

The Nature of Our Enemy

Spiritual war insights for
Indian River County.

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. Ephesians 5:11

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Forward

Pastor Buddy Tipton

When I first read this research Jon Hamilton has written concerning the history of the Indian River and the Indians, my spirit immediately bore witness.

I know these events have had a deep and strong spiritual impact on this area.

When I read this, I also knew that the spirits (evil) would not be happy.

We need to recognize these spirits, take authority, and armed with this knowledge steam ahead full-throttle.

I have known Jon Hamilton for ten years and I have a lot of confidence in his spiritual acumen. I believe God has directed him in this exposure of the enemy.

We need to listen to him.

Pastor Buddy Tipton
Senior Pastor, Central Assembly of God
December, 1999

Introduction

To the brothers and sisters God has called to leadership in the Indian River area of Florida:

I submit the following to you that you might prayerfully consider if these things bear witness to you in the Spirit and are confirmed in your experiences. I am hopeful that there are others who will also step forward and share similar things God is showing to them, in order that we might mutually be strengthened, encouraged, and edified and thus develop strategies to wage warfare in the Spirit.

As uncomfortable as we all may be with it, the language of the Spirit is *not* English. God reveals things many times in part through pictures, words and impressions. A word of knowledge is often just that, a single word breathed into our spirits. We always question ourselves at the time asking "Is that God, or is that just my own thoughts?" Later, after the fact, we usually find out it was indeed God. We look back on our lives with God and see His hand leading every step. At the time we questioned, now we know.

Moses asked God for a sign that what he was hearing was really the voice of God. God told him that the sign he would give would be "after you have done these things you will worship me on this mountain." In other words, after it's *all over with*, you'll know it was me directing you! (OUCH!)

For today, we must have faith, take a risk, and believe we have been directed by God. This is where I find myself.

Jon Hamilton
January 1, 2000

one
Wrestling With Powers

The Bible describes a battle once warred between an angel sent to Daniel in Babylon and the demonic p̄nc̄e that ruled over the nation at that time. This prince was no human ruler, but a spirit personality, a vassal of Satan. This personality held influence over the *specific geographic area* ruled by Persia.

If you v̄ ever traveled through parts of the Appalachians, you may have sensed a sp̄irit òf poverty. I don t 'mean you just noticed people were poor, you *felt* something that hung in the atmosphere. Or perhaps you v̄ traveled to Washington D.C. and felt that heaviness, a spirit of deception that seems to live inside the beltway. Different geographic places seem to have different demonic strongholds attached to them. These are often reflected in the community as characteristics of the residents.

We seldom sense the demonic strongholds in our own backyards. Why? The reason is these spiritual strongholds have become familiar to us. They seem to be a part of our everyday normal lives. Unfortunately, these powers and traits often seep into the local believers, and Christians can be blind to them.

In Ephesians 6:12 we read

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

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The Nature of Our Enemy

According to the scriptures, there is an unseen realm around us that is not flesh and blood. There are rulers that the King James Version calls 'principalities.' These rulers seem to be Satan's delegated authority in a given area. They work in conjunction with 'powers.' These powers might be described as streams of particular types of wickedness which soak into the people of an area. These work together with a host of disembodied spirit beings we call 'demons,' which dwell in the unseen realm, or heavenly places that surround us.

The Bible also speaks of the gift of discerning of spirits. This gift is defined as the ability to sense either what God is doing in a particular person or setting, or what Satan's forces are doing in a person or setting. I believe most Christians receive these messages from the Holy Spirit far more often than they will admit. *When most American Christians have discernment experiences, they shrug them off and assume it is their imagination.* We have been programmed to dismiss anything supernatural, and in doing so we often miss the truths that the Holy Spirit dwelling in us is communicating.

I suspect many others have been caused to know certain things about the nature of the local battles we fight. But for me, it started as a dream

two

The Dreams

In my dream I walked along a graveled pathway through a wood of old sea oaks. They formed a canopy overhead that seemed to block out much of the daylight. The gnarled old trees gave occasional passage to a brief glint of sunlight, which revealed some rather large spider webs appearing to be woven everywhere beneath the canopy of trees. The spiders were much larger than the usual backyard variety, and I took care to avoid walking into the few webs that came close to my pathway.

On the gravel before my feet, a few black snakes slithered across the walkway. Despite their presence, I continued down the path into the woods. I was intrigued. I didn't recognize this place at all. Where was I?

I noticed a few concrete picnic tables beneath the oaks and thought, "I am in a park of some sort." I listened, and heard the crashing of the surf nearby. I reasoned I must be near the beach.

The dimly lit woods "smelled" of an ancient evil, a sin of old. Something bad had happened here. Something long ago. Here something unclean felt comfortable, welcome, secure. For some reason, this place was important.

I awakened.

A few months after moving to Vero Beach in 1991, this dream became a recurring experience. For the first few years I lived here, it would visit me every few months. Always the same, the dream would end as suddenly as it arrived.

Although in the past I had been skeptical of certain Christians who claim to be continually led by dreams, I realized that the Bible certainly allows for dreams to be from the Lord. So when the dream became a regular one, I started to ask questions.

One day (in 1993 or '94) I decided to go looking for a park that matched my dream. Reasoning that perhaps this dream park was a real place, I drove along A1A from the St. Lucie County line to just north of County road 510, getting out to look at every park near a beach. None matched. Feeling foolish, and assured the dream was merely symbolic, I gave up my search. The dreams continued. Time passed.

The Discovery

In May of 1995, I was planning a broadcast promotion called "The Great Treasure Hunt." The promotion played on local history, and some of our preparation required driving around hiding treasure keys near historical sites. The location of one key was along Jungle Trail, a local historical route. As Brad Bacon drove us to the northern limit of the trail where it intersected A1A (near Windsor), we turned south to return to Vero. I suddenly noticed a park on the east side of the road I had never noticed before. I hadn't thought about the dream in some months, but on an impulse I asked Brad to turn around and pull into the park.

I sheepishly told Brad about the silly dream as we turned around and headed back. I asked him to drive to the north end of the park and we got out of the car. When I saw the gravel path, my heart started to pound. This was the place! *It was real.* I cannot begin to describe the sense of déjà vu.

The Nature of Our Enemy

I walked down the graveled path into the wooded area. It was exactly as I dreamed it, except no snakes crossed my path. Even the spider webs were real. (I was surprised park maintenance did not clear them.) As the reality of this experience began to set in, I sensed an intense presence of God within me.

