


The Slumber of Jezebel

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Jezebel set out to destroy all messengers of the Lord, she destroyed prophets wherever she could find them, and raised up instead her own prophetic messengers. They brought a message which they called prophecy, but it was actually speaking words that were demonically empowered and seduced the nation. The nation came under it, literally fell asleep spiritually. In the Old and New Testament, the same spirit power, the same kind of operation, to lead people astray, so they don't walk in the destiny that God had for them.

The Slumber of Jezebel

[Slumber of Jezebel \(1 of 3\)](#) The Bible's very clear, that there is an invisible spirit world, in which spiritual powers operate (Eph 6:12). The nation of Israel got into an alliance with another nation, the Sidonians, by marriage. He married this woman Jezebel, and immediately opened his life to the influence of the spirit power behind her. Her father was a priest of Baal, and so she introduced the worship of Baal and Ashtaroth.

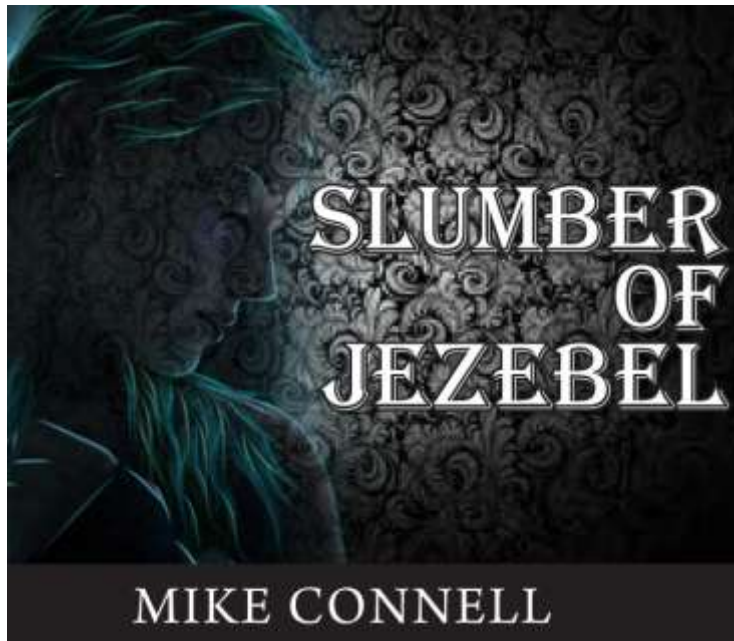
[Spiritual Slumber \(2 of 3\)](#) Church in the west, on the most, is in a state of spiritual slumber, unaware of the powers at work in the nation to destroy the legacy that's been built over years. God's speaking to us to wake up out of that spiritual slumber. Jezebel was a woman in the Old Testament, also a woman in the New Testament, but I want to get your eyes off 'woman'. I want you to get your eyes on 'spiritual power, entering and oppressing a nation'.

[Recognising & Withstanding Jezebel's attack \(3 of 3\)](#) This spiritual attack seeks to: shut down the prophetic flow; and remove any Godly authority out of their position. You become fearful, isolate, or lose perspective. God just got Elijah to have a good long sleep and rest, gave him a bit of food, took him into a place of relationship and connection, started to put anointing back into him, re-fired him and commissioned him. Elijah was a loner, and God got him out of being a loner, made him connect and actually get into a team flow.

Slumber of Jezebel (1 of 3)

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I want you to open your Bible with me Isaiah 52. We're going to look at two verses. I want to share something with you that the Lord has just put on my heart. I've been in a season, Joy and I both are in a season of fasting, can't remember how long it's been now, probably a couple of weeks or something like that. You just lose track after a while, but we're just having a sense it's a new season, new season in our lives, new season in the church. When it's like that, you have to stir yourself up, you have to get near to God so you're listening to God. The Lord has been downloading a number of things to me. He spoke to me just over a whole number of areas recently, and He spoke to me on one thing particularly, and I want to read this scripture here, then show what He showed me.

It says: awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For the uncircumcised and the unclean shall come no longer to you. Shake yourself from the dust, rise up; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion! God is speaking through the prophet, and telling the church of the day - wake up! Wake up! Wake up to what's happening. Wake up spiritually, wake up on the inside, wake up, and then begin to arise back to become the people of God! Shake off the things that have held you down. Arise and begin to take your rightful role and positioning. God's speaking strongly to a church, which was in a place of defeat, to awaken the church.

I recently received an article showing how the Islamic faith was spreading like wildfire through the world, and how it's emerging in Europe all over the place. The call for the church was wake up! Wake up! Don't you see what is going on all around you? And so God spoke to me, not directly through this verse. He spoke to me this, He spoke a personal word around a whole lot of other things, speaking to me and to the church. He wrote like this; He said: awake, awake from the slumber of Jezebel. Put on your strength O Zion. I thought I know that verse. That doesn't sound like the way I read it. I remember that many times Jesus and the apostles quoted verses, and then they would alter them a bit, to actually just expand what was going on or to give additional insight. I thought the slumber of Jezebel, I'd never heard of such a term, never read it anywhere. Got my concordance out, looked it up, couldn't find it anywhere - well I don't know about that. Where can I find it in the word?

So I began to think and I began to pray about it, then the Lord - I thought I'll go look at it. I began to look, and then the Lord just began to open up, just story after story, illustration after illustration, and I'm going to break this message into two parts; there'll be one part this day and then another part after next weekend. I encourage us to just be open to what God wants to say, particularly if it relates to you. So in this verse He's saying: awake, awake, awake! Awake church! Rise up. I believe it's a word to the church in our own nation, it's a word to us as a people, it's time to awaken and to arise with much greater strength in God, strength in prayer. I want to just open up just what this term Slumber of Jezebel is, then I'm going to show you some Bible examples. I don't want you to get hung up on what you may know about that particular demonic power. Just be open to what I feel the Lord's unravelling to me.

First of all have a look in 1 Kings, Chapter 16. The word awaken means to open your eyes, wake up out of sleep, rise into your proper place of operation. So when the Bible is talking about awakening, it's referring to a sleepy condition, where people are not operating nor functioning as they ought to. Now if we go into the Old Testament in 1 Kings, Chapter 16, you'll find the first reference to this person called Jezebel. I don't want you just to label any woman, or anything like that; I want you think in terms of spirit powers, unseen spirit powers that operate in the spirit world. Notice here it says now Ahab - Verse 30 - the son of Omri did more evil in the sight of the Lord than all the kings that came before him. And it came to pass, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took as a wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians; and he went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then he set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal, which was built in Samaria. And he made a wooden image. Ahab did provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger more than the kings of Israel that came before him.

So this is the first mention of this name Jezebel, and the name means literally, if you look at the roots of it, it means Baal or Baal exalts. It means one who has the favour of Baal upon her. It means one who is unhusbanded, or operates independently. That's the meaning of the name. Now what happened was the nation of Israel got into an alliance with another nation, the Sidonians, and they came into alliance by marriage. The king of Israel, who should have stood up and led the nation of Israel to walk with God, trusted God for prosperity; instead he entered into an unholy or ungodly alliance. He married this woman Jezebel, and immediately opened his life to the influence of the spirit power behind her. Her father was a priest of Baal, and so she introduced the worship of Baal and Ashtaroah, and I'll expand a bit about that perhaps another session.

But Baal means literally husband or lord, so if you said the word Lord, it's the word Baal. Baal means Lord, means the husband, it means one who provides, and so Baal. Baal worship was a problem right through the Bible. Baal was a god of war. Baal was a god of fertility, so whenever you see the god Baal, there was an introduction of violence, of war, of the slaying of innocent children, of sexual promiscuity, temple worship, temple prostitution. All of those things lay behind that spirit of Baal, so wherever Baal was worshipped or lifted up, the nation became corrupted with the spirit of idolatry, and a spiritual heaviness settled over the nation. So Jezebel was the daughter, and she introduced worship of Baal, worship of Ashtaroah into the nation, and instead of the nation having an open spiritual heaven, miraculous provision, miracles of God, there was a brass heaven over the nation - no prophetic flow. Jezebel set out to destroy all messengers of the Lord, so she came against the prophet. She destroyed prophets wherever she could find them, and raised up instead her own prophetic messengers.

They brought a message which they called prophecy, but it was actually speaking words that were demonically empowered and seduced the nation. The nation came under it, literally fell asleep spiritually. In the New Testament, the name Jezebel turns up in Revelations, Chapter 2 and Verse 21, another era in history, another generation, another people, a different person, but the same spirit. It talks in there about that spirit operating prophetically within the church, seducing, causing an influence that drew people away from God, and drew them into sexual sin and all kinds of independence of God. So God has spoken in the Old Testament, the New Testament, same spirit power, the same kind of operation, literally to lead people astray, so they don't walk in the destiny that God had for them. They don't fulfil the plan God had for them, and so that's that spirit power, operating to cause the people of God to be drawn from what they should be doing.

