

## 2 Kings Lesson 10

### 2 Kings Chapter 10

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Memory verses for this week: *Joh 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

**Introduction:** Last week we studied about Jehu being anointed king over Israel. We closed the chapter with Jehu killing King Jehoram, the son of wicked king Ahab, and he had his body thrown onto the land of Naboth who had the vineyard Ahab took wrongly and put he and his sons to death. Chapter 10 presents the reign of Jehu over Israel including his execution of the rest of the dynasty of Ahab, the princes of Judah visiting in Israel, and followers of Baal. Because of his general disregard to Jehovah, record is made how that God began to work against him.

### I. Judgment on the House of Ahab

*2Ki 10:1 And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's children, saying,*

*2Ki 10:2 Now as soon as this letter cometh to you, seeing your master's sons are with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, a fenced city also, and armour;*

*2Ki 10:3 Look even out the best and meetest of your master's sons, and set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.*

Jehu wasted no time in seeking out the sons of the Ahab and his dynasty. He immediately sent word to the rulers of Samaria regarding the descendants of Ahab and particularly to those who were over them. The intent of the letter dripped with sarcasm, taunting them to defend themselves. Thus, he challenged them to “fight for your master’s house.”

*2Ki 10:4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, Behold, two kings stood not before him: how then shall we stand?*

*2Ki 10:5 And he that was over the house, and he that was over the city, the elders also, and the bringers up of the children, sent to Jehu, saying, We are thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any king: do thou that which is good in thine eyes.*

Jehu clearly intimidated the house of Ahab and that no doubt was his intent. The descendants of Ahab “were exceedingly afraid.” They correctly perceived they would not prevail against Jehu after he had personally eliminated two kings and they submitted themselves to him.

F. B . Meyer in his commentary said this about judgment falling on all men.

What an iconoclast was this Jehu! Before his strong hand the whole structure of Baal-worship received its death-blow. And as we meet Elijah's name in this chapter, connecting him with these events, we turn back to the story of Horeb, with its solemn words: "And it shall come to pass that him that escapeth from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay." God has many nets, and if the fish escape one set of meshes, they will be caught by another-none shall finally escape. "Everyone shall give an account of himself to God." See 2Ki 10:10.

It is a searching thought! Because men escape one judgment, they count themselves immune; but it is not so. He that escapes Hazael shall meet Jehu. "As if a man did flee from a lion and a bear met him; or went into the house and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him," Amo 5:19. "There shall fall unto the earth nothing... which the Lord spake," 2Ki 10:10. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation," and trifle with such a God, whose love is as searching as His chastening wrath? Jer 16:16-17.

*2Ki 10:6 Then he wrote a letter the second time to them, saying, If ye be mine, and if ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of the men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by to morrow this time. Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up.*

*2Ki 10:7 And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel.*

*2Ki 10:8 And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning.*

Jehu wasted no time in demanding the literal heads of the descendants of Ahab. He ordered that those heads be delivered to him at Jezreel within twenty four hours. The descendants of Ahab were living with important families of Samaria. These prominent families of Samaria therefore promptly complied with Jehu's orders and sent the heads of the seventy sons of Ahab in baskets to Jezreel. With the arrival of the heads of the sons of Ahab, Jehu directed that they be piled in two heaps until the morning.

*2Ki 10:9 And it came to pass in the morning, that he went out, and stood, and said to all the people, Ye be righteous: behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him: but who slew all these?*

*2Ki 10:10 Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spake concerning the house of Ahab: for the LORD hath done that which he spake by his servant Elijah.*

*2Ki 10:11 So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.*

The next day, Jehu sarcastically and sanctimoniously announced to Jezreel that they were righteous. He had killed his master (Jehoram, Ahab's son). But he then with pious hypocrisy asked who killed all these other sons of Ahab? His allusion was that he had nothing to do with it. Though Jehu had caused these many deaths, he now put it into perspective. This was ultimately done at the

direction of God through Elijah as mentioned in verse 10.

Though Jehu was not a godly man, he did make a profound statement: “Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD.” God always keeps His Word.

Using the analogy of something falling to the ground and being lost, Jehu rightly noted that none of God’s Word is ever dropped and forgotten. It always comes to pass. This demonstrates the doctrine of preservation. The prophecy of the destruction of the house of Ahab was now complete as foretold by Elijah in I Kings 21:21-26 sixteen or seventeen years earlier. Their cup of iniquity was full. God’s time for judgment had come. All which remained of the house of Ahab at Jezreel were destroyed.

## II. The Princes of Judah slain

*2Ki 10:12 And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. And as he was at the shearing house in the way,*

*2Ki 10:13 Jehu met with the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, Who are ye? And they answered, We are the brethren of Ahaziah; and we go down to salute the children of the king and the children of the queen.*

*2Ki 10:14 And he said, Take them alive. And they took them alive, and slew them at the pit of the shearing house, even two and forty men; neither left he any of them.*

Meanwhile, blood relatives of Ahaziah, the new king in Judah, were journeying to visit their royal counterparts in the northern kingdom. They evidently were unaware of the recent revolution in the north by Jehu. Confronted by Jehu, they innocently revealed their identity. Jehu ordered them slain at the pit of the shearing house

These evidently were from their grandmother’s side and of the house of Ahab. Jehu considered them part of his divine mandate to kill them as well. That he did—all forty two of them.