Drawn to the far north side of the wooded area, I stood on a mound of earth beneath an old oak. I felt compelled to pray, to speak out loud, to prophesy with a loud voice. **Oh Lord I cried. Reveal to us those things that are hidden! Let the strongholds that no one thinks can be torn down be exposed! ”**

The words just formed in my mouth. I don t believe I knew what they meant. **Oh Lord, I call to you a second time! I yelled even louder. Reveal to us those things that are hidden! Let the strongholds that no one thinks can be torn down be exposed! ”**

If Brad was caught off guard by my behavior, he didn t show it. He kept his head bowed and prayed along with me. **Oh Lord, I will cry to you a third time! Reveal to us those things that are hidden! Let the strongholds that no one thinks can be torn down be exposed! ”**

I started to cry out a fourth time, but felt immediately constrained. There was no unction. The words would not form in my mouth. I was done.

I was quickly ready to leave. The woods suddenly looked quite ordinary to me. We left, and said little to each other on the drive back to the station. I told very few people about the experience, just a few close friends and my pastors.

Over the next few weeks I asked a few long-time locals I met if they were aware of any historical significance to this park. None were aware of any. I assumed the experience would make sense in time, and put it out of my mind.

A Revealing Visit

Some weeks later, a man whom I regard as a true prophetic voice came to visit. Steve Thompson, of Morningstar Publications, is an old friend of many years. He occasionally visits to unwind here in Vero Beach and play a few holes of golf with Buddy Tipton.

On this visit, Steve had a dream. He became aware of a thief outside of the cottage where he slept. He arose to give chase, but the thief always managed to remain hidden in the shadows where Steve could not get a good look. Steve noticed that he held a gun in his hand. It contained three bullets. Firing all his bullets, he managed to wound the thief and steal a quick but positive look at him from out of the shadows.

Buddy had invited Steve to speak the following weekend at Central Assembly. As Steve began to preach, he seemed to be hesitant, straining at every word. (This was quite uncharacteristic.) He seemed to stop mid-message, then after a long, awkward pause, he abruptly began to speak with a great deal of force and authority.

Steve began to describe what he saw as a prominent *principality* over our area. He described it as an *intimidating spirit of control*. This spirit, he declared, seeks to intimidate, control, and dominate all those under its influence. Steve specifically spoke of this spirit's efforts to control and limit the Church and her growth. It says to all, especially Christians "thus far you may go, but no more!" Furthermore, Steve described it as having been here for a very long time.

As Steve spoke, it seemed to those present as if a veil was removed from overhead. Some described the feeling as if

The Nature of Our Enemy

sunglasses were removed from our eyes. We suddenly knew something about our enemy that had been hidden from us before. This spirit had preferred to remain in the shadows, manipulating spirits and circumstances, but now it had been identified. An immediate freedom seemed to fill the room.

However, after a few days, all seemed normal, and the message was largely forgotten by many of us.

Another Strange ...

Some weeks later, Steve and I spoke by phone. I began to tell him for the first time of the story of the park dream, but, before I could, he stopped me, and began to describe the park to me with specific detail. It turns out that during a previous visit to Vero, Steve had been driving around, and felt drawn to that very park. I related the rest of the story, my later discovery, and triple prayer. He reminded me that in his dream revealing the spirit of control, he had *three* bullets in his gun.

This entire story is something we have rarely spoken of, and virtually nothing was made public. Frankly, there was little of a practical nature to tell. We had a few confirmations from certain area leaders acknowledging the existence of a control spirit, "but we felt that we needed more wisdom before suggesting any united action. I, for one, wanted to avoid being presumptuous. We may have authority to cast out demons, but principalities are something to be wrestled with" (Ephesians 6.) Besides, I still did not know the significance of the park. It represented a piece of the puzzle we did not have. So we waited.

Recently this puzzle piece was finally given to us.

The Chief Village of the Ais

Four years to the week after my discovery of the park, (May 1999), I was once again researching for 'The Great Treasure Hunt .' This time I planned to research the Native American cultures occupying our area prior to European settlement. Specifically, I wanted to research the *Ais*, a fierce tribe that ruled the Indian River for hundreds of years.

Since I had heard there was an Ais Indian exhibit at the McClarty Museum near Sebastian Inlet, I took a drive up to see it. As I looked for historical trivia useful to our contest, I began to peruse the museum exhibits and displays. My eyes fell upon a particular display that offered several pages of information. In the middle of a discussion about archeological finds, I noticed a paragraph describing the location of the capitol village of the Ais culture.

Suddenly my heart skipped a beat. I had to read it again. According to the exhibit, *the heart of Ais culture was centered precisely at the park I had been drawn to years before!* (I later confirmed this through several historical sources.) The area, used for various parks, now owned by Indian River County, was covered with Indian mounds. Archeologists had long identified this unmarked area as the strategic capitol of this ancient people.

More importantly, it was here that the very Indians from whom the Indian River derived its name, concentrated their rituals, religion and pagan practices. *God had led me to the historic high place of pagan darkness.* This was the secret of the park area!

The Connection

I now believe that God gave this dream, as well as later information, to reveal to us the nature of certain unseen demonic forces specific to this area. **There is a connection between the cultures and events of the past, and the spiritual wickedness we are presently battling!**

I believe the Lord revealed this information that we might pray, repent, intercede, and do warfare with the unclean spirits that hinder the work of God in the Indian River region of Florida.

What does the past have to do with us?

Some might ask, Why does it matter what happened back then? They were not MY sins. They were the sins of another people. ”

It might be important to remember the example of Israel. As they prepared to enter the Promised Land, God strongly warned Israel to avoid the sins of the people who previously lived in the land of Canaan. Even though, in almost every case, the native people were completely wiped out, Israel still began to behave in the sinful manner these nations! Israel adopted the cultural and religious habits of people they had virtually no contact with! Ultimately, it was not the sins of Egypt or the Gods of Egypt that Israel fell before. *Israel fell before the indigenous evil of the land into which they moved.* Those unclean things were there in wait, desiring to trip up God's people.

Later, under Nehemiah, Israel confessed and repented of the sins of their ancestors, just as if they were their own. They did this in order to cleanse the land from the curse.

Interestingly, this principle was *not* lost on the early pilgrims who came to Plymouth Rock. Their records indicate *they specifically prayed for victory against the demonic forces that were native to the land*. They saw their presence as an incursion into a land controlled by demonic princes accustomed to worship by the indigenous peoples.¹ To the best of our knowledge, *no such foundation was ever laid in the State of Florida*. At the time Florida became an U.S. territory, the republic's Christian heritage was taken for granted.