The Bible's very clear, it tells us that there are spiritual powers. In Ephesians it tells us, in Ephesians 6 and Verse 12, that there is an invisible spirit world, in which spiritual powers operate. I think anyone who's got any sense or sensitivity, recognises spiritual atmospheres when you go to different places. Some places, very heavy, very oppressed; some places very heavy, very cold; some places you can literally feel the corruption there. There is a resident atmosphere or spiritual power operating, but they don't just operate from the spirit realm. They find expression through the lives of people, so when you look at the woman Jezebel, there was an invisible spiritual power, but it found an expression through a person who had yielded to that. So in 2 Corinthians 10:4 it tells us that there are strongholds. Strongholds are positions in our life that allow demonic powers to influence how we think, how we behave, how we act, even how we view life. They gain access if your life is broken and damaged. That's why people need deliverance. Why do you need deliverance? To get your life cleaned up of demonic influence.

Why do you need restoration and healing? To close the doors in your heart and soul, so they don't operate any more. So spiritual powers gain their influence by seducing people to believe a lie, and begin to yield to them. In the nation at this time, in this particular nation, there was like a spiritual heaviness, a lack of the flow of the prophetic, a lack of the miraculous, a lack of the supernatural, and a spiritual power was resident, operating in the nation through people. God hates that spirit operating. He hates it because it destroys the identity of His people, it destroys who the people of God are, it shuts down the church from being supernatural. It comes as a heaviness, oppression, that causes loss of destiny, loss of purpose, loss of identity, and loss of strength.

Now I want to show you three portions of the Bible, three distinct separate situations where the spirit gained access to a man of God, or a group of people, and it shut them down from operating supernaturally, and began to draw them away from what God had called them to do. I want you to learn from it. In each of these situations the same thing happened. In each of these situations there was a different doorway of entry, and each of these situations God intervened to help that person step back up into the place, identity, positioning that God wanted them to flow in. What a wonderful thing. It may be as we read this, you discover I have opened my life, I've opened my inner man, and I've allowed control to operate around my life and shut down the anointing, shut down the flow of the spirit of God. In that case I've got good news - God gets you out of it, if you respond to Him.

Let's just have a look at the first one. We'll find the - oh no, I didn't finish explaining what I meant by the Slumber of Jezebel. Let me explain it. So Jezebel was a person who introduced a spiritual power into a nation. The word slumber means something like this: it means to be dominant, to be in a state of inactivity, or passive. When you're slumbering, you're sleeping, you're unaware what's happening around you. You're not doing anything, so a spiritual slumber means spiritually you're just unaware. You haven't got a clue what spiritual influences are operating. It means you can't see what's happening, you can't hear what is going on, you can't understand. You're living in a state of confusion and lack of awareness of the spiritual powers afflicting your situation.

Because you're unaware of it, you can't do anything about it. It's like what I'd call living in a trance. You think you're living life, but actually this stuff has shut you down, and you don't even know it. You're not operating like you ought to operate, so ultimately it leads to a loss of hope and destiny. So that's slumber, a spirit of slumber is a spiritual fall. So the slumber of Jezebel is simply a spiritual power of witchcraft operating, that causes you to become unaware of spiritual operations, to shut down prophetically, shut down in the flow of the Holy Ghost, and not see what God is doing or hear what God is saying. You actually shut down. You're no longer standing where God wanted you to stand, functioning like God wanted you to function. You no longer have strength, you become quite weak. Now let's have a look at the condition across our nation, across much of the western world.

Church is like that. It's like the church is slumbering. It's like something put everyone to sleep, and you sort of feel the apathy and the indifference and passivity, the shut-down-ness. I find it over groups of pastors when I go to talk with them. About a decade ago, about 12 or 13 years ago, God spoke to me to go through the nation speaking about this spiritual power, and so we arranged meetings in about six different cities. We called men together, and we had something like 300, 400, 500 men in different cities in the nation, and one of the things I did was expose this power and how it operates, and get men to stand up, begin to pray strongly, begin to throw that heavy thing off their lives, begin to arise back into their position. Oh, we had some deliverance! My goodness, we had deliverance like you can hardly believe. There wasn't a single time where there wasn't an outpouring of deliverance, and then a fresh releasing of anointing.

The last city we were going to go into was Auckland, and the year that we were going to go into Auckland, there was a parade in that city. Now our conference was called Heroes of the Nation. [Laughter] You've already got the message - the year we planned to go into Auckland, there was a gay or homosexual parade called Hero Parade. After that it was - like it was in the news, it was everywhere. You just could not run a conference called Heroes of the Nation. [Laughter] You couldn't run it. It literally shut us down just like that, just taking, stealing what we were wanting to do. Isn't that interesting? I've come into this spirit before - anyway, I felt God saying stir up again, it's time to rise up. So let's have a look there, and we see there in Judges - we've seen there in 1 Kings, Chapter 16. We saw how that thing - now I want you to go with me to Judges. I want to show you three stories of people who come under the influence of that spirit.

Here's number one, Judges, Chapter 16. You know the story; this man here, a mighty deliverer. This man here, born supernaturally by the spirit and power of God. Judges 16, we find this man in a very bad position. It says - Verse 19 - Delilah lulled him to sleep on her knees. Notice he fell asleep - then she called for a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. She began to torment him and - notice this - his strength left him. She said: Samson, the Philistines are upon you! And he awoke from his sleep, I'll go out as before as at other times, I will shake myself free! But he did not know the Lord had departed from him. So the Philistines took him, put out his eyes, brought him down to Gaza. They bound him with bronze fetters, and he became a grinder in the prison. He became a grinder in the prison. What happened to Samson? Samson forgot his identity. He was born to be a deliverer in the nation. He was called of God supernaturally to be a deliverer, to arise as one who would bring deliverance to the nation from the Philistines. His purpose was to break the yoke of the Philistines, to deliver the nation from that wicked bondage, that evil spirit power - and yet here it was, he opened his soul to the demonic power of Jezebel or that spirit, that witchcraft spirit.

He opened his soul through finding comfort in the arms of Delilah - it means the one who empties you out, the one who creates emptiness in your life. He exposed his soul. He was drawn into sexual sin. He found comfort apart from the living God, and as he found comfort in her arms, he progressively opened himself to her influence. What he didn't realise - in Verse 9 it says there were men lying in wait, staying in her room. What he didn't realise is the five lords of the Philistines, the demonic power that had ruled the nation, had bribed her and were waiting there. They were using her to draw him away from his calling, from his identity, from what God called him to do, and she drew him into sin. When he fell into sin, he fell asleep, and then his strength left him. He was spiritually unaware of the danger in his life that his sin presented to him, and so very soon he lost his crown of dominion. He lost his anointing and strength to rule, he lost his power to destroy the enemy's yokes, and instead ended up in slavery. He lost his vision, he lost his destiny, he lost his hope, he lost his freedom. He ended up enslaved. That is what that spirit power does to people.

When that spirit of witchcraft operates unchecked, it takes away vision, it takes away your hope, it takes away your destiny, takes away your identity, takes away any kind of strength that God would give you, and you end up in bondage instead of living the life God called you to live. Believe me, if you want to fulfil the destiny God has for you, you will have to rise against that spirit, and not let that spirit have access to your life, shut down the anointing, control how you think, and steal the dreams. It doesn't just steal your dreams. We'll find if we can look into some other sections of the Bible another time, it steals your inheritance, and then it steals the legacy of the next generation. You cannot compromise with that spirit power. There is a war that must be engaged in, if any person's going to win over that.

When control powers come against you, the goal is to control. At the end it's a fight for your freedom. You have to recognise it. It's not people, although it operates in and around people, can even operate in your own life, it is a spirit power, and so it requires spiritual weapons. Recognise the enemy and how it comes. In this case, it entered the door of his soul through sexual sin, but here's the very, very positive news, that when Samson repented, I guess when he found himself in that low place, he did the one thing that will get you out of that hole. If that thing's got a grip around you, there's one thing you need to do, and that is turn to God! Turn to the living God who's gracious and merciful. He turned and he said: oh God, remember me and restore my strength. He felt the power of God come around him again. His life became to change, and the Bible says: in his last day he took down more than he'd taken in all his life.

Your last days can be better than anything that went before, if you can connect with the living God, and His strength gets into your life! Oh Holy Ghost! Come into 1 Kings, Chapter 19, and we find here it's another prophet, another mighty man of God. Here's the wonderful thing about Samson; in the New Testament there's no record of his failure. There's just a record he was a mighty man of faith, and we may fail and fall over, but God wipes away the record when we repent, and just says: mighty man of faith, mighty woman of faith, you broke out of it, and finally ended well! [Applause] Isn't that great?

Okay, 1 Kings 19, 1 to 5; Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how Elijah had executed all the prophets with the sword. Oh I wish I could have seen all of that. My mind imagines it sometimes. There's a ruling power in the nation, all hope seems to be gone, but there's some people there who are crying out to God, some people who are in prayer and intimacy, and finally Elijah emerges out of the darkness, out of obscurity. There he is, and he shuts up the heaven and then hides for three years. Then when they're getting desperate he comes out, says to the prophets of Baal: come on out, let's see what you guys have got. They set up an altar, and he sets up an altar. He says well, let's see which God is the real God and calls fire from heaven, and so they had this challenge. At the end of the day, he calls fire down from heaven - what a glorious thing to see. Then he rises up, and with the sword he slays 450 prophets of Baal. Oh, that's men of God, men of God! Men of God! Using the sword of the spirit to destroy spirit powers, tear down ungodly beliefs, bring the truth to the nation. What a great day - he went home that night, but look what happens the next day.

