalist leader Judah of Gamala was at the origin of '*the forth sect*' (after Sadducees, Pharisees and Esseniens.) and he described him in these terms:

'Judah was the author of the 4th sect. I agreed in all with the Pharisees with the exception that there is only one Lord who had to be recognised as Lord and King. They had such a passionate love for freedom that all sorts of extraordinary death and the most terrible atrocities suffered by them or by those dear to them left them completely indifferent; all this for the name of Lord and Master not be given to any man. Many were those who witnessed their unshakable firmness displayed during their suffering caused by all these wrong doings. I am not going to add anything not for fear that you might not believe me but rather because my words offer merely a faint idea of the contempt they have while bearing pain.'" Flavius Joseph, 'The Jewish Antiquities', book XVIII, chap. 2.

Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all Jews during Christ, states in the book of Acts that of Gamala or the Galilean was undoubtedly the founder of the political party of the zealots:

"After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered." Acts 5: 37

Let's note that one of the Lord Jesus' disciples was a zealot. He strongly believed that the Lord will take power by force. Luke 6: 13-15 Nevertheless, the Church's role is to pray for authorities (1 Timothy 2: 1) and make no politics and even less war.

The zealots haven't understood that God's Kingdom would not come in a visible way and that it was already amongst them: the Messiah in person! (Luke 17: 20-23)

3. The End of the Present Political System

Only Jesus the Messiah could put an end to the present political & religious system when He returns. No organisation has received the mandate to destroy the human institutions. Only Jesus Christ is delegated by the Father to submit nations under His authority during His return on Earth.

These are Daniel's words, the Messianic Prophet: *"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."* Daniel 2: 44-45

According to Daniel's received prophecy during these kings (Europe and the nations led by the Impious Man) God will raise another Kingdom (the King Messiah) who will destroy the other kingdoms. This passage has nothing to do with the Church no with her right to get involved into politics to establish God's Kingdom; in fact Daniel is referring here to the Corner Stone: the Lord Yeshoua/Jesus.

"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth. 'This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.'" Daniel 2: 35-36

The Stone is detaching from heaven without the help of any human hand. God doesn't need help to put an end to barbarism. He doesn't need the help of anyone. He will destroy by himself the political and religious system created by men:

"He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time'. 'But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.' " Daniel 7: 23-27

In the light of these verses, let's understand that the Lord Jesus is He Who will lift the domination, the reign of this world's kings to give it to the saints at His visible Return upon the clouds. (1 Corinthians 15:24-25)

One of the fundamental mistakes made by Christians engaged in politics today is to say: 'Jesus will not return immediately', because they claim the Church is not ready yet. On the contrary, these persons forget that the true Church is known by God Himself.

In reality, the word "ekklesia" talks of the spiritual and invisible Church, the one who can't be seen with the naked eye and she is not corporal and can't be measured in Euros or statistics. This Ekklesia is already perfect in Christ and can't be reformed (awaken). Wanting to see a glorious Church in a carnal way, Christians mix God with politics and thus fall, sadly, into the trap of ecumenism.

Let's not forget that **the Church's Rapture is an event as unpredictable as inevitable**, such as **death**. In fact nobody can say for sure that he/she won't die today or tomorrow. When a Christian loses the notion of the Lord's imminent return, then apostasy is not far!

All of Paul's epistles talk about the imminent return of the Lord and of the absolute necessity of us being ready for this event (being ready to go). The apostle Paul asks us to wait and fasten the Lord's return. (2 Peter 3: 12). How could we do that? Very easily: by our sanctified life.

Another reason which will precipitate the Lord's return is the expansion of evil into the world. In Genesis 11, we have a beautiful typology referring to the Lord's return. The tower that men have built is also the symbol of the world government led by antichrist and the image of sin reaching paroxysm. Then God will say: 'Let's go and get down.'

Let's notice that God has left the Church on earth to make disciples and not to transform this world by establishing a theocratic government. The idea of even militating politically for Christ is a complete nonsense.

Indeed, imagine a president converted to Christ; he will never succeed in setting Biblical laws. Who will accept without opposition the illegality of: abortion, homosexuality, places of debauchery and the heathen sanctuaries (such as mosques, Buddhist temples etc.)? This kind of president will be taxed as dictator and this will be truly said as even Jesus Himself doesn't enforce His own opinion upon us. This president will only cause a popular revolt, a civil war. In addition people will not be converted through the voting of coercive human laws. Conversion is the result of a personal encounter with Jesus, an intimate relationship and that is why it is not the result of a political action.

However, I believe God is able to bring revival in a country and touch a great number of persons, president included which could be afterwards expelled from the U.N. - an organisation administered by the world government with laws inspired by the antichrist.

Peter said that at the end of time, there will be blasphemous people who will come filled with blasphemies/curses and will live according to their own desires, saying: " 2 Peter 3:4.

The fundamental doctrine regarding the Lord's coming (the Church's rapture, Christ's tribunal, the Lamb's wedding, the visible return of the Messiah, the judgement of nations, Israel's restoration, the millennium) less and less taught in the Christian spheres seduced by Jezebel's doctrine who makes Christians believe they are called to reign on Earth. What craziness!

These persons forget that the Lord calls us to watch because He will come as a thief. (Matthew 24: 42-46; Luke 17: 22-37)

"He gave me this explanation: 'The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him times and half a time'. 'But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be

handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him. Romans 13: 11-13

CHAP. 5: UNVEILING AND FIGHTING JEZEBEL'S WORKS

You must know that this spirit is terribly subtle and works with great ingeniousness. Truly, being so evil, it is very hard for someone to unveil him at the first encounter.

