

“The Certainty of God’s Judgment”
2 Kings 9
(Preached at Trinity, April 17, 2022)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Beginning with **Verse 16 of Chapter 8** the author shifts our attention to the affairs of the Southern Kingdom. It is the first reference to Judah since we entered 2 Kings. We read of Jehoshaphat just long enough to discover he has made his son, Jehoram, king. We also read something most disturbing. Jehoram has married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. And the results are devastating.
2 Kings 8:18 NAU - "He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab became his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD."
2. The only reason God did not destroy Judah at this point was because of His covenant promise with David.
2 Kings 8:19 NAU - "However, the LORD was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David His servant, since He had promised him to give a lamp to him through his sons always."
3. With the gruesome death of Jehoram, Ahaziah became king. And the wickedness continues. The influence of Ahab continued to infect Judah.
2 Kings 8:27 NAU - "He walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did evil in the sight of the LORD, like the house of Ahab *had done*, because he was a son-in-law of the house of Ahab."
4. The final verses of **Chapter 8** set up what is to follow in **Chapter 9**.
Chapter 9 begins with the typical “Now” signifying a change in subject – and yet there is continuity.
Elisha was not mentioned in the last passage as we were directed to the situation in Judah. But now he comes back into focus.
 - A. He commands one of the “sons of the prophets” to go to Ramoth-gilead and anoint Jehu as king over Israel. The messenger is unnamed – his identity isn’t an important aspect of the passage.
2 Kings 9:3 NAU - "Thus says the LORD, "I have anointed you king over Israel."
 - B. The young man did as he was commanded and delivered the message to Jehu. Not only did he deliver the message, he delivered Jehu’s mission - **Verses 7-10**.
5. It began with the death of Ahab’s son, Joram, king of Israel. God is fulfilling His promise of Divine judgment. Joram was the first of Ahab’s house to suffer God’s wrath.
 - A. The author sets it up in **Chapter 8**.
Joram, Ahab’s son went to fight against the Arameans and was wounded.
2 Kings 8:28 NAU - "Then he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead, and the Arameans wounded Joram."

His wounds were not serious and his plan was to spend time in Jezreel recovering. While recovering in Jezreel Ahaziah, the king of Judah, went to visit him.

2 Kings 8:29 NAU - "Then Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel because he was sick."

- B. Remember, Ahaziah was the son of Joram, Jehoshaphat's son, and Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.
- C. Jehu went to Jezreel to deliver God's message of judgment.
2 Kings 9:16 NAU - "Then Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram was lying there. Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram."
6. Jehu rode in a chariot, steady and relentless.
2 Kings 9:20 NAU - "the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously."
A. A horseman was dispatched and then another. Each enquired of Jehu, "Is it peace?" And to each Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me."
B. Finally, Joram and Ahaziah mounted their chariots and rode out to meet him.
2 Kings 9:21 NAU - "they went out to meet Jehu and found him in the property of Naboth the Jezreelite."
C. God's judgment was about to come crashing down upon the house of Ahab. Notice where Joram and Ahaziah met Jehu. It was the property of Naboth whom Ahab and Jezebel murdered and seized his vineyard. Notice God still calls it "the property of Naboth."
7. It had been several years (15) since Ahab murdered Naboth, but God doesn't forget. God declared His judgment. - **1 Kings 21:16-24**
Because Ahab demonstrated some degree of repentance God postponed His judgment.
1 Kings 21:27-29 NAU - "It came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently. ²⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹ "Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, *but* I will bring the evil upon his house in his son's days."
8. But now judgment has come.
2 Kings 9:22-26 NAU - "When Joram saw Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" And he answered, "What peace, so long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?" ²³ So Joram reined about and fled and said to Ahaziah, "*There is* treachery, O Ahaziah!" ²⁴ And Jehu drew his bow with his full strength and shot Joram between his arms; and the arrow went through his heart and he sank in his chariot. ²⁵ Then *Jehu* said to Bidkar his officer, "Take *him* up and cast him into the property of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite, for I remember when you and I were riding together after Ahab his father, that the LORD laid this oracle against him: ²⁶ 'Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,' says the LORD, 'and I will repay you in this property,' says the LORD. Now then, take and cast him into the property, according to the word of the LORD."