Well then he brings rain. In fact he's had a wonderful time. Then Ahab told Jezebel, and Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah. Now it doesn't really tell us exactly what that was, but it says he saw it. Now normally if someone sends a message, they tell you something, you hear it. This one says he saw it, so undoubtedly someone was sent in, but I believe demonic powers and cursings were sent against him. When people curse you, they release spirits against you. When they falsely accuse you, they release spirits against you, and she still had 450 prophets of her own, who ate at her own table and did what she said, so she sent a messenger, and I believe she sent a demonic spirit, a spirit of hate, a spirit of murder, a spirit of death, to destroy the voice of God in the generation, to shut down the only thing that could threaten her kingdom. And so she sent the messenger.

Now here's the problem. He opened his heart to that message. He got wounded. He received that message of fear; he allowed it to get into his heart. I believe it was a demonic messenger, and so he felt his heart gripped by fear and panic, his mind froze, and instead of doing this, he forgot he's the man of God who called fire from heaven. He forgot

he's God's man to save the nation, he forgot what he was called to do. His strength sapped out of him, as he came under attack from that spirit. Some of you may have had a similar kind of thing come, sits around and over you, and you feel shut down with fear. You can't function, you can't even think clearly. This is what happened to him, and so when he saw it, he ran for his life, left his servant, he ran to Bathsheba which is he ran right clear out of the nation - I'm getting out of here! He panicked. Then finally it says, he sat down under a broom tree, and he prayed he might die; said: that's enough Lord, take my life, I'm no better than my father. Then he lay and he slept. There's another one.

Now notice what has happened here, the big picture. He stood up against that power and it retaliated - good to notice that. When you stand up, it pushes back on you. I talked to one man, I was talking to him how to stand up in his spiritual governance and prayer in his home. He stood up - I came in a week later and said: how are you getting on? He said oh, I've stopped. I said: why is that? He said: well it didn't work. Oh really, it didn't work aye? Okay, well what happened? He said it got worse, everything got far worse when I started to pray, so I stopped praying. I said everything got worse because you're stirring up resident spirits, that are controlling what is happening. Keep up the prayer. Get ready to engage the people.

Okay, so what happened? Do you notice what happened is attacks come against him, fear, he's listened to words of accusation, murder and death. They get into his heart and shut him down. He comes under the control, filled with fear, and he runs. Notice he forgot who he was, forgot his calling, his strength left him, and he fled from his position God had assigned him in the nation. He ran, he got isolated, then he sat down with discouragement, loss of perspective - this is all what happens when the spirit comes around you. Fear, you withdraw, shut down, want to isolate, want to be on your own, feel hurt, feel discouraged, want to sit down. Interesting, the tree he sat down under - I don't know whether they've got the name of the tree here - juniper tree, means to bind or put under a yoke. How about that - quite significant. So he's sitting there, and what's he doing? The mighty man of God, who's got a move of God going, is now sitting under a tree, shut down, wanting to die and he's sleeping. A spirit power had shut him down.

I love the way God - it doesn't finish there fortunately. See, he lost his courage in the face of that attack, but his strength returned when God touched him supernaturally. The angel came and touched him, the angel spoke a word to him, gave him nourishment. When we get the touch of God again around our life, when we get the word of God prophetically flowing into our hearts, the Bible says he got up, and he ran for 40 days and 40 nights. Now that's pretty good isn't it? He's still hiding though - hid in a cave until God spoke to him: Elijah, what are you doing here? You're a man of God! You're a man called to change a nation. Why are you in the cave? Leave me alone. [Laughter] He shut down by that power, and God speaks to him, calls him out, and in a gentle voice encourages him, and sends him back. He says: anoint this man, and anoint that man, release them and they're going to tear that wicked spirit power down. What a shame that Elijah didn't do that, but he did impart to a next generation, and they did it. They finished what he couldn't finish.

God's wanting a generation, and you'll find that the man that he raised up - I won't talk about him today - was a man by the name of Jehu. Jehu finished the job, had an apostolic, militant, governing, confronting spirit around his life, and he shut that thing down in the nation. It's a great thing to go and have a look at it. I want you to have a look at another one with me. I want you to look with me in Luke 22, and here's the third situation I want to draw your attention to. Here's the wonderful thing, that even if that spirit has entered in through compromise, lukewarmness, sexual sin, false comforts or whatever, when we repent, God restores us, and wipes away the record. If we may have drawn back in fear, may have drawn back and felt pressured, overwhelmed and isolated and alone, but when God touches our life and speaks, our spirit comes again. Now look at this one here, Luke 22, here it is.

These are the apostles, the mighty men of God, called to change a nation - come, follow me. I'll make you fishers of men. Lord, we're with you right until the end! That sounds good doesn't it aye, but look what happens when pressure comes on. Luke 22, Verse 40, look what happens. Jesus came to the place - that's Gethsemane - and he said to them: pray that you enter not into temptation. This is where we're going to, prayer - and He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw. He knelt down and prayed and said: Father, if it's Your will, take this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done. And an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling to the ground. He rose from prayer, he came to His disciples, and He found them sleeping from sorrow. He said: why do sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation.

Notice what is happening now. These are the mighty men of God, apostles of the Lamb, called to change the world, called to be history makers, called to make a difference. They flowed in the giftings of the spirit. They'd seen miracles and healings, they'd boldly declared: Lord, we're with You, and now Jesus faces His greatest hour of spiritual pressure and attack. It's the threat of imminent death, and we know it had to be a spiritual conflict because it says that

He prayed earnestly, being in agony. There was a tremendous turmoil, as all the powers of hell unleashed on Him in the garden. He was under immense spiritual pressure, and He stood and prayed. The pressure was to control Him. The pressure was to shut Him down. The pressure was to knock Him out. The pressure was to get Him off course, and He prayed, Father, not My will. Father, let Your will be done. That's what He was wrestling for.

Why was He wrestling for that? Why is that so significant? Because witchcraft attempts to impose a different will. Witchcraft attempts to impose a different governance. Witchcraft tends to impose its own kingdom. Witchcraft tries to shut down the will of God, and impose another will upon you, so you feel rejected, shut down and you feel in despair. But Jesus wrestled against that pressure. How did He do it? In prayer. I'll show you in another session what you have to do, to stand against that demonic power, and ensure you come out the other side on top. He prayed - now I want you to notice what the disciples did. The disciples forgot who they were. They forgot their commitment to the Lord, they forgot their bold statements they'd be with Him until death. They forgot their destiny, forgot the purpose. Under the face of that spirit, they lost all strength, and they fell asleep.

It's not a coincidence that in three cases in the Bible, mighty men of God fell asleep. That's what that slumber is. It's actually a sleepy, lethargic, passive state, created by yielding to a spiritual power you can't see, until the church becomes passive, half-hearted, lukewarm, instead of having the fiery presence and power of God, a spirit that's alive, hearing from God. So they shut down, they went to sleep. What was the doorway into their heart? Well the Bible tells us that too. It says sorrow, emotional pain, hurt, so we've seen now at least three doorways this spirit uses to get access to people's life: false comforts, turning to things which are not of God, turning to addictive things, turning to things which comfort you, turning to sexual sin, turning to all kinds of things that provide a comfort, apart from the comfort God provides.

We saw fear, listening to the wrong words, and letting them get into your heart, and allowing fear to arise and not conquering it, allowed this control to come. Whatever you're afraid of will control you - and finally sorrows, hurts that have never been fixed, areas of the soul, bitterness, griefs, disappointments, setbacks that were never addressed properly. Demons come into there and use them as an open door, and then they shut you down when at the very point of time you should be standing strong in prayer. What an amazing thing, and Jesus words tell it all. He said rise, pray, ARISE, PRAY, ARISE, PRAY, ARISE, ARISE, ARISE O daughter of Zion. Put on your beautiful garments, O daughter of Jerusalem. Shake the dust off you. Arise, sit down in the realm of the spirit, break off your captivity. Become the mighty people of God. Here's the thing that rose them out of their sleep - Jesus touched them, spoke to them, rise up and pray!

You'll find every time that people fell asleep under the influence of a spiritual power, it was a prophetic word from God, it was a call to change, repent, step up, re-engage. Sure enough, on the day of Pentecost we find the disciples there. Jesus said: Peter, I've prayed for you your faith won't fail. I've been praying for you, I've been praying for you your faith won't let go, that whatever you go through you won't fail in your faith. You'll still believe.

