A Woman Who Understood the Minds of Men: Another Interpretation of Jezebel’s Final Moments

by Emily Neuharth
“When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; she painted her eyes, and adorned her head, and looked out the window.”

2 Kings 9:30
“What peace can there be, so long as the many whoredoms and sorceries of your mother Jezebel continue?”

2 Kings 9:22
Jezebel  noun

save word

Jez·e·bel  |  \\je-zə-bel\

**Definition of Jezebel**

1  : the Phoenician wife of Ahab who according to the account in I and II Kings pressed the cult of Baal on the Israelite kingdom but was finally killed in accordance with Elijah's prophecy

2  *often not capitalized* : an impudent, shameless, or morally unrestrained woman
Jezebel  noun

Synonyms of Jezebel
a boldly flirtatious or sexually promiscuous woman

// as far as the family matriarch was concerned, her son's fiancée was a gold digger and a Jezebel

Synonyms for Jezebel
chippie (also chippy), doxy (also doxie), fancy woman, floozy (or floozie), hoochie [slang], hussy, minx, quean, tramp, trollopl, wench

Words Related to Jezebel
siren, temptress, vamp
grisette, harlot, prostitute, trull

Phrases Synonymous with Jezebel
woman of easy virtue
“Jezebel went out for an audience and, knowing already what was happening, adorned her face so as to look calm rather than frightened. She dared even to menace Jehu himself with her words…”

“Menacing Jezebel” by Konrad Pellikan (1520s)
“...it comes from pride and fleshly lust. It is practiced to allure men, and it changes their natural face into something artificial.”

“On Painting Faces,” by John Pellikan (647)
“Like many powerful females, her power is attributed to her beauty and ability to seduce...[this] follows a time-honored tradition necessitating that female power must stem from beguiling beauty and witchcraft...”

"Jezebel's last laugh: The rhetoric of wicked women," Catherine S. Quick (1993)
“Her power is not the ‘legitimate’ kind, but power which the tradition portrays as the use of plots and machinations to accomplish goals.”

"Jezebel's last laugh: The rhetoric of wicked women," Catherine S. Quick (1993)
“When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; she painted her eyes, and adorned her head, and looked out the window. As Jehu entered the gate, she said, ‘Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?’”

2 Kings 9:30-31
The Death of Jezebel
Gustave Dore (1866)

The Death of Jezebel
Giovanni Colli (1643-1681)

Jezebel eaten by dogs
Luca Giordano (1634-1705)
Is it a twisted karma that haunts the patriarchal interpreters who feared a powerful woman; her lingering presence a ghost with painted face?

Or is it something else entirely, and can it be found in this single authentic verse?
“When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; she painted her eyes, and adorned her head, and looked out the window.”

2 Kings 9:30
“Jezebel”
Henry John Stock (1882)

“Jezebel- A Wicked Queen”
Artist Unknown
'My Book of Bible Stories', Watchtower 1978
Works Cited