What information about our enemy's tactics can be learned from the people of our past?

I decided to learn.

¹ Peter Marshall and David Manual *The Light and The Glory*
(Westwood: Fleming H. Revell Company 1977)

three
The River of the Ais

Soon after Spain discovered the New World, early Spanish explorers began calling our area *Rio de Los Ais*, or River of the Ais. Hence the English called it the Indian River.

Of the Indians that once ruled these coastal waters, little is known. They are shrouded in mystery for a variety of reasons. Contacts with Spaniards were minimal during the years Spain claimed Florida. Available historical data must be translated from old archives located in Spain, and much of this work has only recently been done. Sometimes these historical sources are vague on specific details. Very few archeological surveys have been performed locally. Add to this the fact that, like most archeological areas of study, experts interpret the same finds differently.

Nevertheless, certain evidence is apparent. Man has lived and thrived in our area for thousands of years.

The Mother People

The fierce Ais ruled the area we call the Indian River for most of this millennium, up until the 1700 s.' Their lands stretched from present day Cape Canaveral /Titusville to Hobe Sound. The name Ais 'is believed to mean "mother"²," perhaps a reference to some deity. Some suggest the lagoon may have been worshipped as a "mother ."The Ais language was quite

² Charles D. Higgs "Spanish Colonial Contacts with the Ais " The Florida Historical Quarterly Volume XXI, Number 1 July 1942

different in structure than any other Florida tribe. Some believe the Ais were offshoots of the Mayans or Aztecs of Central America because of similarities in language.³ There have also been archeological finds that support this hypothesis.

Giants in the Land

One discovery that occasionally has been reported, is the finding of the skeletal remains of unusually tall men. Archeological digs in our immediate area have, on at least two occasions, yielded bones described as unusually large.⁴ One archeologist described a people of considerable stature and massive constitution.”⁵Based on the size of the bones recovered, *suggestions of height in excess of eight feet tall have been made.* This would, of course, imply a race of giants when compared to most humans of the same era. It is unclear whether these were Ais, another rival people, or an even earlier unknown race. Other digs find humans of normal heights.

One dig in Micco revealed a burial ground in which all heads faced east. This is indicative of worship of celestial objects (moon, sun, stars, etc.) Numerous recovered artifacts have been identified as religious fetishes of an unknown significance.

³ Dr. Eugene Lyon , Interview With Dr. Eugene Lyon Author s' recorded interview, October 6, 1999. Vero Beach, FL: WSCF-FM
Authors Note: Dr. Lyon holds his doctorate in Latin-American History and is a specialist in the sixteenth century Spanish presence in North America. For thirteen years he directed the Center for Historic Research at Flagler College.

⁴ Irving Rouse A Survey of Indian River Archeology, Florida (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951) pp. 105-106

⁵ Ibid. pp. 275

The Nature of Our Enemy

Control Through Fear

Early Spanish explorers described the Ais as extremely warlike and hostile.⁶ One close observer called them s̄domites, sacrificers of souls to the devil in ancient ceremonies .”⁷ Others, including Jonathan Dickinson, ⁸ referred to them as cannibals. Archeological finds have suggested this possibility as well.⁹ Spanish records indicate that shipwrecked souls were regularly captured and offered as human sacrifices in elaborate Ais ceremonies.¹⁰ The Ais were also known to have sacrificed their own children in ceremonies. ¹¹ The Ais coast was generally avoided and great care was taken when travel through the area was required.

Spain was nevertheless a force of great power. After entire Spanish crews were captured and killed in ritual ceremonies,

⁶ Charles D. Higgs Spanish Colonial Contacts with the Ais ”
The Florida Historical Quarterly , Volume XXI, Number 1 July 1942

⁷ Jeanette Thurber Conner Colonial Records of Spanish Florida Vol. 1
(Deland, FL. 1925)
Author s note: Comments by Pedro Menendez de Aviles

⁸ Jonathan Dickinson Jonathan Dickinson s Journal, or God s’
Protecting Providence ...
(Port Salerno, FL.: Florida Classics Library, 1985)
*Author s note: Dickinson was taken captive and lived with the Ais for a
period of time, then was released. His Journal, an American classic, offers
us one of the few first hand accounts of life among the Ais.*

⁹ Irving Rouse A Survey of Indian River Archeology, Florida
(New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951) pp. 118

¹⁰ Dr. Eugene Lyon , Interview With Dr. Eugene Lyon Author s’
recorded interview, October 6, 1999. Vero Beach, FL: WSCF-FM

¹¹ Douglas R. Armstrong, Interview with Douglas R. Armstrong
Author s’ recorded interview, October 8, 1999. Vero Beach, FL: WSCF-
FM

Spain responded with punitive action. After these bloody altercations with the Ais, generally there would follow a short period of cooperation between the Ais and the Spanish. The Ais would quickly return to their old ways, however, and the cycle would repeat.

The Ais maintained firm control of the Indian River and adapted quickly to the presence of Spanish shipping by becoming raiders of disabled ships. According to some reports, they were also guilty of piracy. Treasure salvaging became ingrained as part of the culture, and they adorned themselves lavishly with gold and silver.

Lifestyle

The Ais were described as being rich in silver and gold, hoarding vast quantities of riches on present day Orchid Island. Their leaders were said to be worth millions of dollars or over ¹². English observers agreed that the Ais were quite wealthy. Gold and silver they want not ... ¹³

The Ais lifestyle was somewhat unusual among Native American cultures. According to Johnathan Dickinson, they were in no way horticultural. Dickinson said "These people neither plant nor sow any manner of thing whatsoever, nor care for anything but what the barren sand produces ."

Apparently they worked little, planting nothing and lived only upon what they gathered, largely from the river. Unlike many Native American cultures that honored their elders, the Ais despised them, instead honoring the young and powerful.

¹² Fontaneda, Memorial de las costas y cosas y indios de la Florida trans. Buckingham Smith (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1944)

¹³ Sir Clements Robert Markham, The Hawkins Voyages (London: The Hakluyt Society, 1878)

The Nature of Our Enemy

Dickinson described the elderly and children as being enslaved to do all the work while the young, strong leaders pursued pleasurable activities.

The Ais were unique in that they managed to keep Spain at arm's length, thus maintaining a closed society. Based on a number of accounts, it seems the Ais were a defiant culture, whose leaders were consumed with personal indulgence.