Peter failed massively. He wept over his failure, but Jesus was praying that his faith wouldn't fail, just like He's praying right now your faith won't fail when you're under pressure. When we're under pressure, He's our intercessor, He's the apostle of our faith, He's praying that our faith won't fail. He's praying we'll stand up. He's praying for us! He's praying! A few days later, 50 days later, those same men that had been asleep and fled, spent 10 days in intense prayer, and the mighty power of God was on them, and they broke out, began to change nations, and become history makers. Whoa! They had to break through, in the very same city that thing shut them down and got them to sleep. Elijah had to go back to the very same spirit that had shut him down, and raise up people to confront it. Samson stood up again.

Here's a very simple key, just repentance, leaning on God, and rising up into strong prayer. I'll share with you other things related to this. I've got such an immense amount of download on it right now, I'll share the other half of this message, because there's at least another three very, very vital situations I want to draw your attention to, which give keys how this thing has been beaten. Two of them are in the New Testament church, New Testament church, yet that power comes to shut it down, and it comes under it, but God shows them how to get out of it. Even in the Old Testament when we look in the story of Jehu, go reading about Jehu, find what he did, look for the keys. Look beyond the story to the spiritual insights of how he dealt that thing, and you'll see how we can deal with it too. God's calling us to arise.

Let's just stand right now, just stand, just lift our hands to worship the Lord, lift our hands to the Lord. Wonderful Jesus - now maybe already as I've prayed and as I've been preaching, perhaps you've felt whoa, whoa I'm like Samson, I've gone to sleep. I never had much strength, and what I had is gone. I don't want to be like that, I want to finish well. I don't want to finish weak, I want to finish well! Is that in your heart? Is there compromise, sin? Just repent

of it quickly right now. What's been filling your time? What's been filling your heart? What have you been using to just fill yourself up? Can be all kinds of things that comfort you and make you feel better, but at the end it's all the same. We become asleep and don't realise demons have come into our life, then they ruin us. They ruin our legacy, they ruin our lives. I've seen it over the years, never quite understood why it happened, it's a spirit power. Stand up. Just come back to the Lord. Why don't you say like Samson, oh Lord, remember me, REMEMBER ME! REMEMBER ME! God remembered him - or like Elijah, you go back and face that situation.

Perhaps you've yielded to fear, and yielded to words of accusation, murder, hate, death. They've come around your soul and life and shut you down. Lord, you need to break the power of those words, need to cancel those words, need to rise up and forgive those people, get that hurt out of your heart. Or maybe it's more like the disciples; you've had a lot of sadness, and various things have disappointed you, and you've just shut down inside. That thing's got control of you, you're no longer the person you used to be, because something wounded you. Well I've got good news. Jesus died and carried our sorrows on the cross.

Let's just pray together. I believe this is a fresh word. I never read about this anywhere. I felt it's something God just showed to me and I believe it's spiritually present across our nation, and it's affected us as a church, definitely affected me, probably for about a decade. I can see it now, and I'm after it. So I'm going to rise up, God will help.

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Introduction:

- Isaiah 52:1-2 - "Awake, awake, put on your strength oh Zion, put on your beautiful garments oh Jerusalem, the Holy City"
- Call to the church to awaken from sleep and to arise into its' proper place of operation
- Awake = 5782 = to open the eyes, stir self up, arouse from place of sleep
- Prophetic call to the church that requires a faith action – response
- Personal Word: "Awake, awake from your slumber of Jezebel..."

What is the Slumber of Jezebel?

a) Jezebel: 1 Kings 16:31-32

- Jezebel = Baal exalts, under the favour of Baal, not cohabiting with
- The 1st portrayal in the bible as a wicked queen who killed prophets and established idolatry
- Next portrayed in the Bible – Revelation 2:20 – as a person with the same evil character and intent
- Two different eras – same spiritual power exercising a destructive influence on the people of God
- Operates to seduce = 4105 = to wander away from safety, from truth, go astray
- Operates to intimidate and control
- i) External Spiritual Pressure – 'Outer Space' Ephesians 6:12
- ii) Internal Spiritual Pressure – 'Inner Space' entering through personal strongholds 2 Corinthians 10:4
- How we think and behave
- Spiritual powers seducing people, and the people beginning to yield to them

b) Slumber Romans 11:8

- Slumber = to sleep, be in a state of inactivity
- Spiritual Slumber
- Spiritual sensitivity dull
- Cannot see or hear spiritually
- Unaware of spiritual influences at work, can't do anything about it
- Living in a 'trance' – unaware what is happening
- Ultimately it leads to a loss of hope and destiny

c) Slumber of Jezebel – spiritual power that shuts you down, no strength, become weak:

- State of spiritual dullness and the lack of awareness brought on by yielding to the invisible activity of the Jezebel power
- One of the major causes of this is spiritual laziness
- Proverbs 19:15 - "Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep"

3. Bible Examples:

- There are several examples of people who came under the influence of this invisible activity of the Jezebel power

i) Judges 16:19-21 - Samson: "she made him sleep on her knees"

- Samson forgot his identity, forgot his calling as a mighty deliverer
- He opened his soul to the Jezebel spirit through sexual sin, false comforts
- He was spiritually unaware of the danger, focused comfort on Delilah – v 5,9 – 5 lords of the Philistines waiting there
- He lost his crown of dominion, and he did not know it v20
- He lost his vision, his strength, his destiny and was brought into bondage
- The Jezebel spirit strips people of strength, vision, hope => bondage
- When Samson repented his strength was restored. The power of God came around him again
- Arise to this spirit, don't let it steal your dreams, inheritance and legacy of the next generation
- Spirit power requires spiritual weapons
- If you get connected with the living God you will be stronger than ever

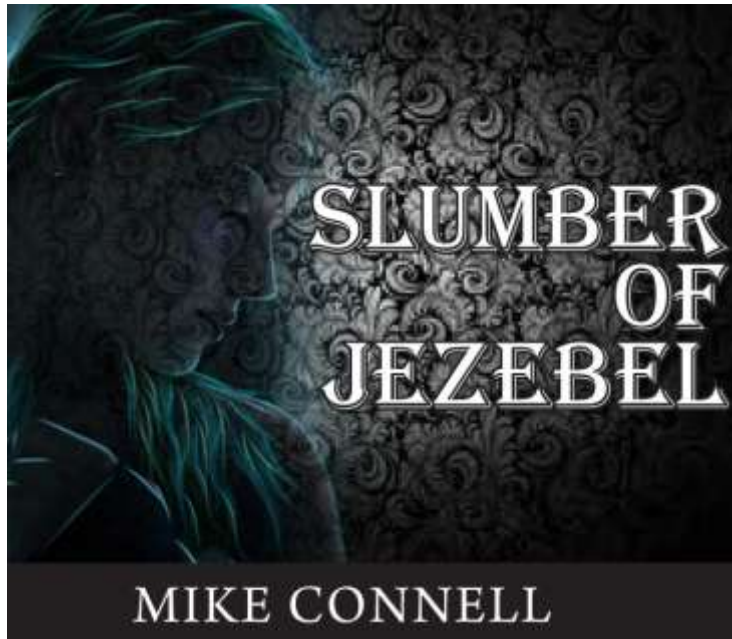
ii) 1 Kings 19:1-5 - Elijah: "he lay and slept under a broom tree"

- A mighty man of faith
 - Elijah forgot his identity, forgot his calling as a mighty deliverer
 - He opened his soul to the Jezebel spirit when he received Jezebel's messenger v2,3
 - The messenger (demonic) wounded him, stripped him of confidence and fear entered
 - Fear = abandoning position, isolate, discourage, loss of perspective, desire to die
 - Juniper tree = to bind or put in a yoke
 - He lost his courage that came from the anointing flowing, he forgot who he was, loss of perspective, withdraw, hurt and discourage
 - When people curse and accuse you a spirit is sent out to destroy you
 - v7,15 His strength returned through the touch of God and the prophetic word
- iii) Luke 22:45-46 - The Disciples: "...he found them sleeping for sorrow"
- The disciples forgot their identity, forgot their calling as mighty Apostles of God
 - They opened their soul to the Jezebel Spirit through sorrow – emotional grief and pain
 - Sorrow = grief, heaviness, pain, sadness
 - They lost their confidence that came from the anointing flowing
 - Matthew 26:40-46 "They were awakened from their sleep by Prophetic Confrontation from Jesus"
- iv) Galatians 2:11-13 - Peter: "...he separated himself fearing those who were of circumcision"
- Peter forgot his identity, his calling, he forgot his personal revelation he had received
 - He let go the personal revelation he had received from the Lord re the Gentiles Acts 10:15
 - He opened his soul to the Jezebel spirit through fear
 - Fearing = 5399 = to frighten, put to flight, score away, shrink back, conceal self
 - The Jewish Christians kept the law and introduced the pressure of legalism
 - Dissemble = 4942 = to act a stage player, pretend to act out of one motive when another motive inspired the action
 - The church came into great conflict as Peter withdrew, out of fear
 - v11 Paul confronted Peter – Apostolic Confrontation with truth
- v) Galatians 3:1-2 - Galatian Church: "did you receive the spirit by works of law or hearing by faith"
- The Galatian Church forgot their identity, the calling as Gentiles, they forgot the liberty of the Holy Spirit
 - They opened their soul to the Jezebel spirit through wrong belief and performance beliefs
 - Foolish = 453 = lacking spiritual understanding, mind not being exercised
 - Bewitched = 940 = to fascinate, charm, cast spell over, captivate, place under power it = wicca - sorcerer
 - The Galatians had opened their soul to spiritual influence of the Jezebel spirit by allowing legalism – religion based on performance not faith
 - They began in the spirit with miracles and ended in flesh striving
 - Galatians 3:1 - Paul confronted the church – Apostolic Confrontation with the truth
- vi) 2 Kings 9:11-13 - Captains of Army: "Jehu is King"
- The Soldiers (captains v5) had forgotten their identity, they forgotten their calling
 - They opened their soul to the Jezebel spirit over the nation by 'need for security'
 - The Spirit of Jezebel had cast influence over the whole nation of Israel
 - The King of Israel: Jehoram = 'The exalted One' = Pride
 - They were spiritually asleep and could not recognize what was happening v11
 - v12,13 Apostolic declaration of Prophetic Word broke the demonic influence
4. Awake, Awake!
- Mark 13:33-37 - "Watch ... lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping"
 - Doorkeeper = watcher, sentry, guardian of door, portal, gate to Kingdom
 - Watch = 1127 = to keep awake, rouse from sleep, proactive, diligent attention
 - Watching is connected to:
- i) Strong Prayer Mark 14:38
 - ii) Be sober 1 Peter 4:7
 - iii) Repentance and Strengthening self Revelation 3:3
 - iv) Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit Habakkuk 2:1