I. HOW CAN JEZEBEL BE UNCOVERED?

Concealment and imitation are satan's and his servants' speciality.

"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 15It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve."

2 Corinthians 11: 13-15

It is not surprising that lately Christians are able to discover an Jezebel in a person they thought to be 'a godly woman or a godly man'.

We have a beautiful illustration of the enemy's art of disguise in the book of Job: *"One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan also came with them."* Job 1: 6

"On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the Lord said to satan: 'Where have you come from?' satan answered the Lord: 'From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.' Then the Lord said to Satan: 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason.' 'Skin for skin!' satan replied. 'A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face.' The Lord said to satan: 'Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.' So satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head." Job 2: 1-7

Haven't you ever asked how come none of God's people hadn't been able to notice satan while this was amongst them? The reason is simple: he used the fatal weapon of disguise and imitation. Only God who knows all hearts was able to unveil him.

God's sons whom this passage talks about are the men gathered to adore the Lord. By taking their appearance, satan was able to infiltrate himself doing all the exterior signs of piety these men had. Therefore, he had an extremely efficient or better said perfect camouflage.

Similarly, whenever entering an assembly or a family Jezebel disguises herself making all believe she or he is a Christian.

1. Seeking the Fruits of the Holy Spirit

We should never rely on gifts and on works (miracles and healings included) to identify a servant. The Bible says we can recognise a tree by its fruits:

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." Matthew 7: 15-20

According to this passage, false prophets come dressed in sheep/justice clothes, they use Christian language, they say prophecies and they have visions, dreams, beautiful words; in fact manifesting the appeals for the Gospel.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are not spiritual gifts. Many ministers of God are fooled by Jezebel because they trust the gifts manifested by this person instead of looking at this person's life, at the Holy Spirit's fruits in that possessed person such as: sanctification, love, humility, truth, patience, fear of God etc.

Indeed how many Christians haven't so far been abused, surprised or even shocked to find out that their leaders who manifested powerful gifts of the Spirit were living a double life, were living in greed, adultery and lie for many years?

Let's notice that the Church of Thyatira had ministries. These works represent the gifts of the Spirit: foster care houses, missionary trips, printed books, beautiful buildings, conversions and memberships, miracles etc. There is also love and zeal for the Lord's work, faith in doing miracles and a faithful ministry, too: worship ministry, seminaries, setting people free etc.

But despite *all the works* of this church, the Lord *vomits her from His mouth*. (Revelation 3: 16)

Jezebel could manifest the spiritual gifts mentioned by 1 Corinthians 12: 7-10: a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, a word of knowing the secrets of the heart, faith, the gift of healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, diversity and/or interpretation of tongues, gifts of visions and of dreams etc. (Acts 16)

On the contrary, all these gifts can be manifest by wizards and false servants of satan, too, because the devil is also a spirit who offers gifts to his ministers.

In conclusion, the spiritual gifts are not proofs for recognising a minister/worker. To unveil this spirit, we must look at the fruits of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:22: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

Love This is the capacity of standing others, of blessing the enemies and especially following God's commandments. (1 Corinthians 13)

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14: 21

Joy The Lord's joy gives us strength: *"Nehemiah said: 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is sacred to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."* Nehemiah 8: 10

Christians must manifest joy despite circumstances they cross, their final purpose being the eternal life with the Lord.

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds," James 1: 1-2.

Peace There is the peace of heart, the peace with God and the peace with others: Romans 5: 1 and Hebrews 12: 14)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4: 6-7

Patience This is the total trust in God who fulfils always His promises: *"Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."* James 1: 4

Compassion/Goodness This is the quality of caring for others.
"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3: 12

Faith The Lord wants His children to be totally dependent upon Him.
"See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright- but the righteous will live by his faith." Habakkuk 2: 4

"if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant." Colossians 1: 23

On the contrary, Jezebel brings people to a dependence on her because she knows he who doesn't trust in God is cursed. *"This is what the Lord says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who depends on flesh for his strength and whose heart turns away from the Lord."* Jeremiah 17: 5

Gentleness In the words of each of the Lord's child we must find the sweetness of honey:
"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." Proverbs 16: 24

Self-control God's child must be able to self-control his/her anger and not lose his temper. He/she *must be calm (in control of his/her emotions-n.tr.).*

"A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty man is hated." Proverbs 14: 17

It is truly impossible for a possessed person or one influenced by Jezebel's spirit to bear these fruits.

2. Testing and Discerning All Spirits

We must take time to search and discern spirits: *"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*
1 John 4: 1

Thus, we must have the same attitude that Paul had when he unveil the spirit of piton in a woman who prophesised. Let's not believe all prophecies.

"Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting: 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit: 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her. At that moment the spirit left her'." Acts 16: 16-18

Notice that the Lord revealed Himself to the Church of Thyatira as One with blazing fire eye and burnished bronze feet *"To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at*

first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols." Revelation 2: 18-20.

To unveil Jezebel we must exercise the gift of discerning spirits (eyes as blazing fire) and God's judgement (feet of burnished bronze).

The Lord's eyes are as the fire's flames which search the depths of satan and which reveal Jezebel and her agents.

The Bible teaches us that the Lord Jesus Christ has seven eyes:

"See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it," says the Lord Almighty, and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day." Zechariah 3: 9

"Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.' These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range throughout the earth." Zechariah 4: 10
"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth." Revelation 5: 6

Those seven eyes of the Lamb talk about His omnipresence and of His omni-knowledge. He is He Who search all hearts all the time.