The Ais have been described as having sufficient leisure to afford active religious life¹⁴. Their religion was one of dramatic ceremonies and spell casting shamans. Certain areas were maintained as temples or ritual areas, and virtually every village had at least two recognized priests in residence. These priests were said to be able to predict future events while in trances. Jonathan Dickinson witnessed an elaborate, frenzied ceremony in which the moon appeared to be honored.

The Ais were not to be dominated by either the Spanish, or the Catholic faith. On one occasion, an Ais Cacique (chief) agreed to be baptized at St. Augustine, but the act proved to be merely an appeasement of the Spanish. Unlike many Native American cultures that came to embrace Christianity, the Ais were never successfully reached. Attempts at establishing missions among the Ais were abandoned as fruitless and dangerous. Indeed, it appears that to the end, the Ais remained hardened. In 1743, in one of the last recorded mentions of Ais Indians, Spanish priests came upon an Ais group preparing to celebrate a peace treaty with the sacrifice of a child.¹⁵ When priests attempted to stop the sacrifice, the Ais asked, "Why should we become Christians, since you haven't brought us any liquor to drink?"

¹⁴ Eugene Lyon, More light on the Indians of the Ays Coast (St. Augustine: St Augustine Center for Historic Research 1967)

¹⁵ Irving Rouse A Survey of Indian River Archeology, Florida (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1951)

Modern speculation about the Ais demise usually centers on disease. Eyewitness reports of the Ais latter days described rampant alcoholism and sexually transmitted disease. Syphilis was reportedly a major killer, and certain archeological finds have supported this testimony.¹⁶ It would appear that in addition to any European sicknesses, they may have drunk and pleased themselves into extinction. By the time of the American Revolution, the Ais had disappeared.

¹⁶ Ibid.

four
Sins of the Fathers

The Park

As I mentioned previously, the Lord drew my attention to a particular area near a county park. What historical evil happened there? Several possibilities exist. Since this was clearly the capital city of the Ais nation for a considerable period of time (expeditions in 1565 and again in 1609 both record its location as near here),¹⁷ it is quite possible the significance is simply related to the demonic practices of the native peoples. We are fairly certain human sacrifices were performed with regularity here. As descendants of the Maya or Aztec, the Ais came from a race of high level occultic practitioners with whom human sacrifice and visible demonic manifestations of power were normal practice.

I believe it may also be significant that *an attempt to establish a Christian presence here was aborted*. A mission referred to as St Augustine of the Ais was reportedly begun at or very near this location, but was quickly abandoned as too dangerous and labor intensive. Indeed, it was suggested by Don Pedro Menendez that the Ais were impossible to convert and should simply be enslaved or wiped out.¹⁸ St. Augustine of the Ais gave up its opportunity to establish a Christian

¹⁷ Douglas R. Armstrong, French Castaways at Old Cape Canaveral (Palm Bay: Douglas R. Armstrong, 1996)

Author's Note: Armstrong identifies the site of the Ais capitol as near the presently closed county property formerly known as Amber Sands Park. According to Armstrong, the Ais inlet ran just south of Amber Sands, and developments were on both sides of the narrow inlet. On the south side of the inlet (the approximate area of Treasure Shores Park) signs of 16th century European influence were found among the Ais mounds. This includes coins minted in Mexico during the period of Menendez influence among the Ais. Is this evidence of St. Augustine of the Ais, the abandoned missionary attempt?

¹⁸ Jeanette Thurber Conner Colonial Records of Spanish Florida Vol. 1 (Deland, FL. 1925)

presence, and the Ais were NEVER later converted. Could it be that the Church yielded her authority?

There is also another connection to a past evil.

The Slaughter

Pedro Menendez, the Spanish Captain, made the formal Spanish contact with the Ais at this capital town. He made this contact while in the midst of a bloody pursuit of a group of Huguenots.

The Huguenots were French followers of John Calvin, Protestants, and devoted Christians. The Huguenots were legendary for their spiritual depth and maturity. The very first attempt to make a permanent European settlement in Florida was made by a group of Huguenots seeking religious freedom. They had fled Europe in the midst of the Reformation. These Christians established a community near present day Jacksonville. They attempted to do in Florida, what the pilgrim separatists later did at Plymouth Rock.

Spain had shown little interest in farming Florida, and by 1565, had not attempted a colonial settlement. Primarily, Spain wanted Florida in order to maintain Spanish shipping lanes from lucrative South America. However, Spanish Admiral Don Pedro Menendez was greatly agitated when he heard of the settlement. Menendez's objection wasn't the presence of a few French settlers. Menendez was furious because these settlers were *Protestants*. Keep in mind, Europe was in the midst of the Reformation at this time. Relations between Protestants and Catholics in France were especially torn, and

The Nature of Our Enemy

Spain was in the midst of the Spanish Inquisition. This created a highly volatile atmosphere.

A battle between Catholic Spanish and French Protestant forces began at sea, then moved to land. Most of the Huguenots escaped south, near St. Augustine. Although it is generally believed the French could have out gunned the Spanish, Pedro Menendez was a master of intimidation. He convinced the Huguenots that the battle was lost already, and the Huguenots agreed to surrender. Menendez promised them mercy.

Instead of mercy, Menendez gave them a choice: Swear loyalty to the Pope or die. Most of the Huguenots steadfastly refused to deny their faith. Menendez began a bloodbath, slaughtering men, women, and children. He hung bodies from palms with signs that read "Not as Frenchmen, but as Lutherans. "The beach would become known as the place of slaughter. "Menendez then established the Spanish fort of St Augustine.

A smaller group of Huguenots had sailed further south to the present day Space Coast, just at the border of Ais territory. Menendez gave pursuit. He arranged a deal with the Ais leaders to learn the location of the hiding Huguenots. Parading in a captured French uniform, Menendez taunted and intimidated the remaining Huguenots out into the open. It is unclear how many were killed here. The indications are that he temporarily spared at least 50 of these remaining Huguenots as captives. Recent archaeological evidence uncovered by Douglas R. Armstrong proved that others escaped capture and remained in the Cape area.¹⁹

¹⁹ Douglas R. Armstrong, French Castaways at Old Cape Canaveral (Palm Bay: Douglas R. Armstrong, 1996)

Eventually, the 50 captured Huguenots (likely women and children) were taken south to the capital town of the Ais. They were left marooned with 150 Spanish soldiers who had been instructed to establish a fort. The soldiers rebelled, and the entire group headed south. Historians traditionally have had difficulty pinpointing the exact fate of the 50 captured Huguenots. However, Dr. Eugene Lyon's recent translations of ancient Spanish records may have finally solved the mystery. A surviving soldier gave certain testimony that the group of soldiers, faced with starvation, turned to cannibalism and ate the few remaining French believers.²⁰ This appears to have been the sad end of the remaining Huguenots.