Slumber of Jezebel (2 of 3)

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Open your Bible now with me in Isaiah 52. I want to just finish what I was sharing just a week or so ago, and we look in Isaiah 52. I spoke, started to share a message, the first part of it. It was called the Slumber of Jezebel, an interesting title, and I'll explain it in just a moment. But I want us to read in this verse here in Isaiah 52, the first couple of verses, and the prophet is speaking to the church, speaking to Israel of his day. He says wake up, wake up! Isn't that amazing? Wake up! Now that's an interesting thing, to speak to me: wake up. If he's telling them to wake up they must have been... [Asleep.] ...asleep. When people are asleep, you're not aware what goes on when you're asleep. In fact when you're asleep, that's when thieves come into your house if you've left the door open.

When you're asleep you're unaware of what's going on around you. When you're asleep things can be happening that can be affecting you, but you don't know because you are asleep, and so there's a natural sleep: you fall asleep naturally, then you're unaware of what's going on around you. But you can also fall into a spiritual slumber, and clearly here God is speaking to the church, wake up! Wake up! He's speaking and stirring the church to wake up. God's speaking to the church of New Zealand, wake up! Wake up! Look what's happening! Look what's going on in the nation. Look what's happening in families, look what's happening to the next generation. Wake up church! I've called you to do something. I've called you to make a difference. So He says: wake up! Wake up! Put on your strength, the strength that a believer has is the anointing power and life of the spirit of God. Put on the Holy Ghost! Get fresh anointing around your life, wake up out of this slumber, and get back into a life flow of God.

Then He says put on your beautiful garments, garments of praise, garments of righteousness. Jerusalem, you're a holy city, a holy people, that's who you are. Then He said: the uncircumcised and unclean shall no longer come to you. In other words, let purity come round your life. Begin to be focussed. You're called to do something. Then He challenges them, shake yourself out of the dust. Many times you want someone to pray for us, but God says: shake yourself, shake yourself out of living at such a low level, and begin to live a life of purpose, passion and commitment to Jesus Christ. He says: sit down, O Jerusalem! Or literally, take your positioning that God has given to you, a positioning where you can exercise spiritual authority, and then loose the restrictions that you've lived with. Isn't that an amazing thing? We read that, and it's as relevant for today as it was 2000 or 3000 years ago when it was first written. God's speaking to us to wake up out of unawareness, to wake up and begin to shake ourselves, begin to rise up in a new strength of God.

This is a great new season. I love this season we're in. It's a challenging season, but God is wanting us to strengthen the personal foundations of our life, a time to awaken inside to what is happening around us. So interesting thing, clearly the church there was awake. There's another part of the Bible He says: wake up the mighty men! They're mighty men but they're asleep, unaware, so spiritual slumber can come on people. How would you know if you were in a spiritual slumber? How would you know that? Well there'd probably be a number of signs; your disconnection from God, lack of life of the spirit, increasing problems you can't get dominion over or deal with, a lack of revelation, compromise. There'd be a whole number of ways that you could recognise spiritual sleep in your life. Usually though, you're unaware of it, someone has to wake you up. Ever had someone come and wake you up? [grumble] Ever had your alarm go off in the early, early hours or someone rang you at a very early hour of the morning, you hang up the phone, [grumble] You can hardly even talk straight - waking up - but there's such a thing as a spiritual slumber.

When spiritual influences push down on your life, and you actually stop becoming or being what God called you to be, and you accept something much less than what God has, and you actually think it's normal. Church in the west, on the most, is in a state of spiritual slumber, unaware of the powers at work in the nation to destroy the legacy that's been built over years. God's speaking to us, wake up out of that spiritual slumber. I talked a couple of weeks ago about the Slumber of Jezebel. Jezebel was a woman in the Old Testament, also a woman in the New Testament, but I want to get your eyes off 'woman'. I want you to get your eyes on 'spiritual power, entering and oppressing a nation'. In the Old Testament Jezebel was a queen who worshipped the gods of Baal and Ashtaroath, and she came into an alliance with Ahab who was a king.

You and I are called to be kings, but we have to be careful what alliances we form in our life, and what spiritual influences we allow to come over our life. This man married this woman, and through her spiritual influences came around his life, the worship of Baal, the worship of Ashtaroath. They were gods of sex and fertility. They were the gods of war. They introduced new value systems into the nation. They abandoned the ways that God wanted the nation to be built, and the whole nation came under that spirit, came under that influence; sexual sin, promiscuity, prostitution, pornography. All those kinds of things abounded under the spiritual influences in the nation, and they thought it was quite normal. They didn't realise they were spiritually and financially and in every way impoverished and oppressed. God's word was to wake up out of that sleep, and so over the last couple of weeks, two weeks ago I began to speak about a spiritual atmosphere that puts people to sleep. When people are spiritually put to sleep, they become very passive.

Everywhere I go in New Zealand I find it, I find an incredible passivity sits over people. The Bible says, that to take hold of the promises of God why the violent press in and take hold by persistent, energetic, fervent, passionate prayer. That's how you get hold of the things of God, but when there's passivity, we're under a spiritual influence, and there's very little passion, very little fervency. The interesting thing is you can see it at a football match, but then when people come into a spiritual environment, suddenly they shut down. There's something sits over them. It's something that you and I have to fight to push off, to push it off! I don't want to be shut down! I don't want to be passive! I don't want to be asleep and unaware. I want to be awake and hearing God and moving in what He's doing!

When we shared the last time, I shared with you three situations of people who fell asleep, and what it was in their life that opened the door for that spiritual power to put him to sleep. The first one was Samson, and we found that Samson had a great call to change a nation, a call to go and to bring deliverance, freedom, salvation, to represent the living God, and to open up the nation to bring freedom from its enemies. Instead he got sidetracked with sexual sin. He got sidetracked with Delilah, and the result - the Bible says: he fell asleep on her knees. While he was asleep, he was unaware of the danger he was in. He lost the anointing on his life, and the strength of God on his life. He lost his eyesight, he lost his freedom, he lost his character and dignity, and he ended up a slave. They took him down there into the Philistine camp, and they just mocked him and belittled him. That's the condition of many Christians: no vision, no strength in anointing, in bondage, being mocked and ridiculed by the enemy through people, because they're not fulfilling the destiny that God called us to.

So that was the first one, but here's the great news. When he repented, God heard his prayer, and that mighty Holy Ghost came on him again. The most wonderful thing when we repent is, God does restore us. See, the second man we looked at was Elijah. Elijah was a great prophet of God. We saw him in 1 Kings 19, 1 Kings 18 he'd called fire down from heaven, he challenged the prophets of Baal. There'd been a mighty slaughter of the prophets of Baal. The old religion of Baal was beginning to be challenged and shake. Fire of God fell out of heaven, and then Jezebel came against him, and sent messengers against him. It says: he became afraid, he ran away. Fear opened his life for this oppression to come around him, he isolated, then he sat down under a tree and just wanted to die. The Bible says he fell asleep. When you come under and yield to spiritual oppression because of fear, you go into a state of sleep. You don't really see what's going on, what it costs you to give way to fear, what it costs you to give way to sin.