9. Jezebel also met the righteous judgment of God.
2 Kings 9:30-33 NAU - "When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard *of it*, and she painted her eyes and adorned her head and looked out the window. ³¹ As Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it well, Zimri, your master's murderer?" ³² Then he lifted up his face to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" And two or three officials looked down at him. ³³ He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot."
 It happened exactly as God had promised.
2 Kings 9:36 NAU - "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah"
1 Kings 21:23 NAU - "Of Jezebel also has the LORD spoken, saying, 'The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.'"
10. The author's purpose is to record the end of Ahab's house. God's judgment came exactly as He had promised.
 This is true of God's judgment upon all the earth.
- I. The whole earth is under God's righteous judgment
- A. God is holy
1. Nothing unclean shall ever come into God's presence.
 2. Holiness defines God's divine essence
Psalm 99:3 NAU - "Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He."
Psalm 99:9 NAU - "Exalt the LORD our God And worship at His holy hill, For holy is the LORD our God."
- B. God has promised to judge all that is not holy. God will judge the wicked.
1. God's justice is perfect. He must judge sin
 2. Every human being will stand before His throne of judgment
2 Corinthians 5:10 NAU - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
- C. People don't believe this. They fall into one of two groups.
1. The first group doesn't believe there will be a final judgment. They dismiss the ever-present reality of God and of His infinite holiness. They dismiss His perfect justice. They live as practical atheists. They pretend God does not exist. They pretend this present world is all there is.
 2. The other group does not deny the existence of God. They do not deny the final judgment. But they sincerely believe they will merit an eternal reward, that they deserve to go to heaven. They believe they are righteous enough to withstand the scrutiny of an infinitely holy God.
 3. Most human beings proudly go to their graves without Christ. Jezebel stands as an example of the arrogance of the lost. She painted up her face and styled her hair and spoke mockingly at Jehu. There was no fear in her heart, only arrogance. And according to the Word of God, she was thrown to her death upon the earth and then into the fires of hell.

Psalm 36:1 NAU - "Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes."

- II. God has promised judgment and only the perfect shall withstand His wrath.
- A. The issue between heaven and hell is the issue of guilt versus innocence.
1. The Law demands perfection
James 2:10 NAU - "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all."
 2. Righteousness is measured by the standard of God's Law. The Law demands perfection. Sin is transgression of the Law.
 3. All have sinned. All are guilty. All are condemned.
Romans 3:23 NAU - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"
Romans 3:11-12 NAS - "There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; ¹² All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one."
- B. There is only one hope for humanity
1. Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation
 - a. He laid down His life as a sacrifice for us
Hebrews 10:12 NAU - "but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,"
Hebrews 9:12-14 NAU - "through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"
 - b. Jesus is the Passover Lamb
1 Corinthians 5:7 NAU - "For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed."
 2. His perfect sacrifice of Himself upon the Cross must be received by faith
Romans 3:23-25 NAU - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. "
 3. The Philippian jailer asked the greatest of all questions:
"What must I do to be saved."
And Paul's answer shines forth the greatest of all gifts.
Acts 16:31 NAU - "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved,"

4. This is repeated over and over. We must believe, we must trust Christ. This trust is saving faith.
Ephesians 2:8 NAU - "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;"
Romans 3:23-28 NAU - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
²⁷ Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law."

Conclusion:

1. God's judgment is a certainty. And just as the house of Ahab stood condemned, every human being stands condemned before God. A man's unbelief in this does not change the reality. His steadfast resistance to God does not change it. It does not remove God's condemnation.
2. Just as the house of Ahab was destroyed, so shall all who die without Christ. Jezebel was a worshipper of Baal. But he could not protect her.
2 Kings 9:33 NAU - "So they threw her down, and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her under foot."
2 Kings 9:37 NAU - "and the corpse of Jezebel will be as dung on the face of the field in the property of Jezreel,"