In any event, it is clear that among the first European settlers to Florida were French Christians seeking freedom. Instead, they found a bloody death at the hands of a tyrant who was unwilling to give up an inch of territory to those who would not accept papal control. This holy war blazed a path right through the very park area I have noted. Florida's first evangelical presence was literally devoured along our beaches.

How ironic that the first years of Florida settlement by Europeans were marked by Christian blood spilled in the name of Christ. How sad that murder, terror, fear, religious hate, and even cannibalism of Christians marked the introduction of Christianity to Florida.

I believe these events have affected the spiritual environment of eastern Florida, including Indian River.

²⁰ Dr. Eugene Lyon , Interview With Dr. Eugene Lyon Author's recorded interview, October 6, 1999. (Vero Beach, FL: WSCF-FM)

five

The Demonic Forces We Now Battle

If we can review what we know about the character of the Ais, let's remember the following characteristics:

- **They were controlling, dominating, closed, and intimidating.**
- **They hoarded wealth on Orchid Island (specifically the John's Island and Windsor areas!)**
- **They worked little, and lived for momentary pleasure.**
- **They despised the weak, forcing them to gather food, that the young and strong might pursue pleasure and perversion.**
- **Their demonic worship involved human sacrifices, honor of the moon, and their name denotes worship of some sort of "mother."**
- **They pleased and drank themselves to extinction.**

These are important points to recall as we now examine our own times.

Pleasure Seeking

There is no question that our area experiences a demonic power of pleasure seeking. The effects of this spirit are especially evident among our young people. After all, when tens of thousands of people throng year after year to an area to enjoy themselves, can the spiritual climate remain unaffected?

However, this stronghold might *be more than a modern problem*. Certainly the Ais were regarded as sexually perverse and given to indulgences. They loved their vices.

Could this be merely coincidental?

Greed

How interesting that the Ais leaders were regarded as wealthy hoarders of gold and treasure. How strange that the exclusive areas where our most wealthy residents live today were also the areas most associated with the Ais leaders.

However, I believe both pleasure seeking and greed are merely powers that serve a much larger force:

Control and Intimidation

As previously mentioned, coastal Florida was once home to men over 8 feet tall, in a time when most men were slightly over 5 feet tall. From a Biblical perspective, we know that giant races certainly have existed in the past. Interestingly, in the Bible giants were always associated with *intimidation* of God's people. Consider Numbers 13, in which an entire nation became frightened and discouraged when a report of giants was made. We know Goliath kept Israel paralyzed by his taunts.

The Nature of Our Enemy

The Ais managed to maintain a closed society in the face of the world's greatest power. Spanish mariners feared the cruelty of the Ais, and avoided these shores whenever possible. Their weapon was *intimidation*.

We might also speculate as to what role Captain Menendez played in strengthening this stronghold of control and intimidation. It has amazed researchers that Menendez so easily managed to frighten the better-gunned Huguenots into surrender and death. The religious war of terror and fear Menendez helped unleash on these shores stained our beaches with blood that still cries out.

This is not new information. Over the years, many have sensed a dark demonic spirit of control and intimidation lording over our area. Prayer warriors and intercessors have often reported sensing this presence.

How this Spirit Manifests

This spirit considers itself to be the prevailing authority in this area. How it manifests depends upon the circumstances.

From a civic perspective, the tight control a few wealthy Orchid Island dwellers have historically held upon the reigns of local government may reflect this spiritual influence. Few places in the country have the tightly controlled growth that Vero Beach has. In Vero, change, of any kind, has been historically despised by those in power.

In the church, this spirit attacks to destroy the vision of God's people, making them agree to remain content with the status quo. *How many men of God have attempted a work for Christ locally, only to be bombarded with depression, loss of vision, anxiety, discouragement, and heaviness?* These are the key weapons of this spirit of intimidation. Whenever a church is experiencing a move of God, an advance of God's Kingdom

The Nature of Our Enemy

or a harvest, this control spirit immediately moves into place sowing suspicion, division and pride.

In our area, *the enemy's forces have been determining the boundaries of the Church* for generations. When the men and women of God begin to threaten the borders, the intimidator roars.

This local principality may also be called by another name, *Jezebel*. Like Jezebel of old, this spirit opposes true spiritual authority, and through threats and fear brings discouragement to the Elijahs locally. Some, like Elijah, have found themselves running for cover crying, "Lord, just take my life!" Since I consider this likening to Jezebel to be *critical* (and something God has prophetically revealed), I will discuss Jezebel in more detail in the next section.

I might also liken this spirit of intimidation to well known giant: Goliath. In the Hebrew, Goliath's name was a threat. It literally means to de-nude or strip naked. It invokes images of conquered armies, stripped naked and forced to parade through their captor's cities. In more modern imagery, we might picture emaciated Jews stripped naked, marching to their death to Nazi showers. Goliath stood upon a hillside day after day taunting the armies of Israel. The Bible says that every day they mustered for battle, but never engaged the enemy for fear of Goliath. How appropriate a picture of the church, meeting week after week, never actually engaging the enemy!

I believe the Spirit of the Lord is exposing this local demonic force as one that:

- **Brings heaviness, discouragement and depression**
- **Brings confusion and loss of vision (Loss of vision is a major issue. I am reminded that this was even a problem for the Spanish missions.)**
- **Intimidates men of God by attacking homes and families**
- **Seduces zealous young men and women of God, turning them into weak, pleasure seekers**
- **Raises the voice of the accuser of the brethren ”**
- **Brings division and splits**
- **Force withdrawal from places of ministry**
- **Sets boundaries of church**

If you are having trouble accepting this, allow me to make a suggestion. Take a few days, get about 200 miles way from home, and THEN pray about it. I would be interested to know if this produces a different level of clarity.

The Nature of Our Enemy Part 2:

Trampling Jezebel

Gaining an understanding of the Jezebel Spirit.

six
The Spirit of Jezebel

In the book of Revelation, the Lord speaks to the church at Thyatira

‘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. ’

(Rev 2:20)

At first glance we might ask What? Jezebel? Didn't she die back in Second Kings? How can Jezebel be threatening the church in Asia? ”

Obviously, the literal person of Jezebel was not present in Thyatira. The reference is a *prophetic parallel*. Just as John the Baptist was Elijah because he came in the spirit and power of Elijah, this person or influence in Thyatira was under the spiritual control of the same demonic influences that controlled Jezebel of old.