This church led by Jezebel and which knows satan's depths needs to know that the Lord Jesus-Christ is the One who knows everything and who can search everything.

Remember Jehu, the prophet of the Eternal One, the man whom Jezebel wanted to with her make-up:
"Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she painted her eyes, arranged her hair and looked out of a window." 2 Kings 9: 30

In Hebrew the word 'make-up' means to paint. Among several meanings, it suggests the idea of veiling, of dissimulating and cheating regarding the true identity /face with a terrible will to deceive. Jezebel has no natural beauty, but an artificial one and only the person with the Lord Jesus' eyes, filled with discernment, will be able to unveil her.

True beauty is that of heart and not the physical one. Jezebel's make-up is used as lust to hide the state of her soul. She uses it as a fishing rod to attract her victims. She uses an exterior appearance to travesty her interior into the eyes of those around her.

Finally, the Lord's eyes talk about the prophetic aspect. Jezebel's spirit must be fought by true prophets. The persons who look at the physical appearance will never be able to fight him.

3. Judging and Condemning of Her Works

God exercises His judgement towards Jezebel through His feet of bronze which represent the zeal, the authority and the power. –see above Revelation 2: 18.

Jezebel ended being trampled – this was God's judgement against her: *"throw her down!" Jehu said. So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot." 2 Kings 9: 33*

"I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her

ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.” Revelation 2: 21-23

The Lord reveals Himself before the Church of Thyatira as with bronze feet to unveil Jezebel's judgement. Her judgement has been decided. Resisting fire, bronze is often used as the symbol of the unshakable justice of God.

We shouldn't thus stop and chat with Jezebel, but judge her works and condemn them. (Ephesians 5:11). The discussion with persons touched by this spirit is a true danger for our life because they can use our sensibility and our emotions to open a gap, to find a path to our heart.

II. RESPECTING THE ORDER SET BY GOD

1. The Man is the Head of the Woman

It is important for men to know their position and identity in Christ to avoid Ahab's end:
“Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.” 1 Corinthians 11: 3

“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour.” Ephesians 5: 23

The word 'boss' in Greek is said 'kefal' and means 'head'. We find this term in many passages, for instance in Colossians 1: 18: *“Jesus is **the head** of the Body, of the Church.”*

And we know that to kill a man his head needs to be cut off.

Therefore, the man is the head of the woman, as if Christ is the head of the Church- which is the Body or the Bride of the Lord. But imagine now a body without a head! And this is exactly what Jezebel does: she is a spirit that cuts the head of a man who is the head of the woman.

Thus, the woman who exercises a public ministry without being married exposes herself to becoming an Jezebel because she is not covered by her boss, meaning her husband.

“So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.” 1 Timothy 5: 14-15

This is the reason why the women were not allowed to rule the primitive churches. They were able to exercise a ministry if accompanied by their spouses (e.g. Priscilla and Aquila). The celibate women in a divine ministry had to work amidst an apostolic team in order to be balanced and enrolled.

The man is the head, but we can see that this head has many elements needed for a good functioning of the body (his wife). In fact, at the level of the head we find: the eyes, the ears, the nose, the hair, the brain and other organs that fulfil the essential functions for the body's balance.

The Eyes

The man must be the visionary as the Lord is for the Church.

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.” Colossians 1: 18

Jesus who is our Spouse, He sees all. He is this Lamb with seven eyes who are God's seven spirits (Revelation 5:6). So, it is essential for the man to have this quality of being a visionary - entrusted to him by the Lord.

The fact that you lack this responsibility is very dangerous. In fact, in Adam –the first man, we see this mistake which we must not be commit again: Adam hasn't used his ability to be a visionary given to him by God. Sadly, he let Eve open his eyes regarding sin. (Genesis 3: 7)

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!” Matthew 6: 22-23

The eye gives us the capacity to see. But without a vision we can't be lightened. In fact, a man without vision can be easily manipulated and led by his wife – e.g. Samson with his eyes pulled off because of Delilah (Judges 16).

The lack of vision creates confusion and disorder in a house: " Proverbs 29: 18.

A man lacking in vision (projects, initiatives) will give up his leading position in favour of his spouse and will thus exposes to Jezebel's spirit.

The Ear

The head has also ears: *“The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.”* Isaiah 50: 4-5

The ear speaks of disciples. Before all, the husband must be a Lord's disciple in order to lead well his family. He receives orders from the Lord- the perfect model of Boss/Head desired by God.

Therefore, the man needs to listen sufficiently to God to take good decisions. In fact, he must obey more Him than men.

Note what Jesus says seven times, for each of the church in Revelation: *“He who has ears to listen what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Abraham, our father in faith made the fatal mistake to listen more to his wife Sarah than to Yahweh. In chap. 15 of Genesis, Yahweh promised Abraham a son, but this one listen to his spouse who offered him her slave Agar for this promise to be fulfilled. (Genesis 16)

However, it is important to state that the man must listen to his wife if she is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The Mouth

„“The Sovereign Lord has given me an instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught.” Isaiah 50: 4

“Therefore this is what the Lord says: ‘If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my mouth [spokesman]. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.’” Jeremiah 15: 19

The man is God's word bearer in his home. When the leader opens his mouth it is to announce the Lord's will and to free the blessing. He must encourage others, bless and not gossip. In a home where the wife talks more than man, disorder sets in.

The Nose

The nose allows us to smell, to have a nice or a bad smell. It is the image of discernment, as the leader must discern in fulfilling correctly his function as head of the family. Discernment allows us to see the danger from far away- e.g. By far Peter saw that Ananias and Sapphira have lied. (Acts 5: 1-11)

A boss must have the gift of bringing people towards a good behaviour; his family members under his control and responsibility.