Neither Elijah nor Samson realised what it was costing them, that for Elijah, he lost the momentum of revival, and God had to reposition him back again, and entrust revival to the next generation. Interesting isn't it? A little bit of sleep, a little bit of slumber, a little bit of folding of the hands to the rest, and then poverty comes [upon us like an armed man] - through laziness, spiritual laziness, sleep comes Proverbs tells us. See, so but we don't keep ourselves vibrant, alive, energised, vitally connected to God, listening to Him, responding to Him, flowing with Him, we become - slumber, can't be bothered, tired, weary. The third one we looked at were the disciples, and we looked in Luke 22. We saw the disciples and Jesus was facing one of the greatest challenges of His life. He knew He was about to go to the cross; all the powers of death and hell were pushing against Him, and He said to His friends: I am sorrowful, exceedingly sorrowful under death. Please come and pray with me in the garden. They came into the garden, and that power and that pressure came on Jesus, and He stood firmly in the place of prayer. He broke through yielding to the will of God. He brought salvation for you and for me - but the disciples fell asleep for sorrow, under the same spiritual pressure. They yielded and fell asleep, and so we see they were unable to be a part of what Jesus was doing, because they fell asleep. Isn't that interesting?

Sin, sexual sin in the case of Samson, fear on the case of Elijah, sorrows and hurts and griefs on the case of the disciples; all of them allowed that spiritual power to shut them down and put them to sleep, where they could not be of any use. In fact it cost them something. Fortunately Jesus came and restored them, the mighty Holy Ghost came upon them, they woke up and when they woke up, my, what a difference it made! Timid, fearful men became bold men. I want you to have a look with me in Galatians which we're going to go for today. I want to look at - we may get to three situations, at least we'll get to two. Let's have a look in Galatians, Chapter 2. We're going to read about some of these mighty men, and we're going to read about Peter. Peter came back under a spiritual influence again. He didn't literally fall asleep, but he became unaware of what was happening, and lost something God had given to him.

So in Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 11; now Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; for before certain men came from James - Galatians 2, Verse 12 - he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came he withdrew. He separated himself. He feared those who were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, and even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy, taken in by it, came under the influence of it. But when I saw they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all - and then He confronts Peter. Now what you've got to see here, is that Peter was raised in the Jewish culture. In the Jewish culture they had a paradigm and a mindset, that the Jewish people were - that was it - we are the people, God has entrusted everything to us. Wisdom starts and ends with us, we're the people of God. They had a mindset, we're the people of God.

It was an exclusive mindset. It was a mindset that excluded the Gentiles. They consider the Gentiles to be unclean, so one day Peter is praying, and he receives a personal revelation of the heart of God for lost people. As he's in this time of prayer he receives a vision, and he sees these unclean animals descending from heaven, and he hears God speak to him saying rise and eat. He says no, no, no, no, no. Three times it comes and the word says rise and he says no, no, no, no, I don't eat unclean stuff. Then the word comes to him, what God has called clean, no man should call unclean. He realised then that God's - the vision he had received was the heart of God to reach all men, not just the Jews, but to reach all men; that God's original plan was the gospel would go every nation of the earth, that the good news of Jesus Christ would go to every person, that there was a breakdown of the war between Jews and the Gentiles, between men and women, the Greeks and Jews. Whatever it was, God broke the wall down with the death of Christ, and the gospel was to go to the whole world.

He received it by revelation. He got a revelation, the heart of God is to go to the Gentiles, but when they invited him to come, when he got there he made this kind of speech: Well, you know us Jews aren't supposed to eat with you Gentiles. That's not a very polite way to address people is it? Come on, just think about it. Cornelius has got the whole household there waiting to hear him: oh, God appeared to us. He said he's going to send you to us. We've been all waiting for you to come, and he says: well you know it's not lawful for us Jews to mix with you Gentiles. Can you see how steeped he is in a paradigm, that causes him to be separate from the Gentiles, and unable to connect with them, to cause him to avoid them and distance himself from them? But as he began to preach the word of God, God just interrupted the preaching, Holy Spirit fell on them, they spoke in tongues, prophesied, magnified God and his conclusion, well, I guess they got the Holy Spirit like us, we should water baptise them.

Can you see the reluctance in his mentality to shift out of a narrow world view? It's very true in the church, that there's a problem of shifting out of a narrow world view, that can encompass and love and reach people at every level of society, and celebrate them as wonderful, valuable people to God. The tendency is to separate, to exclude, to keep apart, in case something bad might happen to me - but Jesus never did that. The biggest complaint His enemies had was He mixed with the sinners and the prostitutes. He mixed with everyone. He mixed with them, He was never

defiled by them. He just loved them. He was able to love the unlovely, He was able to open His heart and celebrate people. Now notice what Peter did.

Peter was now walking with the Gentiles, he was relating with them, fellow-shipping, sharing with them, and then these Jews come down from Jerusalem, and they are legalists. They have no heart for the Gentiles, they're just legalists and everyone must keep the laws: you've got to do this, you've got to do this, got to do this, this, can't do that, can't do that, dress like this, go here, do this, do that. They had a whole list of laws, and they came with all of that legalism. When they came with that legalism, look at this, it's Peter the apostle, and it says: he withdrew and separated himself. He was afraid of them. Why was he afraid of them? Because he was still so steeped in that old paradigm, and when they came he was torn apart between what God had revealed to him and the old culture, the old behaviours, the old ways. When they came, he was caught and he became afraid, and he became fearful of them, and guess what he did? He come under spiritual pressure, and instead of holding true to revelation, he began to yield to the pressure to please the people who'd come. How did he do it? He began to withdraw from the Gentiles he'd been fellow-shipping with.

When this controlling spirit comes, what it does is it causes people to fragment and separate, causes us to become caught up in what's right and wrong, judgemental, accusing and divisive. That's what that spirit does. He come under its influence. Even Barnabas came under its influence, and in the end there's this whole turmoil going on, and the one thing that broke it was when an apostolic voice rose up and said: stop, that's wrong! He was confronted, that's Peter, confronted before everyone. Why? Because a spiritual influence was about to create division and separation, and he couldn't even see it. He was asleep to what was going on. Can you imagine what would have happened if he had continued in that course of action, and had separated from the Gentiles? What would have happened is legalism would have come around the Gentiles. They would have had to submit to the law, the Old Testament laws. Instead of the liberty that Christ had brought them into, they'd have come under religious legalism. They'd come under the shadow of something God was trying to remove, to bring people into freedom.

That's what a spiritual influence can do to people. It can cause you to separate from people God wants you to connect to, and cause you to divide from people you should be loving and united with. Where God has brought people together in the spirit, that spirit pressure when it comes, causes you to be unaware, and you start to separate and divide and haven't got a clue why you're dividing. When you sense division taking place, when you sense that separating is taking place, and you know there's no real reason for it, just some spiritual influence at work, you just can't see it. God calls us to walk in that unity, and so Paul confronted him to stop that spiritual influence working through his fear to divide the church. Notice this, it was a spiritual influence, but it found root in a man's fear. Fear is a gateway for control in our lives. What you fear, you will surrender to, and it will control you, and steal the liberty that God has.

So he changed. It doesn't say it here but he must have repented. He must have come to the acknowledgement of the truth, repented, and that whole thing broke when he repented. I want you to have a look what happened in the Galatians Church though. Read in [Chapter 3 and Verse 1. Now Paul is writing to the Galatians Church. The whole book is a book of Paul, an apostle, not of men nor through men, but through Jesus Christ and God our Father, to the churches in Galatia. So he's writing not just to one church, he's writing to a whole lot of churches, and guess what had happened? They had become shut down in the spirit. You know the New Testament church was birthed in the spirit. It was birthed with a move of God. It was birthed with the Holy Ghost moving, and now he's writing to these Galatians Churches which once were birthed in the spirit, now something's happened to them. Guess what he says to them? Lovely apostolic writing, it's not at all pastoral you notice. Oh there there, let us come alongside you and comfort you with all your hurts. He didn't say that.

He said: you foolish Galatians - means lacking understanding, being ignorant of what's going on, or virtually spiritually asleep. Wake up! Wake up! Wake up! Why is he saying to wake up? He said: something has bewitched you. That word bewitched means to cast a spell over, to bring sorcery over, to bring a spiritual influence over. He says: something has come over you, and brought a spiritual influence over you. What did it do to the church and what was it? Let me tell you what it was, because he's asked this question straight away. He says this: he said tell me now. He said: tell me now, how did you get saved? Did you get saved by trying hard to be a good person? Did you get saved by working hard to keep this rule, don't do that, do this? Is that how you got saved? Is that how you get to heaven? Clearly not. It's by the hearing of faith. You heard the word of God, you believed, and because of your faith in Christ, and resting solely on the work of Jesus, you became acceptable to God, and entitled to the blessings of heaven. Is that not true?

I know lots of Christians, they start off that way but pretty soon it's all about a struggle to be good enough for God. That's foolish. That's moved away from the gospel. Have you moved away from the gospel, that you're made right

with God by faith in Jesus Christ? Then he placed a second question, Verse 5. He said: now, how does He work miracles, and how does He minister the spirit among you, by working hard, doing the works of the law? In other words, how do miracles happen? Is it because you really work hard at it? Is it because you try, you do this, you don't do that, you keep this law, don't keep that law? Is it that way? He said no way, he says by the hearing of faith. So he said: you foolish Galatians, something got over you. There's a spiritual atmosphere got over you. What got over you? Legalism, performing, trying to work hard to get God's pleasure in your life, trying to work hard, do it right, don't do this, don't do that. It's a whole thing about performance.

