

Discerning Spiritual Climates and Battling Jezebel's Witchcrafts

☒ Exhaustion; that's the best word to describe how I've felt for the past two weeks. And there is no natural reason for it. I've been sleeping plenty. Drinking lots of water. Getting plenty of exercise. (Enjoying more than my quota of Starbucks!)

Yet the morning I penned this article—despite sleeping nine hours the night before—I went back to sleep for two hours after taking my daughter to school. And when I woke up, I was still exhausted—and disgusted.

I was starting to wonder what was wrong with me. And then I got a friendly reminder revelation from the **Holy Spirit**: It's witchcraft. Wicked **witchcraft**. How could I forget? It caught me off guard. Now I'm warning you.

Discerning Spiritual Climates

I don't know where you live, but I live in South Florida where the **spiritual climate** often seems as hard as bronze. (Bronze heavens are part of the curse of the law, according to Deut. 28:23). South Florida is sometimes called the "evangelist's graveyard." The **spiritual climate** is intense.

Sometimes, it seems like our **prayers** hit a bronze ceiling and fall back down to the earth again. Of course, we know that's not true because God hears the **prayers** of the righteous (Prov. 15:8). But prayer often feels like a heated battle when you are in a tight **spiritual climate** with strongholds like **witchcraft** and **Jezebel**. Sometimes you don't even feel like praying.

The Bible talks about rebellion as the sin of **witchcraft** (1

Sam. 15:23). Well, South Florida is home to a cornucopia of cultural rebellion through homosexuality, an active drug scene, naughty nightclubs and the like. The Bible talks about **Jezebel** and her **witchcrafts** (2 Kings 9:22). Well, South Florida is home to a diverse population that has brought Santeria from Cuba, Voodoo from Haiti and Rastafari—and God knows what other devils—from the Caribbean islands. You might say the **principalities and powers** here are as eclectic as the population.

But there's another element that contributes to the **witchcraft** in my region and maybe in yours too, especially during this time of year: Mary worship. My experience living here over the past decade tells me that Mary worship empowers the Jezebel spirit. Remember, I'd been exhausted for about the past two weeks. There was no natural reason for it. But there was a **supernatural** reason for it. It's no coincidence that Lent started on Feb. 22—about two weeks ago.

Mary Worship and Jezebel

See, during Lent some have a tendency to exalt Mary, the mother of Jesus. But we know that's not God's will. God has highly exalted Jesus and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee must bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that He is Lord, to the glory of the Father (Phil 2:9-11).

Where Mary is exalted, I believe it empowers the **spirit of Jezebel** and her **witchcrafts**. Some people in some religions refer to Mary as the "Queen of Heaven." But Ashtoreth, the chief pagan goddess of war and sex mentioned in the Old Testament, is also known as the Queen of Heaven. And it's the Ashtoreth spirit that's behind **Jezebel**. The Lord speaks of the queen of heaven in Jeremiah 7, noting that the people of Judah were giving offerings to other gods and provoking Him to anger. The Old Testament Jezebel's father, Ethbal, was the high priest of the goddess Ashtoreth, the queen of heaven. Can

you connect the dots?

During Lent—at least in South Florida—the **spirit of witchcraft** gets so thick it seems like you have to cut through it with a power saw. Spiritual witchcraft (I'm not talking about practitioners of Wicca, so you can refrain from the séances and curses against me) is a spiritual force that causes you to feel like quitting and giving up. From my experience, it can make you tired in your body. The imaginations hitting your mind become more intense. And infirmities can manifest.

Indeed, witchcraft can cause you to grow weary in well-doing and even faint if you don't know what you are dealing with—and how to battle it. So how do you battle it? You battle witchcraft like you battle every other **principality**, power, ruler of the darkness of this age, or spiritual host of wickedness (Eph. 6:12).

Battling Jezebel's Witchcrafts

Always remember, we aren't wrestling against flesh and blood, yet we do need to put on our whole armor and engage in the battle. Passivity isn't going to deliver you from **Jezebel's witchcraft**.

“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our **warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled” (2 Cor. 10:3-6).

When it comes to **witchcraft**, we have to withstand it. The Amplified Bible says to “be firm in faith [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined]” (1 Peter 5:9). It's easy enough to give in to witchcraft, especially if you don't know what is attacking you. So again,

when you feel like giving up, when you feel tired for no reason, when you have strong confusion, when you are fighting an intense battle in your mind, and when infirmities are manifesting, it could be **witchcraft**. Resist it at its onset. Cast it off. Submit yourself to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you (James 4:7 AMP).

Again, submit yourself to the Lordship of Christ. Exalt His name. Thank Him for His blood. Rejoice in the Lord. This morning, before I even recognized I was covered with witchcraft I turned on some music and began to **worship** God. Praise and worship carry breakthrough. That's often all it takes to change the **spiritual climate** in your home. And that's where we should start because He is worthy of our adoration.

If worship doesn't break the witchcraft, take authority over it in the name above all names. Witchcraft has to bow at the name of Jesus. But make sure you don't have any common ground with the enemy. Repent for any rebellion in your heart and surrender your will anew to God. Remember, we are more than conquerors in Christ and no weapon formed against us can prosper—not even witchcraft. Our job is to be spiritually discerning enough to catch the devil at his onset, resist him, rebuke him and praise God for the victory. Amen.

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