The Hair

The hair speaks of justice and anointing.

"His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire."

Revelation 1: 14

"Grey hair is a crown of splendour; it is attained by a righteous life." Proverbs 16: 31

"Always be clothed in white, and always anoint your head with oil." Ecclesiast 9: 8

The leader has to sanctify himself, so that sanctification must be spread all over his home and thus protect it. The husband who is the roof must cover the foundation or better said his wife.

Grey hair symbolizes purity, wisdom and a sanctified life. A husband must thus be honest and guarantee the security of his family by leading a holy life. (Proverbs 4:9). The lack of sanctification is very dangerous for a leader.

The Brain

In the head, we have also the brain. All decisions come from the brain (man) knowing that he works in close connection with the heart (woman). Try to imagine the responsibility that the Lord has entrusted to the husband!

Ahab, Israel's king lost his head (eyes, mouth, nose, brain, ears and hair). Jezebel his wife took the place of leader and thus she took all the decisions in her husband's place.

2. The Wife, Her Husband's Pot

Any woman who doesn't want to become an Jezebel must know her place and role in God's Kingdom. She must know that she has been made out of man, from his rib. In Hebrew rib is said 'tzela' which gives in English 'foundation' (of a house).

"Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.'" Genesis 2: 22-23

A *foundation* is a thick, horizontal piece of wood, metal or cement that sustains a construction. It is the main fundamental piece that supports the roof; it is hidden, protected by the roof (the head, her husband) and in the same time it is untouched by the sunrays, by rain and by wind.

If the wife exists is to support the roof, her leader, her spouse.

"For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man." 1 Corinthians 11: 8-9.

The reason why the wife exists is her husband! A woman who is not covered by her boss and seeks to exercise a ministry will become sooner or later an Jezebel.

Imagine a roof without foundation; it will be **taken by the wind** and a foundation without a roof: it will be exposed **to the enemy's attacks**. The role of foundation is to support the roof **from the interior**.

Therefore, the wife, a godly wife, looks after her family:" Titus 2: 4-5.

The wife (the foundation) must at first carry for her family, for her children before launching herself into a certain ministry.

The first ministry for both husband and wife is in carrying for their home:

"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)"

1 Timothy 3: 4-5

"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." 1 Timothy 5: 8

3. The Characteristics of a Virtuous Wife

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled." Titus 2: 3-6

"Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear." 1 Peter 3: 1-6.

These two passages (and not only these) give us a list of qualities for a virtuous wife.

Discrete- a quality of a wife who knows how to control her reactions and how to express her thoughts.

Cast: the capacity of controlling sexual desires.

Busy with house chores -meaning she administers well the cleaning of her house, the supplies and other businesses involving her home.

Good- generous and hospitable.

Submitted to her leader: respectful towards her husband. The term 'submission' comes from the Greek word 'hupotasso' – a military term translated by 'placing troop divisions under the command of a general/leader.'

In a non-military meaning, this word suggests 'one's voluntary attitude of giving, of cooperation and assuming responsibilities, of carrying her task'.

Adorned in good deeds in other words a man of prayer, she loves God's Word and meditate upon it each day.

She is Sarah's daughter: her model is Sarah, the wife of our father in faith Abraham, meaning she has taught the Word to her children.

Some women refuse to get married and want to serve God like Paul. Thus they expose themselves to many temptations of the enemy and generally speaking end up controlling men.

The woman, in her foundation role, submits to her head/boss without any doubt:

"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord." Ephesians 5: 22

However, this kind of submission is the result of love showed to her by her leader.

Submission allows the Christian wife to be protected and supported by her husband.

The husband is the head (brain, ration) of his spouse and the wife is the heart (soul, feelings) of her man. The mixture of these two brings balance.

4. The Wife is the Heart

The heart is the engine of the cardio-vascular system whose role is to pump the blood so it can circulate in all the body tissues.

To respond the body's energetic needs, the heart has to beat for 100,000 times a day. Without these heartbeats the body would be dead.

The woman is the heart and she needs to be helped by her boss in order to fulfil her mission correctly. *"Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."* 1 Peter 3: 7

'Weak sex' means literally 'weak vessel'. The vessel (the woman in other words) must be loved and protected by its boss. Much dexterity is needed for him not to break it. In fact, the wife is a very emotional being; she needs her boss' firmness to be kept in balance.

Satan has preferred to talk to the woman (Eve) rather than with her husband (Adam) because the woman is the heart, or a weak vessel which the enemy tries to destroy non-stop in order to destabilize the man.

5. Sarah, the Model of a Wife according to God's Will

For the woman to serve the Lord and avoid in the same time to become an Jezebel, she must look upon Sarah, Abraham's husband.

Sarah means 'my princess', she was her husband's princess and was his pride and joy. *"Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the Lord: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth. When I called him he was but one, and I blessed him and made him many."* Isaiah 51: 1-2

"like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear." 1 Peter 3: 6

In the 18th century B.C., God has raised the prophet Isaiah to bring the people back to the truth. That time there were no more models, the Jewish people had fallen into apostasy (unbelief). Israel is compared with Sodom and Gomorrah (Isaiah 1). Isaiah recognised that his own lips were unclean and that he was living amongst unrighteous people (Isaiah 6). The Lord then invited the Jews to get back to the source, to Abraham and Sarah who were good models to follow. (Isaiah 51: 2)

During Paul's time, there was also a lack of models. When Paul was imprisoned in jail, the saints of Macedonia were troubled because they needed points of guidance to lean on in their walk in Christ. *"Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ."* Philippians 3: 17-18

Our generation lacks models, too, lacks persons to be examples of humility, of perseverance and patience during trials, of integrity and justice etc.