Religion worldwide is about doing something to please God and get right with Him. Christianity, Jesus did the work, the Father was pleased, we trust in what He did, and we're free to enjoy the benefits, relationship and to walk by faith, motivated by love for God - totally different. How easy it is to move from that position to now, if I don't do this, I do this, I do that. It becomes all of these things I have to do, and if you do them you feel proud; if you don't do them you're condemned. So when that spirit is operating liberty, freedom, joy, love, vitality goes out. What comes in? Heaviness and oppression and mental thoughts are not good enough. There's something wrong with me. I need to try harder. I'll never make it. That is a demonic accusation. There is no condemnation to those - notice this, Romans 8:1 - who are in Christ, and who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit. What does that mean? You set your mind towards the word of God and the spirit of God. You set your mind, and your thoughts are set there, but you see legalism you get your thoughts on your behaviours rather than on the promises, rather than on the blessings, rather than what God has promised to give us.

So he said something came in - in Galatians 5:1 - Galatians, stand fast in the liberty where with Christ has set us free. Liberty, unrestrained freedom! When you get used to living like a slave, it's hard to know what that freedom is like, but you've got to learn to express it; freedom to laugh, freedom to love, freedom to enjoy life, freedom from condemnation, freedom from the guilt of the past, freedom from demonic powers, freedom to be myself! Freedom to walk with God, freedom to follow the calling of God in my life, freedom to explore what God has called me to do. Free! But notice what he says: stand fast in that freedom. In other words, there is a spiritual contention to remain in a place of freedom that God has given you, and not get wrapped up and tangled in, he says the yoke of bondage, that rule keeping gives. It's an issue everywhere. I go to churches all over the place and I see in so many places, particularly New Zealand, heaviness settles over people and you know underneath it's a rejection root, I'm not good enough. If I just do enough things, I'll be good enough - but that's not righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ. I can come boldly to the throne of God, so I watch how people come. I watched a group of men, 200 or 300 men come to get the Holy Ghost, and this is what they did.[Solemn, head bowed] Well I don't know where they got that from, because they didn't get that from the Bible.

The Bible says come into His presence with thanksgiving, into His gates with praise! It says: come boldly to the throne of grace. That's biblical protocol, so where did you get this other stuff? Where did that come from? It didn't come from the Bible, but it looks good. It looks kind of - I'm not saying there's any reason we shouldn't put our head down or bow. The Bible says: after we've entered His gates, after we've praised Him, then we bow and worship - not some kind of been condemned, not good enough, unworthy kind of deal. God has made us worthy! You need to stand on what the word of God says. I am made righteous! That means I am right with God, I can walk into His presence. The only thing to keep you out is if you've got sin. Well quickly repent of it, stand again in righteousness of Christ, rise into that liberty - then that liberty needs to be expressed. The liberty, liberty to dance, liberty to be yourself, liberty to break out, see what happens when we accept bondage as though it's normal when it isn't.

So people go to the pub and drink so they can get free. [Laughter] It's true. They take drugs so they can feel better. They do all kinds of things to feel better. It's all about feeling better. When God says: I've put something in you that'll make you buzz, but you have to believe, and express that life. See, stand fast in the liberty - so what came over you that took your freedom? Well whatever you let take it, that's the issue. Everyone's responsible for our freedom and holding our freedom, individually, corporately. We have to maintain our freedom, freedom to express, freedom to be alive, freedom, freedom to express, see, instead of being passive, shut down. You know there's nothing in heaven responds to passivity. Passivity is of the devil. Passivity means there's a heavy thing has come over you, and now instead of taking ownership, responsibility and persevering and pushing to get what God has said is yours, you shut down, and you become passive, and actually get soulish and melancholic and you're not in the spirit.

People get so used to living that way they think it's normal, think it's just good Christian, but it isn't. It isn't. When David got the Ark of God, he danced and rejoiced before the Lord. There was great joy in the city in the presence of God. The Bible says rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! Well that's liberty, you have to be free to do that - so what did you let take your freedom, that's a spiritual power that got a hold of your life.

Let's just finish with these verses in Mark 13. You know people go into a spiritual slump and they don't even know. I was down in a group of men down in - I won't tell the city, but it was a while ago - with this group of men and we got there, it was the first night of a men's conference. We got in there and they did their singing, and the guys got up and did their stuff. I said to the man who was helping me organise it all, I said I don't know what's the saddest thing. I don't know whether the saddest thing is that they haven't got any freedom, or whether the saddest thing perhaps is they actually don't know it, and they think this is really good. They were as shut down as you could imagine - I've never seen a group of men so shut down. So I said that's a spirit power. If we don't address that and get these men free, so they stand up and be what they're called to be, this thing's going to be just a fizzer all weekend.

So we rewed it up and had a great deliverance session, got the demons out of them, set people free and away they went. It was much happier after that. [Laughter] Anyway, let's quickly look at this. I want to share with you just these verses here in Mark, Chapter 13. Jesus is talking to His disciples, He's talking about the end time, the time of His coming, and He says: now take heed - Verse 33 - watch and pray. Watch, keep awake, keep awake, don't fall asleep! Watch, watch, watch, watch! Keep alive, keep alert. What are the spiritual influences around your life? Watch and pray. You don't know when the time is for the man, it's like a man going to a far country. That's Jesus who left His house - the church gave authority to his servants - that's us - every believer his work, and commanded the doorkeeper - you and I are doorkeepers of our life, and doorkeepers of the spiritual atmosphere we're in - watch! Watch - Verse 36 - lest, coming suddenly, he finds you sleeping.

The He says: what I say to you disciples, I'm telling everyone who's a follower of Me, Watch! Watch! Don't fall asleep spiritually! So watching is always connected with being alive, and aware of what spiritual and relational influences are operating. Watching is always connected to being sober, what? Be sober! Don't let some kind of addictive things get around your life, or you become unaware how much bondage you have. It says to be sober! 1 Thessalonians, be sober; watch. So what relationships are confusing me? What compromise is confusing me? What kind of fears am I yielding to, that's causing me to come under bondage? What kinds of things are coming around, that is shutting me down from being what I could be? Or if I put it to you another way, you could do whatever you wanted to do. If you could break free and fulfil a dream of your heart, what would the dream be? Now what is it stopping that? Aah, that's what's got you asleep. That's the thing you'll have to face, see?

Stand fast in the liberty! Liberty doesn't mean you do anything. Liberty - the Bible says by love serve one another, so we get liberty so we can serve the Lord, love people, fulfil our destiny. He says you've got to watch, you've got to pray, you've got to keep alive, you've got to keep alive, sensitive to the Holy Ghost. In Matthew 25 it says: you know the thief comes, he takes everything out of the man's house, because the man didn't watch. You see the devil can come and steal what God has entrusted and given to you, if you don't watch. Peter had a revelation from God. He nearly lost it, because he didn't watch what was happening. You can go to a seminar and learn how to flow in the Holy Spirit, and two months later have lost it. It was stolen from you, because you came under a spiritual influence. They're very real. That's why the Bible says: wake up! Wake up! Wake up! Wake up the mighty men!

How do you wake up? You've got to recognise, I've been asleep, need to come out of that sleep, begin to pray, fast, begin to push into God, begin to express hunger and passion towards God, begin to let the word of God come out of your mouth. Begin to start to let the dreams come alive in your heart again. Begin to stir yourself, so you're energised. Don't measure yourself by the person next to you, measure yourself by the word of God. Are you in a place of fervent passionate prayer, or has your life shut down? Here's a few questions you could ask. Just ask these questions. Do I have a strong and a passionate prayer life? Am I in compromise with some issue in my life? Am I hearing God speak clearly? When did you last hear Him? What did He say? Did you do it? Think about that, because heaven goes silent when you don't do what God says. You go into a slumber.

Is there any influence that's negative around my life? Is it some fear, some pressure, some relationship, some compromise, some ungodly soul-draw? Is there something pushing me, that if I stop and listen to God I'd become aware, actually I don't feel too comfortable about what's happening there. See, think about that. Is there something I'm avoiding? Inevitably there's a fear, and that's bringing control over your life. Is there some person I'm avoiding, some situation I'm avoiding, some situation I don't want to face? Oh, then there's a spiritual atmosphere come around you, and you're yielding to the fear. Paul wrote to Timothy, God hasn't given you a spirit of fear. It's shut down your gift when you yielded to it. Fear allows control, shuts your giftings down. You have to war against those things. You have to break out. That's why God says: awake! Awake! Shake yourself! Rise up out of the dust, and begin to put on the beautiful garments: praise; worship; and the authority Christ has given us. What a fantastic thing.

Are you passionately doing what God told you, or is it a long time since God spoke? Have a think about that, and then ask yourself, I wonder what spirit has pushed against me and I've allowed it to do so. Like Samson, it's taken my vision and my destiny and I need to repent. Let's close our eyes. Father, we thank You. We thank You Lord that You

are challenging us to become spirit people, aware of the spiritual atmosphere around us, sensitive to the Holy Spirit, and strongly rising up to take dominion. Let's keep our eyes closed and our head bowed.

