

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
JEHU WIPES OUT AHAB'S HOUSE
2 KINGS 10:1-14

Introduction

Before we begin, *2 Kings 10*, understand that this is a very bloody chapter. If you think *2 Kings 9* and the deaths of Jehoram, Ahaziah, and Jezebel were bad, you ain't seen nothing yet!

If this Chapter were part of a movie, I have no doubt that it probably would be rated R just for the blood and gore alone! As we move through it and look at the details, you'll come to understand what I mean! For those of us that have a weak stomach for such things (included myself), it's a good thing that we're just reading about it and not viewing it!

When we studied *Chapter 9* before Christmas, we last saw *JEHU* kill *KING JEHORAM (JORAM) OF ISRAEL* and *KING AHAZIAH OF JUDAH* and *JEZEBEL* — All who had family ties to *AHAB*. But we said that *JEHU* was **NOT** done! There were more males that made up the house of *AHAB* that we will see him take care of disposing of here in *Chapter 10*! (Ahab had 70 other sons and then there were other relatives *JEHU* had to take care of as well!)

Let's begin by reviewing the charge given to *JEHU* from the LORD by the Prophet who anointed him! Read *2 Kings 9:4-10*!

From this we see a few things before we move on to Chapter 10:

I. THE LORD CHOSE JEHU AND COMMANDED HIM TO DO WHAT HE DID IN REGARD TO AHAB'S HOUSE!

The LORD's instructions here are pretty specific and wide ranging don't you think!? *JEHU* was now king of Israel meaning that he was to reign over Israel! (*Vs 6*)

JEHU was to kill the **WHOLE HOUSE** of *AHAB*! (*Vs 7-10*)

Especially mentioned is that **EVERY MALE** of *AHAB'S* house was to be killed!

It is very clear here that **the LORD** is the one doing this! (*Notice the "I will..." in vs 8 and vs 9*) *JEHU* was the instrument that the LORD used to accomplish HIS purposes!

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Let me just point out here that the LORD still uses men, even ungodly men sometimes, to fulfill His purposes!

Notice also how Jezebel was specifically mentioned regarding her end! (*Vs 10*)

II. JEHU DID NOT HESITATE TO DO THE LORD'S WILL!

When the LORD calls on us to do something, he doesn't want us to dilly-dally around, He wants us to get to it! *JEHU* did just that!

In fact, *JEHU* immediately set out to do the LORD's will! He began by setting out on about a 40 to 50 mile journey from Ramoth-Gilead west to Jezreel (the location of the palace) with a small company to slay *KING JEHORAM (JORAM) OF ISRAEL* which makes sense!

(The new king *JEHU* had to eliminate his former master and now rival king to solidify his kingship! Remember, the news hasn't got out yet!)

Well, we know in doing that he got what we might call a **"two-for"** deal! *KING AHAZIAH OF JUDAH* was there checking up on how his uncle *JEHORAM (JORAM)* was doing after being wounded in a battle with *HAZAEEL KING OF SYRIA*!

[Now, remember that *AHAZIAH'S* mother, *ATHALIAH*, who had been married to *KING JEHORAM (JORAM) OF JUDAH* was sister to *KING JEHORAM (JORAM) OF ISRAEL*!]

Well, actually, *JEHU* got a **"three-for"** deal in that he was able to dispose of *JEZEBEL*, who lived in Jezreel as well!

JEHU took on *JEHORAM (JORAM)* and *AHAZIAH* who came out to him at the same time in *NABOTH'S VINEYARD*!

When *JEHORAM (JORAM)* figured out that *JEHU* was there to kill him, he hollered out to *AHAZIAH* that there was treachery and as *JEHORAM (JORAM)* tried to flea, *JEHU* put an arrow in his heart!

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Do you think **JEHU** was just a good shot or that the LORD guided that arrow? YES...to both! If we are good at something, we need to give glory to the LORD because He had a hand in that! So, the LORD was in **JEHU**'s skill as a bowman, but there is no doubt in my mind that the LORD also guided that arrow!

After that, **AHAZIAH** also tried to flee and was pursued for about 10 miles and eventually was killed by one of **JEHU'S** company!

Then, **JEHU** took care of **JEZEBEL** by calling up to several eunuch's that served her to throw her out the window and she literally made a big splash on the wall and the horses and then was stomped by the horses for good measure!

JEHU then casually entered the palace and to eat and drink and when he came out all that was left of **JEZEBEL'S** body was her skull, and feet, and palms of her hands because it happened to her according to the Word of the LORD that the dogs ate her flesh and she was NOT buried!

And that's where we left off last time...That brings us to Chapter 10.

III. WE SEE THE JUDGMENT ON THE REST OF AHAB'S HOUSE! (10:1-11)

A. Ahab Had Seventy Sons In Samaria! (Vs 1)

Now, notwithstanding that the LORD had already told **JEHU** to eliminate **EVERY MALE** of **AHAB'S** house, **JEHU** needed to do this to eliminate **ANY AND ALL** challenges from the house of **AHAB** to the throne of Israel!