Thus, there is a type of demonic influence in society and the church that can rightly be called by the name **Jezebel**.

This spirit obviously existed long before Queen Jezebel, but she was so totally controlled by its nature that she has become its namesake. In scripture, Herodias is also a type of this force. As Jezebel opposed Elijah, so Herodias opposed John the Baptist. A third example is found here in Revelation 2:20

Queen Jezebel

Jezebel, the Biblical character, first appears in First Kings 16, when she marries Ahab, king of Israel. Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, the king and high priest of the Baal worshipping Sidonians. Baal worship was closely associated with obsessive sensuality and often involved sex acts. Jezebel, as a daughter of this perverse kingdom, was raised in an atmosphere where sex was a path to power and influence.

Ahab, King of Israel, was completely subdued and dominated by Jezebel. Jezebel then introduced the worship of *Ashtoroth* to Israel. This goddess, represented in Canaanite culture by the moon, was a power-hungry goddess of love and sensuality. Priestess-prostitutes filled her shrines and serviced her worshippers. The lure of these legal, readily available erotic encounters was more than the men of Israel would resist. By Jezebel's influence, 10 million Israelites left the worship of God for Baal and Ashtoroth. Only 7000 people in the entire nation were not swayed by her control.

The Characteristics of the Jezebel Spirit

A Jezebel spirit seeks control through *manipulation*. It has a deep hatred of true spiritual authority, and uses emotional pressure, witchcraft²¹ and obsessive sensuality in its pursuit of power. It uses subtle persuasion to gain influence and get close to those in control. It then uses this position to gradually dominate.

²¹ **Author's Note:** When I refer to witchcraft, I am not simply speaking about spells and cauldrons. Witchcraft is far more subtle than that. Galatians 5:19 refers to witchcraft as a "work of the flesh" and flesh is the realm where it is usually found. **Witchcraft is using anything unholy to manipulate or dominate others.** People use emotions to dominate and control others... that's witchcraft! Some groups in Christendom have used "witchcraft" for years.

The Nature of Our Enemy

In the Hebrew, the name Jezebel means literally “without cohabitation.” She will not live or cohabit with those she cannot dominate and control. She will have no equals. Control is what Jezebel wants more than anything. Even when Jezebel appears to be submissive, it is usually out of a carefully wrought plan to gain influence.

Although it may be common to refer to Jezebel as “she,” we obviously must conclude that as a spirit, Jezebel is gender neutral. Jezebel certainly has as many male slaves as female. However, since Jezebel initially tends to establish control without the actual use of physical force, she is more easily associated with classic feminine persuasion techniques.

Jezebel likes to appear close to leaders, and use their influence. She likes to use the power and influence of others to accomplish her goals and control her environment. In 1 Kings 21:8 we read “*Jezebel wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the elders and nobles of the city.*” This is typical of Jezebel. She prefers to remain concealed in the background, while she manipulates situations and leaders

Jezebel is often associated with pleasure, especially sexual pleasure. She will use any form of sensuality at her disposal to gain influence and control. Jezebel uses sensuality, but make no mistake, Jezebel is seeking CONTROL. Lusts are merely tools used to weaken others in order for her to accomplish her goal of control. *In many cases sex is not involved at all.*

Jezebel’s greatest enemy is *true spiritual authority*. As Jezebel opposed Elijah and Herodias opposed John the Baptist, so Jezebel today opposes righteous authority. In her heart, she despises all moral authority. .

Jezebel in Society

In America today, Jezebel is the arrogant, angry spirit behind abortion, crying out "It's MY choice! Don't tell me what to do!" She has cleverly manipulated debate and positioned herself behind seats of power.

She is the power behind the rebirth of witchcraft in our culture. She calls to millions of teenagers via popular music and movies, telling them that new age witchcraft will give them power. She is the force behind the psychic hotlines, which control and manipulate millions.

She is also the spirit at the center of Hollywood. Jezebel is the reason so many homosexuals are drawn to the entertainment industry, desperately seeking recognition and acceptance.

In an attempt to weaken righteous leadership, Jezebel is the force that draws millions of Christian men into hours of television. She is behind the explosion of Internet pornography. Today she is luring men of God into secret lives of bondage and condemnation. Some leaders, once powerful men of prayer, are now too ashamed to even sneak into the throne room. They are wracked with condemnation. They have been reduced to being mere eunuchs of Jezebel. Men with the calling of David have become pleasure shackled Ahabs. (God still wants to free these!)

Jezebel in the Church

Jezebel is not only visible in society. Jezebel is quite at home in the church pew.

1 Kings 21:9 *In those letters she wrote: "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them testify that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."*

The Nature of Our Enemy

With a heart of ice, Jezebel gained control of Naboth's vineyard under the pretense of a FAST. She suddenly got religion when she needed it.

Remember the adulterous woman in Proverbs 7? She first lured the foolish young man with, "I've just finished making my peace offerings, and have come looking for you." She made sure he knew she was a good religious woman before she seduced him! Likewise, Jezebel doesn't let her sin keep her from church.

Jezebel often manifests within the most spiritual people you will ever meet. In the Church, Jezebel will first attempt to get close to the pastor or other leaders with flattery. She will attempt to gain his confidence. She calls herself a prophetess and often manipulates others with her spirituality. Her deep truths usually result in condemnation and burdens for those in her care.

If the pastor, like Elijah, sees and opposes her deceptions, he will find himself in a fight for his life! He may find himself unemployed! Many a man of God has unwittingly had this spirit of control drive out his godly leadership.

xx

While Jezebel often claims to have inspired messages, (she calls herself a prophetess according to Rev 2:20), she usually discourages other prophetic voices unless they are under her control. She will attempt to cause leaders to be suspicious of true prophetic messengers, which bear the testimony of Jesus (Rev. 19:10)

This same controlling spirit may manifest in very different, even opposite ways. For example, a controlling, super-spiritual, self-righteous, *manipulative* mother (the kind that wants to run the church), will often be horrified when her daughter grows up to be sexually immoral. Little does she know that she released that very spirit into her child's life!

Demonic Depression and Loss of Vision

For seven years, God had carefully protected Elijah. God fed him in the wilderness. When Ahab's armies sought to kill Elijah, they were unable to lay a finger on him.

Finally, in a showdown at Mt. Carmel, Elijah called down fire from heaven and resoundingly defeated and killed the priests of Baal. All Israel fell at his feet in repentance, worshipping the true God. Elijah was the man of the hour. He was vindicated, victorious, and clearly in charge.