The women who desire to follow the Lord correctly need a model and this model is firstly Sarah, then all those who walked on the steps on this mother in faith.

Sarah had many qualities that made her a virtuous wife and a solid helper for Abraham. She called her husband 'lord', meaning boss. Sarah didn't have the ambition of dominating her husband. By doing this (calling him lord), she has set herself in a position of submission and thus, she has recognised that Abraham was set by God as her head.

The Bible tells us that though she was beautiful she never used her beauty to challenge her husband. In addition, Sarah was a spouse with authority, as she had a slave to subordinate, but she knew her boundaries.

Sarah was a princess who never sought to subdue her husband, unlike Jezebel who took advantage of her status to crush her husband Ahab. Sarah recognised that despite her position and her princess status, Abraham was her master.

- She followed and supported her husband into answering his calling by leaving her country.
- She did the house chores. (Genesis 18).
- She had faith in God despite old age.
- She became the image of the New Jerusalem (Galatians 4:2-31) and the mother of all saints in Christ.

Sarah remained sheltered under the tent. *"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. 'There, in **the tent**,'* he said." Genesis 18:9.

The word 'tent' here, said '**ohel**' in Hebrew, also means 'tabernacle' which is found in plenty of Biblical passages such as Exodus 40:2: *"Set up the tabernacle, **the Tent of Meeting**, on the first day of the first month."*

Sarah loved to live in the Lord's house, the place where the Lord's presence was tangible.

Sarah was a free woman, the pattern of grace and the symbol of 'Heavenly Jerusalem'. She looks for heavenly things; she focuses on the things of the Kingdom unlike Agar (the image of Jezebel).

"For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise. These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children.

But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written: 'Be glad, O barren woman, who bears no children; break forth and cry aloud, you who have no labour pains; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.'

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? 'Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son.' Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman." Galatians 4:22-31.

Sarah is the symbol of a wife that God desires for each one of His lady servants.

Another Hebrew term used to talk about the Lord's tabernacle is '**soo-kaw**', which in English gives '**shelter**': *"over all the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain."* Isaiah 4: 5b-6.

Sarah knew that as foundation she needed to take refuge under God's roof (tabernacle) in order to be fully protected from daily heat, rain and storm (symbol of troubles, life circumstances). Maria, Lazarus' sister also understood it and that was the reason why she sat at the Lord's feet.

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked: 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' 'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'" Luke 10: 38-42

The wife- in the image of Sarah - will always seek to hide in God and will also love the communion with the Lord more than any public ministry. She doesn't go from house to house to gossip, to defame people, but spends her time in prayer.

6. The Wife according to God's Will is the Glory of her Man

"A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but the woman is the glory of man." 1 Corinthians 11: 7

Glory here is 'doxa' in Greek which means 'honour, brightness, dignity, judgement.'

In reality, this is the wife who allows her husband to judge her well as her leader and who feels dignified and honoured. She helps him in the ministry the Lord entrusted him with by supporting him such as a foundation does for a house.

It is important to know that when a wife is not under the cover of her boss, the spirit of witchcraft will try desperately to control her and then, she will, in turn, control men to better subjugate them.

Most of the African state leaders hang around the wives of their collaborators (ministers) for a better control of these men. The ex-president Mobutu used to share his intimacy with the wives of his ministers to better manipulate these last ones and to avoid rebellion. A husband whose wife is under the charms and the yoke of his boss will be easily controlled.

Jacob's story shows us clearly that the wife according to God's will is truly the glory of her husband!

"Jacob heard that Laban's sons were saying, "Jacob has taken everything our father owned and has gained all this wealth from what belonged to our father." Genesis 31: 1

The word 'richness' here is 'kabood' which gives 'glory' in English. This word also means: spirit, dignity, glorious, splendid, splendour, magnificent, grandeur, heart, soul, treasure, to receive, majesty, nobility.

7. Is the Wife Truly Condemned to Keep Quiet in Church?

This passage was written by Adele Folliot in the French newspaper Dokimos:

"Which is the Place in Church for a Christian Wife? This subject makes the object of plenty heated debates amongst Christians. For some, the woman must keep quiet up to being mate in church, as ministry is a man's job. Her field of action would limit, according to

these views, to her home and to children's education. Others believe that being equal to man, a woman is able to claim the same responsibilities as her male contra-part regarding ministry and management/administration of local assemblies.

These two points of view are incorrect because they result from a wrong understanding of God's Word, from a false interpretation of Scriptures due to the fact that they especially forgot to take into account the context in which the Bible has been written.²

"For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than 10,000 words in a tongue. Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults. In the Law it is written: 'Through men of strange tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me,' says the Lord. Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers. So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming: 'God is really among you!' What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God. Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. As in all the congregations of the saints, women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church." 1 Corinthians 14: 13-35.

Those who deny the woman ministry often use this passage to justify their point of view. On the contrary, for a better understanding of God's Word we must make the effort in being interested in the context in which these things regarding the woman were in fact said.

When the apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians Christians he didn't do it in vain because the situation needed it: the Church of Corinth had been shaken by different scandals and various disorders.

So, Paul's goal was: to discipline others, to censor, to exhort and to make order within the Corinthian assembly. Thus, Paul re-educates the Corinthians remembering them the base principles of sanctification and life in Christ.