I was just reading an email from Andy Mason this week, and he was talking to me about people we sent out, and he said you know when you look there's been people gone out to nations from this house. He's gone over there to Bethel, and within a year and a half he's risen up and he's now having influence at a top leadership level at Bethel. We sent someone else and they went into IHOP and they rose up and became - now they're top influence in IHOP, International House of Prayer. We sent people, they went over to Australia right up there in Hillsong, right up the top. We sent people into other places, they rise right up to the top, and I got one of them back. I said: why is it you rose to the top? What was different about you, that caused you to be chosen out from everyone else? They said: I've got some grunt, I've got some horsepower in me. I've got some life inside of me. I said: exactly, how did you get it? He said I got it here. Well how did you get it? He said: well we had to learn how to stand up and push against heavy atmospheres, had to learn how to stand up and push back what comes around us, to depress, defeat, make us negative. We had to learn to STAND UP in the spirit and stay awake! I said: exactly. That was the training ground God used to launch you, to now where you have great influence.

Always appreciate where God brought you from. Always appreciate how God got you there, and then teach others to do the same - but we're here now, and you and I need to rise and stand up, so I wonder if there are any people here today and you're living under heaviness, living under oppression, living under fear, living under compromise. Like Samson there's something gone on in your life, and it's blinded your eyes. Well you need to quickly come up and say: God, forgive me. I want out and I want to get back into my place of strength again. Perhaps you're here and like Elijah, fear got around your life, like Peter fear got around your life and you've yielded to things and you've let go. You say: God, I want to get back into that place of freedom again. You come running to the front. Maybe like the disciples you're full of sorrow and you've just fallen asleep, your prayer life's stopped, you're not even aware that you've entered into that pressure and you've surrendered to it. Why don't you come to the front, say: God, I want out, I want to get up out of this thing. I want to rise up, become a man of prayer, woman of prayer.

Maybe there's others, and for different reasons there's oppression, heaviness come around you. Why don't you make your way to the front, just come right now, just stand up, make your way down the front. We can pray with you and help you and stand with you. You'll get a momentary and a brief release, but you must decide to fight. The kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent, those who are assertive, those who know what God's word says, and will hold onto heaven until it comes about. There was a woman did that. Jesus ignored her, but she held on and a miracle came, and Jesus said that's what faith looks like. There was a blind man, he shouted out and they tried to stop him, and he said: no way, I'm not stopping. He shouted louder. He got a miracle. He knew what it was to press into the things of God. There's a woman who had a flow of blood. Well everyone would have held her back and rejected her, but she said: I know what I want, pressed in and got a miracle.

Are there any others today got that heaviness sits over you, that are feeling the isolation come around your life? Perhaps you're shutting down, and gone down into a hole like Elijah did, or into a place of weakness like Samson did, or into a place of sleepiness like the disciples did, or into a place of confusion like Peter did, or perhaps you're just flat as a pancake? Well listen, you don't have to tolerate that - but you do have to decide to be different. Today's choice will make tomorrow different. Yesterday's choice brought you where you are. Make a choice today. Make a decision today, I will stand, I will not sleep, I will get into God. I will break out of what's around my life. If that's you, please make your way to the front right now.

Summary Notes: [Formatted »](#) [Back to Top »](#)

Introduction:

- Isaiah 52:1-2 - "Awake, awake, put on your strength oh Zion, put on your beautiful garments oh Jerusalem, the Holy City"
- Call to the church to awaken from sleep and to arise into its' proper place of operation
- Awake = 5782 = to open the eyes, stir self up, arouse from place of sleep
- Prophetic call to the church that requires a faith action - response
- Personal Word: "Awake, awake from your slumber of Jezebel..."

What is the Slumber of Jezebel?

a) Jezebel: 1 Kings 16:31-32

- Jezebel = Baal exalts, under the favour of Baal, not cohabiting with
- The 1st portrayal in the bible as a wicked queen who killed prophets and established idolatry
- Next portrayed in the Bible - Revelation 2:20 - as a person with the same evil character and intent
- Two different eras - same spiritual power exercising a destructive influence on the people of God
- Operates to seduce = 4105 = to wander away from safety, from truth, go astray
- Operates to intimidate and control

i) External Spiritual Pressure - 'Outer Space' Ephesians 6:12

ii) Internal Spiritual Pressure - 'Inner Space' entering through personal strongholds 2 Corinthians 10:4

- How we think and behave
- Spiritual powers seducing people, and the people beginning to yield to them

b) Slumber Romans 11:8

- Slumber = to sleep, be in a state of inactivity
- Spiritual Slumber
- Spiritual sensitivity dull
- Cannot see or hear spiritually
- Unaware of spiritual influences at work, can't do anything about it
- Living in a 'trance' – unaware what is happening
- Ultimately it leads to a loss of hope and destiny

c) Slumber of Jezebel – spiritual power that shuts you down, no strength, become weak:

- State of spiritual dullness and the lack of awareness brought on by yielding to the invisible activity of the Jezebel power
- One of the major causes of this is spiritual laziness
- Proverbs 19:15 - "Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep"

3. Bible Examples:

- There are several examples of people who came under the influence of this invisible activity of the Jezebel power

i) Judges 16:19-21 - Samson: "she made him sleep on her knees"

- Samson forgot his identity, forgot his calling as a mighty deliverer
- He opened his soul to the Jezebel spirit through sexual sin, false comforts
- He was spiritually unaware of the danger, focused comfort on Delilah – v 5,9 – 5 lords of the Philistines waiting there
- He lost his crown of dominion, and he did not know it v20
- He lost his vision, his strength, his destiny and was brought into bondage
- The Jezebel spirit strips people of strength, vision, hope => bondage
- When Samson repented his strength was restored. The power of God came around him again
- Arise to this spirit, don't let it steal your dreams, inheritance and legacy of the next generation
- Spirit power requires spiritual weapons
- If you get connected with the living God you will be stronger than ever

ii) 1 Kings 19:1-5 - Elijah: "he lay and slept under a broom tree"

- A mighty man of faith
- Elijah forgot his identity, forgot his calling as a mighty deliverer
- He opened his soul to the Jezebel spirit when he received Jezebel's messenger v2,3
- The messenger (demonic) wounded him, stripped him of confidence and fear entered
- Fear = abandoning position, isolate, discourage, loss of perspective, desire to die
- Juniper tree = to bind or put in a yoke
- He lost his courage that came from the anointing flowing, he forgot who he was, loss of perspective, withdraw, hurt and discourage
- When people curse and accuse you a spirit is sent out to destroy you
- v7,15 His strength returned through the touch of God and the prophetic word

iii) Luke 22:45-46 - The Disciples: "...he found them sleeping for sorrow"

- The disciples forgot their identity, forgot their calling as mighty Apostles of God
- They opened their soul to the Jezebel Spirit through sorrow – emotional grief and pain
- Sorrow = grief, heaviness, pain, sadness
- They lost their confidence that came from the anointing flowing
- Matthew 26:40-46 "They were awakened from their sleep by Prophetic Confrontation from Jesus"

iv) Galatians 2:11-13 - Peter: "...he separated himself fearing those who were of circumcision"

- Peter forgot his identity, his calling, he forgot his personal revelation he had received
- He let go the personal revelation he had received from the Lord re the Gentiles Acts 10:15
- He opened his soul to the Jezebel spirit through fear
- Fearing = 5399 = to frighten, put to flight, score away, shrink back, conceal self
- The Jewish Christians kept the law and introduced the pressure of legalism
- Dissemble = 4942 = to act a stage player, pretend to act out of one motive when another motive inspired the action
- The church came into great conflict as Peter withdrew, out of fear
- v11 Paul confronted Peter – Apostolic Confrontation with truth

v) Galatians 3:1-2 - Galatian Church: "did you receive the spirit by works of law or hearing by faith"

- The Galatian Church forgot their identity, the calling as Gentiles, they forgot the liberty of the Holy Spirit
- They opened their soul to the Jezebel spirit through wrong belief and performance beliefs
- Foolish = 453 = lacking spiritual understanding, mind not being exercised
- Bewitched = 940 = to fascinate, charm, cast spell over, captivate, place under power rt = wicca - sorcerer
- The Galatians had opened their soul to spiritual influence of the Jezebel spirit by allowing legalism – religion based on performance not faith
- They began in the spirit with miracles and ended in flesh striving
- Galatians 3:1 - Paul confronted the church – Apostolic Confrontation with the truth

vi) 2 Kings 9:11-13 - Captains of Army: "Jehu is King"

- The Soldiers (captains v5) had forgotten their identity, they forgotten their calling
- They opened their soul to the Jezebel spirit over the nation by 'need for security'
- The Spirit of Jezebel had cast influence over the whole nation of Israel
- The King of Israel: Jehoram = 'The exalted One' = Pride
- They were spiritually asleep and could not recognize what was happening v11

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