

1 Kings 18:1-19

Martyrs: Jezebel's Victims: The Prophets

The real trouble ...

I. Killing the Messengers

- A. A Royal Mess
- B. Murderous Methods
- C. The Living Word

II. The Unstoppable Message

- A. Truth
- B. Trial
- C. Triumph

III. Staying on Topic

- A. Guarded Gospel
- B. Intolerance
- C. Witness

... is the truth.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who did Jezebel worship?
2. How did she and Ahab think they could stop the prophets?
3. Can anyone really stop the message of the Gospel from going out to sinners?
4. Can you very simply explain the truth of the Gospel?
5. Will you pray for Christians in places where the Bible is illegal?

Suppressing the Truth

The light of truth aggravates darkness. There are few names as closely associated with spiritual darkness as Jezebel and she was aggravated by the prophets of Israel. The wicked queen was immersed in pagan idolatry and her weaker partner Ahab the King of Israel was complicit in her religious perversity. Because the prophets spoke truth that condemned their disgraceful practices, they had to do something to stop them, so they killed as many as possible. But the truth cannot be stopped. Enter Elijah the great prophet, who, when trusting in the Lord, challenged their false gods and their worshippers to prove themselves. The truth prevailed with power. The truth could not be denied. But Elijah was just a man. When things got really bad, fear set in and he began to despair thinking that he was the only prophet left. But God had made provision and preserved scores of witnesses to His truth.

Many attempts have been made by kings, queens, dictators and other government officials throughout the ages to stop the spread of the Gospel truth. They have certainly had temporal and regional success, but ultimately their evil plan is always foiled by a gracious God whose truth sets people free. The wonderful message of the Gospel will go wherever God designs it to go ... and when it goes it goes with power. God will always have faithful witnesses – they may fall on tough times – but the truth they proclaim will prevail. Persecution for testifying to our faith is totally foreign to us, but many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world regularly risk life and limb to tell people about Jesus. Pray that they would not be afraid or despair in the face of powerful people who will do everything within their power to suppress the Truth.