Truly, although this church manifested many of the spiritual gifts, her members were but carnal and we see this from their problems such as:

- divisions and parties (1 Corinthians 1: 10-17);
- immorality, debauchery, incest, frivolity, compromise (1 Corinthians 5: 1-13);
- fights (1 Corinthians 6: 1-8);
- indulging and getting drunk at tables, especially during the Lord's Table (1 Corinthians 11: 17-34);
- cacophony during prayer meetings (1 Corinthians 14).

Chap. 14 of 1 Corinthians contains the famous passage forbidding the woman to talk due to the terrible disorder during the Corinthian cult. Paul reminds them with good reason that the purpose of assemblies must be the common edification. On the contrary, the assemblies of Corinth were like a big 'brouhaha' of discordant voices as while some were praying loudly and others were prophesying simultaneously, the women were chatting non-stop using a coarse and often obscene language when asking questions. This is indeed the idea given by the Greek word 'aeshron', meaning 'shameful, low, dishonouring.' This is the reason why Paul reminded those of this church that speaking in tongues doesn't build up those who listen unless there is someone able to translate. In the same way, if everybody says prophecies in the same time, nobody will understand anything and there will be no edification.

"What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church. If anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God. Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. For God is not a God of disorder but of Peace, like in all congregations of saints."

1 Corinthians 14: 26-33

Finally, gossips and unseemly a-propos/comments made by some ladies only aggravated the discorded and agitated atmosphere ruling in these assemblies. Concerning this subject, it is important to know that in Corinth there were several assemblies, where we have the expression 'like in all congregations of saints'. In fact, although Christians of all centuries and of all parts of the Earth are able to get a useful teaching from these writings, let's not forget that this letter was addressed to the Corinthians to put an end to the disorders that existed among them. It is worth to mention that in the original version of the Bible, in Greek, 1 Corinthians 14:34 states this: *"As in all the congregations of the saints, women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says."* Therefore, this regards the Corinthians wives and not all the Christian sisters generally speaking!

There is also another passage used to stop the women's ministry: *"A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent"*. 1 Timothy 2: 11-12

a) At first, let's us define what 'take authority' means. The word 'authority', 'authenteo' in Greek, means 'he who kills with his own hands another or himself', 'he who acts out of his own authority', 'an

autocrat', 'an absolute master'. In fact, God scorns the women animated by Jezebel's spirit, the wives who crushed their husbands by usurping their authority like dictators

b) Secondly, the word 'silence' comes from the Greek 'hesoushya' meaning 'with easiness, with passivity.' The Bible says that a wife who causes scandals and non-stop quarrels is unable to please God. "*Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife.*" Proverbs 21: 19

Unlike men, God seeks women who are beautiful inside; He doesn't look at 'what is outside', or at '**the exterior**'. "*Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. **Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewellery and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.** For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to make themselves beautiful. They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*" 1 Peter 3: 1-6

So, we must understand that a Christian woman must be sweet and a peacemaker, exactly the opposite of the scheming, violent and belligerent character of Jezebel.

c) Most people understand wrongly what **submission** is all about (the Greek work for it is 'hupotasso') - meaning the woman's submission towards man- and reject in block this idea (the idea of a woman being a teacher-n.tr.) which could appear machinist, even sexist.

On the contrary, the Bible asks the woman to be submitted to her husband and not to men (pastors -n.tr.) according to some; in the way the Church is submitted to Christ. This submission consists in accepting the leader's authority for the purpose of cooperation, of assuming responsibilities or, better said, of completing a task (sometimes of carrying a burden-n.tr.).

You must know that the Bible only speaks of one flowchart:

"Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." 1 Corinthians 11: 3

This hierarchy is not based on measuring the value of the wife or of husband (men in general), but is given only for the purpose of establishing an order.

A wife submitted to God will necessarily respect the order established by God, by submitting herself to her husband. Of course, this submission is limited to the standards/ principles fixed by God's Word. In other words, similarly to our right and duty to disobey laws legitimising unrighteousness (abortion, homosexuality...) the wife is not kept to obey her husband if this one asks her to do something which doesn't bring glory to the Lord.

When we read 1 Timothy 2: 12, we notice that Paul said: "***I do not permit** a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.*" In this verse, Paul is he who puts an interdiction and not God Himself. Of course Paul was surely led by the Holy Spirit when he said that, but we must not make a general rule out of this Biblical passage. We know that he was forced to use his apostolic authority to set an interdiction concerning a certain context: that of the Church of Ephesus.

Indeed, apostle Paul often gave advice regarding special situations- opinions that belonged to him and him alone: "*To the rest **I say this (I, not the Lord):** If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her.*" 1 Corinthians 7: 12

"A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is--and I think that I too have the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 7: 39-40.

What was the context of the Church of Ephesus which determined Paul to forbid women to teach? We have the answer in chapter 5 of 1 Timothy:

" No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan." 1 Timothy 5: 9-15

In this passage, Paul asks Timothy to refuse the consecration of young widows as widows and doing this he diminished their access to certain responsibilities in congregation – decision motivated by the fact that Paul noticed for sure the undignified behaviour of these young Ephesian ladies. These women were seeking rather to marry again and not God's Kingdom, *because when the sensual desire overcomes their dedication for Christ, they wanted to remarry and thus became guilty of having broken their first pledge; they were losing their first love for the Saviour!*

In addition, they were lazy and used to spend all their time wondering from house to house, in order to practise curse language and mix in other people's affairs: *" Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to", according to the Holy Scripture.*

Paul is thus forced to take decisions like the above one and to sanction these deviations due to this very special occasion. Taking into account the Ephesian women's behaviour, he forbids them to teach and he also recommends them to rather re-marry, be enrolled and learn discipline by being submitted to a new husband.