Nevertheless, when Jezebel sent Elijah a single threat, he suddenly turned coward and fled to the desert. Anxious, depressed, and miserable, he begged God to kill him!

Think about this. *It makes NO sense.* Elijah enjoyed supernatural protection for seven years. He watched fire fall from heaven and defeat his enemies, yet when a single angry woman threatened him one time, he lost every shred of vision and ran away. He moaned in self-pity and depression, begging God to kill him!

This is a great example of Jezebel's powerful demonic aointing to intimidate, create fear, and cause men of God to withdraw. *Jezebel steals your vision.* Jezebel will even make you depressed and anxious when there is nothing significantly different in your circumstances. If there *are* difficult circumstances, this spirit will tell you they are insurmountable, impossible, and overwhelming. Jezebel will make you feel like dying when in reality, you are God's man of the hour.

The Nature of Our Enemy

Jezebel's witchcraft will attack key leaders in her targeted area through intimidation. Those under attack may awaken one morning to find it takes effort just to breathe. All joy seems to depart. Spiritual life seems irrelevant. Demonic voices will echo in their minds something's wrong with you! They may suddenly find themselves in unreasonable anxiety, fearing tragedy or death. Much of what is called depression in the ministry is simply Jezebel!

Jezebel wants to paralyze with fear, condemnation, depression, apathy or whatever it takes until we withdraw. The only answer for those under Jezebel's attack is perseverance in battle. We must remain on course no matter how long it takes!

This is War

The war continues today between Jezebel and Elijah. Like all wars, there are casualties. Leaders sometimes fall. Soldiers sometimes withdraw. *Jezebel wants to keep the church within its present boundaries.* She claims to decide the extent of the church locally. We must not tolerate this.

seven

A Victory for Jezebel
The Welsh Example

The great Welsh revival of 1904 is a shining example of a true move of God. It has been called the p'entecost greater than Pentecost. 'Sadly, the revival s'demise is also an excellent example of how Jezebel works against the church.

In just two years, over 100,000 people were saved. Welsh society was revolutionized. Entire towns recorded no arrests for over a year. Places that formerly were hotbeds of vice suddenly became transformed. Police departments were forced to lay off idle officers. Professional sports teams disbanded because no one was willing to miss church for a game. Services continued virtually around the clock and there were demonstrations of God s' presence and power.

When God begins a work, he usually begins with a man. During the Welsh revival that man was Evans Roberts. Evans was only 26 years old at the time. Most of his leaders were only in their late teens and twenties. Evans was deeply devoted to the Lord, and his devotion to wait upon the Lord released a shower of blessings that was a marvel to the Church. Pastors and leaders from around the world streamed to Wales to behold it.

Many people became associated with the revival as it grew. Among these was a well-to-do woman named Jessie Penn-Lewis²². For years Penn-Lewis had considered herself a Bible teacher, but she had never found a broad acceptance for her

²² **Author s' Note:** *I realize that not everyone will agree with my conclusions about Mrs. Penn-Lewis. Among certain groups, her writings are still read. To learn more about this story and the Welsh revival, let me recommend God s' Generals by Roberts Lairdon and The World Aflame by Rick Joyner.*

The Nature of Our Enemy

teachings. She had largely been rejected or ignored by most church leaders in Wales. At first, Jessie Penn-Lewis appeared as a friend and financial supporter to Evans Roberts. She gained his confidence, and began speaking into his life.

Long time friends of Evans Roberts expressed concerns that she appeared to isolate Roberts too much, but Roberts trusted Penn-Lewis completely. She began to minister certain messages to Roberts, which appeared to him to be profound corrections from the Lord. These filled him with condemnation. He was convinced her deep truths were things he needed to hear.

Mrs. Penn-Lewis began to express her concern to Evans that with the revival's great success, perhaps too much glory was going to Evans Roberts instead of to God. The thought of stealing God's glory horrified the sincere young man. He began to think that perhaps others should lead for a while. Penn-Lewis convinced Evans Roberts to withdraw from public ministry, and to move into the Penn-Lewis home.

Evans Roberts never returned to the ministry. The Welsh revival ended quickly and quietly.

After a short time in the Penn-Lewis home, Evans Roberts began experiencing severe bouts of depression. Often he was unable to leave the bed for days at a time. He appeared nervous and anxious. By today's standards he was in severe clinical depression. It took a toll on his health.

Meanwhile, Penn-Lewis began writing articles and letters in Evans Roberts' name, and on his behalf. These were published in both Roberts and Penn-Lewis' name, and eventually, in her name alone. According to many former close associates of Evans Roberts, some of the works attributed to him could not possibly have had his approval. Certain publications were highly critical of other movements, especially the newly emerging Pentecostals. Unfortunately, few people were able to

The Nature of Our Enemy

see or speak with Evans Roberts. He was kept guarded in the Penn-Lewis home. He was completely dominated.

Evans Roberts spent many dark years of depression in the house of Jezebel. Mercifully, he eventually broke all ties with Penn-Lewis, but not until his health was broken and his ministry just a shadow of its former glory.

Evans Roberts made contributions in two years of ministry, that most never see in a lifetime. His memory should be honored. Nevertheless, he is a sad reminder of the old proverb "Age and treachery will always defeat youth and enthusiasm." A revival that in 24 months saw 100,000 salvations and a glory some called greater than Pentecost, was destroyed by a single unwitting servant of Jezebel, seeking control in order to gain recognition and acceptance.

eight
Jezebel s Shrine

Along the banks of the Sebastian River, in the heart of the ancient Ais territory and parallel to the old Ais capitol, is the *Kashi Ashram*.

Most Indian River County residents know very little about the Kashi Ranch ,”as it is typically known. Occasionally, the Press Journal will do a glowing story about Kashi leader **Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati** and her work with the Dali Lahma as founder of World Tibet Day ör perhaps publish a photo of her caring for Aids patients.

However, outside of the media protection she seems to enjoy locally, other publications including the Miami Herald²³ have exposed some of this cult s’underside. This information has largely failed to be published in our local paper, which for some reason (I suggest a spiritual cloak of blindness) seems content to print Kashi propaganda.

²³ Joe Crankshaw, “Kashis: Real or Imagined Threats? ”
The Miami Herald March 12, 1989

Ma ”

This former Jewish housewife, once known as Joyce Green DiFury, left her husband and three children to pursue a life as a spiritual advisor and cult leader. In 1976, she felt drawn to Indian River County, and established the Kashi Ranch.

