

2 Kings 10: More Adventures of Jehu

Part 1: Last week in 2 Kings 9

Jehu was anointed King of Israel.

Read 2 Kings 9:6b-10. Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, I anoint you king over the people of the Lord, over Israel. And you shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, so that I may avenge on Jezebel the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and I will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel. And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her.

1. What command did the Lord give to Jehu? Who was supposed to die?
2. Here's a review of some of the people mentioned in Chapters 9 and 10. For each one of them, let's review their family role and their current status (dead or alive).
 - a. Ahaziah, king of Israel
 - b. Ahaziah, king of Judah
 - c. Joran
 - d. Jezebel

Part 2: Now, for this week's adventures

Read 2 Kings 10:1. Jehu addressed his letter to the following:

- a. The rulers of the city – these would have been appointed by the king.
- b. The elders – these would include leaders in the family structure of Israel.
- c. The guardians of Ahab's children – this indicates that some of the sons (princes) were still quite young.

Read 2 Kings 10:2-5.

3. What does Jehu tell the leaders to do? What is he predicting? Why would he do this?
4. In what way are Jehu's actions an expression of trust in God?

Read 2 Kings 10:6-8.

5. There is some ambiguity in Jehu's orders. What did he mean by "heads of your master's sons"? How did the leaders interpret it?
6. Was Jehu ordering the death of innocent people?

Read 2 Kings 10:9-10.

7. According to Jehu, who is responsible for the overthrow of Ahab's government?
8. Who did Jehu blame for the slaughter of the 70 sons of Ahab?

Read Romans 13:1-4. Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

9. In what ways do Jehu's words reflect Paul's words to the Romans about earthly government authority?

Read 2 Kings 10:11

10. Were these killings part of the divine sanction given to Jehu? Why were these people killed? (Check the wording of the verses at the beginning of these notes.)

Read 2 Kings 10:12-14.

11. These people apparently had not learned of the deaths of Joram and Jezebel. What allows us to conclude that Jehu went beyond God's orders?

Read 2 Kings 10:15-17.

From a note in the Concordia Self Study Bible: Jehonadab was the leader of a conservative movement among the Israelites that was characterized by strong opposition to Baalism as well as to various practices of a settled agricultural society, including the building of houses, the sowing of crops, and the use of wine. Public association with Jehonadab gave Jehu added credentials among the rural populace as a follower of the Lord. (See Jer. 35:6-10.)

12. Why would the support of Jehonadab be important for Jehu as the King?

Part 3: Jehu Strikes Down the Prophets of Baal

Read 2 Kings 10:18-24a.

13. Now...what is Jehu doing?
14. Can such deception be used to further God's kingdom?
15. Why would the followers of Baal follow Jehu's orders?

Read 2 Kings 10:24b-28.

16. What was the result of Jehu's deception?

Part 4: The Rest of Jehu's Reign

Read 2 Kings 10:30-31.

17. God used Jehu to bring about needed religious reforms in Israel by removing the worship of Baal. Yet, despite the destruction of Baal and the prophets who served him, Jehu did not complete the task of returning Israel to God.
What did Jehu neglect to do?

18. What was the result?

Read 2 Kings 10:32-36.

19. What changes happened to Israel as a nation?

Resources

The Holy Bible, ESV

Concordia Self-Study Bible, NIV

1 and 2 Kings, God the Promise Keeper, God's Word for Today, CPH

1 and 2 Kings, LifeLight, CPH