Again I must repeat that here it is a particular case which must not be considered as a Christian doctrine. Therefore, we shouldn't make the mistake of believing that God has forbidden women to teach or to exhort others, because truly if we read the Bible as a whole, the Scriptures prove to us the opposite.

Is it Possible for a Woman to Exhort, Teach and Preach in Church?

Those who claim the woman is not allowed to teach must ask themselves: how come we have women prophetesses in the Bible? Among many Biblical examples, we note:

- Maria, Aaron's and Moses' sister (Exodus 15: 20);
- Deborah, who was a judge in addition (Judges 4: 4);
- Huldah (2 Kings 22: 14);
- Hanna (Luke 2: 36);
- The four virgins of Phillip the Evangelist (Acts 21: 8-9).

How can then we explain the below Scripture passage which confirms the prophetic grace upon the female gender?

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." Joel 2: 28

In the Old Testament, the term mostly used for the verb 'to prophesise' is 'nabba' which means 'to prophesise under the Holy Spirit's influence'.

But, in the New Testament, the Greek verb 'profeteuo' is being used, verb which leads to the idea of 'speaking under divine inspiration, predicting and foreseeing future events' (especially about God's Kingdom), and also 'to communicate a message, to teach, to discipline, to correct, to console others.'

In the light of these definitions, we notice that the prophets don't only foretell the future, but also teachers. The Bible confirms that a woman can be anointed by God as a prophet and that she can consequently teach and exhort (meaning encourage towards sanctification etc.) in the Church.

"And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues." 1 Corinthians 12: 28

"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ."
Ephesians 4: 11-15

These two passages confirm that God Himself has established the prophets and thus the prophetesses and these ministries of God's Word contribute to the perfecting of saints, to the edification of Christ's Body and to strengthening Christians in the holy doctrine. In fact, the Bible gives us examples of women who helped in spreading the Gospel, such as:

- Priscilla, who worked for the Lord with her husband Aquila (Acts 18);
- Junias, Andronicus' wife. Together they were considered amongst the apostles (Romans 16: 7);
- Euodia and Syntyche, whom Paul presents as fighters for the Gospel (Philippians 4: 2-3);
- Phoebe, the Lords' servant (Romans 16: 1-2).

Therefore, undoubtedly God has offered ministries to women connected to the preaching of the Word. But, could they claim all the functions and responsibilities in Church? e

The Speciality of a Woman's Ministry in the Centre of the Family

As we have already seen, the woman is not to be kept silent in the assembly of saints. Like her husband, she has received as well the Holy Spirit, the spiritual gifts and that is why she is able to exhort and teach especially as part of a ministry regarding the Word. Nevertheless, it would be incorrect and false to say that the woman is able to exercise the same functions as the man in the midst of a Church. For instance, the apostolate and the leadership of local assemblies are reserved to men. Indeed, the New Testament doesn't talk about any woman being apostle or elder.

Are the women incapable of assuming such responsibilities? No, the problem is not here. God is not sexist, He asserts the same value for a woman as for a man. But He has created distinct roles and functions. From the beginning, the Lord has established the man as the leader and the woman as his helper/support. (Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:23). This order instituted by God is also applied in the midst of a family, as well as within the Church and regards the harmonious functioning of each family/ house and of Christ's Body.

The leaders (husbands, family fathers) and apostles, elders have the responsibility to set foundations, to build and to lead. But they can't reach these objectives alone. God has placed assistants beside men (wives, family mothers, the apostolic team and other ministries of the Word). Thus, in God's perfect plan, the wife is a helper, a support, a partner, a person whom he needs to consult with, an adviser. We

would be wrong to despise this role because if God has instituted it, He made it because He has found that woman is indispensable for man.

In conclusion, it is vital for all men to listen to their wives and of course, for the elders, too to take the necessary time to consult with virtuous spouses of the assembly they lead.

Inside a woman's home, God has given as well great responsibilities to her. Surely, she is the heart and the spinal column of a home, for the simple reason that the well-functioning of a home depends upon her. (Proverbs 31:27)

"Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God." Tit 2: 3-5

This Biblical passage enlightens further us into the woman's role and especially within a marriage. God's Word tells us that young wives must in particular learn to love their husbands and children and look after their houses' needs. Why?

I) Firstly, because **the woman has been created for the man and not the other way around** (1 Corinthians 11:7-9). She is not destined to assume a leader's responsibility, but rather to be a helper for her husband.

This support doesn't limit uniquely to the house chores, but it can also manifest through *collaboration within a divine ministry*, such as the example of Aquila and his wife Priscilla. (Acts 18). Priscilla manifested the gift/grace of teaching the Scriptures because the Bible states that she contributed to strengthen Apollo in the holy doctrine.

Being married to Aquila, she has fully played the helping role; she was able to manifest the fruits of an apostle within the common work/ministry led by her husband – apostle who planted many churches in Europe and Asia.

II) Secondly, **the woman is the one who gives life**. So, we can't dissociate the wife status of that of a mother. The wife is the indispensable chain for the balance of her family: her husband and her children need her.

The Bible tells that: *"If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* 1 Timothy 5: 8

Therefore, Yahweh offered to each woman a specific ministry in the middle of her family. It is a grace (blessing) and also a great responsibility which are incompatible and can't be cumulated with the function of apostle or elder which request lots of energy and availability.

Surely God wants the winning of souls and is concerned about the spiritual growth of assemblies. However let's not forget that Yeshoua Himself is there where two or three are gathered in His Name! , (Matthew 18:20) And the family is made out of minimum two persons! And sometimes three if the couple has a baby.