Ma s’religious teachings purport to be a mix of all world religions (they claim all paths to gōd ”are worthy of respect),” but her actual teachings primarily focus on goddess worship, specifically the Hindu goddess **Kali**.

The Kashi²⁴ web site (researched 10-5-99) contains many excerpts of Ma s’writings about her devotion to Kali.

If one can sit with a straight back and call for the Dark Mother of the Agora, She will come silent and full to the caller. Kali. Call gently Her Name: Kali Ma. Now all you have to do is wait without wanting... “

“In the empty space of the heart that has burnt in the Dhuni there is a feeling of death, a death that is good and strong... Mother of all that is light and dark, show me your form... You, Kali, are the mother of all. ”

“May She, the Black One of the Dead Night's Glory, forgive those who live in the silence and have never... felt her Hand on their breast. ”

--Ma

Jaya Sati Bhagavati

²⁴ www.kashi.org

The Nature of Our Enemy

The Kashi website exalts Kali as a great goddess and claims her essence permeates the ashram. ”

Kali has been worshipped in India since ancient times. Her worship has historically consisted of fertility festivals, sacrifices (animal and human), use of mind-altering drugs, and ritual sex acts.

Kali is described as ²⁵ sensual ...embodiment of desire ... a free woman who enjoys and lets herself be enjoyed ...who enjoys and partakes of drugs and aphrodisiacs (camphor, musk, wine) Kali who enjoys and encourages the worship of young women (with wine, drugs and sexual play) ”

Most anthropologists are aware that the goddess Kali is simply the Indian expression of the same goddess entity commonly worshipped in many cultures of the ancient world. Amazingly, much of the mythology is similar and the methods of ritual worship are similar throughout the world. This ancient goddess has been worshipped in virtually identical manner by countless pagan civilizations.

Every culture had a different own name for her. In ancient Babylon she was called Ishtar, in Egypt she was called Isis. The Greeks called her Astarte. In ancient Israel she was called *Ashtoroth*.

This was the very goddess Jezebel introduced to Israel! *The Kashi Ranch is openly and admittedly a worship center for the very demon force associated with Jezebel!*

Critics have claimed that Ma, as her followers call her, holds cult members in a web of manipulation and control. She is worshipped at the Ashram, and her image is reportedly prominent in every dwelling. One former member described

²⁵ <http://www.yoni.com/bitchf/kali.shtml>

The Nature of Our Enemy

her follower s 'devotion by explaining that when she rises from a seat, followers sometimes bury their faces where she sat.

However, it should be noted that Ma s 'influence extends far beyond the few devoted residents of the Kashi Ashram. Many of our wealthy and influential leaders have sought out Ma s ' spiritual advice. She enjoys celebrity status at community events and the cocktail parties of Vero s 'elite.

Ma s 'name is Sanskrit for 'mother .'It might be interesting to recall that the Ais tribal name also means 'mother ,'and that their culture was matrilineal in nature. According to Dickinson, the Ais also honored the moon in their ceremonies, as did most worshippers of Jezebel s 'Ashtoroth, or other supreme female goddesses. The description of traditional worship of Kali sounds remarkably similar to first hand accounts of Ais ceremonies.

It is not my intention to imply that Ma Jaya Sati Bhagavati and the Kashis are the source of Jezebel s 'power locally. Clearly we have seen that this spirit was present long before her time. However, I do believe that Ma was likely drawn to Indian River because of this principality. I also believe this unclean spirit provides her with the success and cloak of respectability she enjoys. Few American communities are as welcoming of cults as this one has been.

nine
Trampling Jezebel

Remember, while demons may be cast out, principalities must be wrestled. (Ep. 6)

In wrestling, you attempt to *displace* your opponent. It is unlikely that we could simply speak a few words and have this ancient spirit of intimidation depart. Besides, if the church is not ready to replace this ruling authority, then we may get seven worse than this one! (Matt 12:43-45)

Instead, the church must rise up in new unity and purpose, fulfil our destiny, and displace this unclean prince with the rule of the Holy Spirit. (I believe this is called revival!)

First, we must rid ourselves of Jezebel's ways. We can not cast out lust when we harbor lust in our lives. We can not bring down a spirit of control if we use manipulation and hype to control our congregations. We must examine our own ways, and repent of Jezebel.

Second, *it takes Jehu*. Although Elijah was Jezebel's enemy, it took JEHU to trample Jezebel.

Jehu took no prisoners and showed no mercy to Jezebel. He had singleness of purpose and was driven. As he approached Jezreel those who saw his chariot noted he *drives furiously* (2 Ki 9:20) When others offered peace and compromise, Jehu responded *How can there be peace as long as the harlotries and witchcrafts of Jezebel are many?* (2 Ki 9:22)

Jehu would not rest until Jezebel was dead. Her pleasures could not attract him. Her threats did not deter him. *He would not tolerate Jezebel.*

The Nature of Our Enemy

Jesus says we too can not TOLERATE Jezebel. (Revelation 2:20) We must learn the prophetic power of the word "No!" We must give no ground!

When Jezebel attempted to captivate Jehu, he did not even allow himself to be drawn into conversation with her. Instead, he called on her eunuchs to cast her down from her balcony. Those with the Jehu anointing will call to Jezebel's emasculated slaves, and they too will cast her down!

The Nature of Our Enemy A Plan of Action

How do we respond to our local principality?

This is not the job of any one church. This is the job of the Church of Jesus Christ that dwells along the waters of the Indian River! This is a matter for local church leaders to pray and fast over corporately.

There are a few things that might suggest corporate repentance:

- **Sins against Huguenots**
- **Failure of the Church to persevere and reach Ais**
- **Our paralysis. (In Numbers 13, God considered Israel s' fear to be *rebellion!*)**
- **Divisions based on seeking control**
- **Pleasure seeking**
- **Tolerating Jezebel**

Likewise, in an attitude of spiritual warfare, we may need to pray against the strongholds described herein. Most importantly, we must seek to be released from this nature ourselves. We can not war against those things we are secretly entertaining.

In our war against the intimidator, we may not have anything of it in us. We must not use the weapons of control, manipulation or intimidation. Likewise, since it seeks to bring division whenever we truly advance, *our spiritual relationships must not be negotiable*. We must put forth every effort to maintain the bond of unity, even at the expense of our preferences, our pride, and our pet emphases.

Father of the Lord Jesus; please raise up your Church in this hour. I bless the waters of the Indian River, and we declare that the land it touches is your land. Wherever these waters flow, may your church thrive and grow. May your Holy Spirit dominate this land, bringing the Kingdom of God. Amen!

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