It was NOT an unusual thing for kings to sire large households as they often multiplied wives and concubines to themselves!

B. Jehu's Letter! (Vs 2-3)

We see that **JEHU** sent letters ahead of time from Jezreel to Samaria to all involved in raising, caretaking, hiding, etc. of these seventy sons of **AHAB**!

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He basically told them to choose the best one out of the seventy and set him on the throne and then fight for Ahab's family!

C. The Fear Of The Leaders And Caretakers! (Vs 4)

They reasoned that **JEHU** had already killed two kings and wouldn't have any trouble doing it again and they would be put in harms way by siding with whichever of **AHAB'S** sons they chose as king!

D. The Response Of The Leaders And Caretakers! (Vs 5)

Surrender! We are your servants and you are our king!
Tell us what you want us to do and we'll do it!

And here comes what sounds like it belongs in a horror movie!

E. Jehu's Command To The Leaders And Caretakers! (Vs 6)

F. The Obedience Of The Leaders And Caretakers! (Vs 7)

Just imagine for a minute taking part in any of this!
Killing the seventy sons...or beheading the seventy sons and putting the heads in the baskets...or carrying the heads of these seventy sons on the 25 mile journey from Samaria to Jezreel!

G. The Arrival Of The Heads Of Ahab's Sons In Jezreel! (Vs 8)

Imagine having to make two piles of severed heads at the gate of Jezreel! They probably were already getting ripe!

H. Jehu's Morning Speech To All The People! (Vs 9-10)

I. Jehu's Wrapping Up Of Ahab's House In Jezreel! (Vs 11)

This was not the time you wanted to be associated with the wrong people!

But Jehu was still not finished! Here comes another gory scene:

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SCORECARD ON AHAB'S HOUSE AND INFLUENCE

IV. WE SEE THE SLAYING OF AHAZIAH'S BRETHREN!

(Vs 12-14)

Now, remember that **AHAZIAH** was **AHAB'S** grandson, because his father married into **AHAB'S** family! **ATHALIAH**, **AHAB'S** daughter, was **AHAZIAH'S** mother!

So, which of these forty-two brothers of **AHAZIAH** were **ATHALIAH'S** sons also? Well, there were no DNA tests back then to determine that! And so **JEHU** just had them all killed to make sure his bases were covered!

Conclusion

So, the LORD chose **JEHU** to wipe out **AHAB'S** family and I think we can see why!

JEHU quickly and efficiently wiped out **AHAB'S** house in short order! (There was still the matter of **ATHALIAH**, **AHAB'S** daughter and **AHAZIAH'S** mother, that we will see again, but she is not a man!)

JEHU was at this point the undisputed King of Israel! So what was next on his agenda?

Well, LORD willing, next week, we'll see **JEHU** take on all the worshipers of Baal in a display of cunning strategy! Baal worship was associated with **AHAB** as well! Wiping out Baal was a good thing!

We'll see that **JEHU** had a zeal for the LORD in this, which can be a good thing if it is a godly zeal and not a twisted zeal!

JEHU did the right thing (that's good) but we'll see that he did it in the wrong way (that's bad)!

What is a godly zeal and what is a twisted zeal? Come back next Wednesday to find out!

ISRAEL (Northern Kingdom)

OMRI X

[Came to reign by a narrow margin when he prevailed against the people that followed **Tibni**]
[12 yr. reign]

AHAB* X

(Omri's son)
[22 yr. reign]

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AHAZIAH*+ X**

(Ahab's eldest son)
[2 yr. reign...had no sons]

JEHORAM (a/k/a JORAM)+*** X**

(Also Ahab's son, Ahaziah's brother, and Athaliah's brother)
[12 yr. reign killed by Jehu]

End of the house of Ahab!

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JEHU**+***** X**

(Used of the LORD to bring an end to Ahab's house, but walked in idolatry!)
[reigned 28 yrs...dynasty of 113 yrs.]

JUDAH (Southern Kingdom)

ASA ★

[Great-great grandfather **David**; great-grandfather **Solomon**; grandfather **Rehoboam**; father **Abijah**]
[41 yr. reign]

JEHOSHAPHAT* ★

[25 yr. reign]

JEHORAM (a/k/a JORAM) X**

(Married Athaliah, Ahab's daughter)
[8 yr. reign]

AHAZIAH* X**

(Ahab's grandson)
[1 yr. reign killed by Jehu]

ATHALIAH** X**

(Ahaziah's mother and Ahab's daughter)
{She destroyed all the royal seed except Joash the son of Ahaziah who was just 1 year old when Ahaziah died...he was hidden for six years}
[6 yr. reign]

End of Ahab's influence!

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JOASH (JEHOASH)*** ★**

(Ahaziah's son; king at age 7)
(reigned 40 yrs.)

Notes:

Asterisks on the left side reigned with those corresponding on right side!

★ = Mostly good

X = Evil