So, the family is FOUNDATION of Church and of society!

Today, the status of a wife in her home lost much of its value, in fact is undervalued by society. Truly, while the feminist movements have brought many benefices for women by gaining the same rights as men, advantages such as: integrity, law, civil rights, in the educative and especially

professional fields, however the feminism gave birth to abominations of which the most serious remains the legality of abortion.

In addition, the fight for equality between sexes took a perverse turn with the wish to annihilate the obvious differences between women and men.

In the end, the feminist movement has both minimized and despised the essential role a woman has as a family mother, for the benefit of an active, career-focused woman who competes with her husband and with the opposite gender in general; this kind of a woman acts this way in order to prove she is as good as he is – particularly on the professional level.

Our society of consume emphasises this tendency of endless excitation towards satisfying people's lust and greed. However, not only do we work harder and longer hours for our essential needs, but we are also assaulted from all directions with a huge number of advertisements which excite our spirits into buying a superflux of products and services. And while this race for material goods crosses all limits, the man and his wife are spending more and more time at work than home, trying to enlarge at maximum their bank account instead of looking after their children.

In France, a woman after giving birth must start her professional activity immediately after three months, which causes much sadness and anxiety (in Australia only 3 weeks by some private companies-n.tr.). In fact, since a very early age children are entrusted to complete strangers and they are raised and educated by other persons than their parents. Then let's not be surprised that there are so many sordid deeds (suicides, murders, rapes, and delinquency in general.) that involve children and teenagers, because the family belonging is missing in many homes and is thus needed much more in our society.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. " Proverbs 22: 6.

"Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender, and an only child of my mother, he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live. Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or swerve from them." Proverbs 4: 1-5.

Sadly, many Christians are seduced by the way of life led by the world, by non-Christians and thus , they let their children become the prey of a diabolic wisdom and of a philosophy of unrighteousness.

Dear brothers and sisters, times are hard, we must return to priorities. Due to man's fall, man used to reign over woman...but through Jesus 'sacrifice, we are not under the law anymore: the man must love his wife not like a tyrant, but like an equal partner –through self-sacrifice to which we are all called. In Him there is no man, nor woman, nor white, nor black, nor young, nor old, we all, indeed, are one, a single body in Christ. Let's seek firstly God's Kingdom and His justice and stop running after nonsenses. I invite you to discuss in your couple these problems and ask yourselves is your way of life correct, in order to let mothers stay as long as possible near your children. We must watch to instruct the children the Lord's will in order to teach them the fear of God – thing necessary for salvation.

Before it all, a wife must be always available for her family- this is her first ministry!

A ministry which requires all her time in a local assembly or in the Body of Christ can't be considered before her children gain autonomy or without her husband's consent (exception: celibate ladies and widows).

"There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was 84. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying." Luke 2: 36-37

"An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband." 1 Corinthians 7: 34

"No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds." 1 Timothy 5: 9-10

CONCLUSION

"Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations-- 'He will rule them with an iron sceptre; he will dash them to pieces like pottery' --just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 2: 24-29

According to this passage, there were Christians in Thyatira who refused Jezebel's doctrine. We too we must rise up and belong to those who don't bend their knees before this unclean spirit.

The only acceptable solution for this crucial problem: Jezebel is the shielding from her pernicious and harmful influence or the complete, net and uncompromised separation from her. (1 Corinthians 15: 33) However, if you are married to one person who has this spirit, know that it is not a Biblical reason to get divorced. You must pray to the Lord both for Him to have mercy on you and also to protect you so you won't fall into her/his traps.

Jezebel's victims must be helped very carefully, with immense love and patience so they could be brought back to healing, to freedom and finally to service.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3: 20-22

Christ is not in many churches anymore (we see He's outside the church after Acts chap. 2), but He stays at the door of the church and especially at the door of hearts.

While we live in the time when the Church of Laodicea is fully here - a materialistic, earthly church, who rejected the Lord completely from her midst, there is still **a people** who hasn't bowed his knees before Jezebel. During different missions I have personally met many men and women who sigh sincerely for the pure Gospel and for the Lord Yeshoua's Return. These persons have physically and spiritually got out of the systems administered by Jezebel. God uses them as trumpets to wake those asleep.

We are all called to take a stand for the Gospel of Christ and denounce sin, compromise and the seductions of this century.

Forming political parties to bring spiritual revival only causes confusion. God doesn't need a certain human organisation to fulfil His projects. Let's remember Uzza who wanted to help God by holding the Arch of the covenant about to fall. He fell down dead in an instant. (2 Samuel 6: 1-11). No Christian of the primitive church created a political party; nor was he involved thus way in witnessing Christ. Paul was relying on the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel and not on human wisdom. (1 Corinthians 2: 4)

The Lord is imparting more and more **Elijah's spirit** over people to confront Jezebel to same way this prophet did in 1 Kings 17, 18 and 19. Most of these people come out of nowhere and don't enjoy fame; they don't use a religious system or organisation to prop them up. Their message bring restoration for those assemblies set according the Biblical pattern by spreading the true message of the cross, of sanctification, of the Saviour's imminent return and denounce the gospel of prosperity served today in many corrupt churches. Of course, many of these persons are persecuted, others even killed in different ways, imprisoned, rejected etc.

Such as **the heroes of faith** mentioned in Hebrews 11, these men and women will be animated by the spirit of Elijah, they will be lonely, undressed of what is worldly and will go for here and there; they will wonder in deserts, mountains, valleys, simply dressed, living without artifices, but always walking in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring people to repentance and to God.

They will be passionate with Christ and animated by the heaven's vision.