*2Ch 22:1 And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned.*

*2Ch 22:2 Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri.*

*2Ch 22:7 And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.*

*2Ch 22:8 And it came to pass, that, when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah, and the sons of the brethren of Ahaziah, that ministered to Ahaziah, he slew them.*

### III. Jehu Spares Jehonadab

*2Ki 10:15 And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.*

*2Ki 10:16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot.*

Jehonadab the son of Rechab may have been a descendant of Jethro the Kenite, the father-in-law of Moses. Jeremiah 35:6- 10 likely refers to this same family lineage. As Jehonadab met Jehu, the latter asked, “Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?” This was essentially asking, “Are you with me?” or, “Are you loyal to me and my cause?”

Upon pledging to loyalty to Jehu, Jehonadab was invited to ride with Jehu in his chariot. Jehu said, “Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD”. Indeed, Jehu was zealous in effecting the charge given him by God to exterminate the house of Ahab. He took Jehonadab with him on his next mission in fulfilling his charge.

*2Ki 10:17 And when he came to Samaria, he slew all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the LORD, which he spake to Elijah.*

*2Ki 10:18 And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them, Ahab served Baal a little; but Jehu shall serve him much.*

Jehu had not only killed all he could find in Jezreel where Ahab had once lived, he also had slain even distant relatives in the brethren of Ahaziah, king of Judah. Now, he completed the task by killing all the relatives of Ahab which still lived in and about the city of Samaria. Though a harsh man, Jehu was in fact fulfilling God’s promised judgment against the wicked dynasty of Ahab.

He now turned his attention to further apostasy in Israel. With deceptive sarcasm, Jehu hinted at his next target— Baal worship in Israel.

### IV. Jehu Brings an end to Baal Worship in Israel

*2Ki 10:19 Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be wanting: for I have a great sacrifice to do to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live. But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal.*

*2Ki 10:20 And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it.*

Jehu ordered all followers of Baal in the northern kingdom to assemble for a great sacrifice to be made to Baal. What he did not tell them was that they were going to be the sacrifice.

Any follower of Baal who did not attend would be summarily killed. He gave added incentive for worshipers of Baal to attend this great convocation. However, Jehu clearly had a hidden agenda. A special holy day and convocation for Baal was proclaimed throughout the land.

In the Pulpit Commentary, they said this about Jehu's actions against these Baal worshippers.

**Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests.** In Phoenicia, it would seem, as in Egypt and among the Jews, "prophets" and "priests" were distinct classes of persons. The Egyptians called the priest *ab*, the prophet *netter hen*, literally, "servant of God." They held the priest in the greater honor. In Phoenicia, on the contrary, judging from the scanty notices that we possess, prophets appear to have taken precedence of priests, and to have had the more important functions assigned to them (see [1Ki 18:19-40](#); [1Ki 22:6](#)). **Let none be wanting**—literally, *let not a man fail*—**for I have a great sacrifice to do to Baal.** Like the other gods of the heathen, Baal and Ashtoreth were worshipped chiefly by sacrifice. The sacrifice was sometimes human, but more commonly a sacrificial animal, such as a bull, a ram, or a he-goat. In the greater festivals several hundreds of victims were offered; and their flesh was served up at the banquets by which the festivals were accompanied. **Whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live.** His absence would be regarded as an act of contumacy verging on rebellion, and so as deserving of capital punishment.

**But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal.** "Subtilty" was characteristic of Jehu, who always preferred to gain his ends by cunning rather than in a straightforward way. Idolaters were by the Law liable to death, and Jehu would have had a perfect right to crush the Baal-worship throughout the land, by sending his emissaries everywhere, with orders to slay all whom they found engaged in it. But to draw some thousands of his subjects by false pretences into a trap, and then to kill them in it for doing what he had himself invited them to do, was an act that was wholly unjustifiable, and that savored, not of the wisdom which is from above, but of that bastard wisdom which is "earthly, sensual, devilish" ([Jas 3:15](#)). Jehu's religious reformation did not succeed, and it was conducted in such a way that it did not deserve to succeed. A little more honest boldness, and a little less frequent resort to subterfuge and craft, might have had a different result, and have been better both for himself and for his people.

*2Ki 10:21 And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to another.*

*2Ki 10:22 And he said unto him that was over the vestry, Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth vestments.*

*2Ki 10:23 And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal, and said unto the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but the worshippers of Baal only.*

Jehu rounded up all worshipers of Baal from throughout the northern kingdom. They assembled to a man in what evidently was the temple of Baal at Samaria. Noteworthy is the comment that the house was full.

He ordered the special pagan vestments involved in Baal worship to be brought forth. These evidently were placed upon the worshipers of Baal not only as irony, but no doubt also to clearly identify their allegiance. Jehu then made sure that there were no servants of Jehovah God in the crowd. All that were present were Baal worshipers.

*2Ki 10:24 And when they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, Jehu appointed fourscore men without, and said, If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, he that letteth him go, his life shall be for the life of him.*

*2Ki 10:25 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, and slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast them out, and went to the city of the house of Baal.*

Eighty men were ordered to kill all the followers of Baal. In the days of Elijah, we know he killed many of the Baal worshippers, and I don't think it was a great shock. However, this time, they perceive that the king is for them. Jehu further warned, if his men allowed any to escape, their life would be taken in return. All of the worshipers of Baal were killed. Jehu then turned his attention to what evidently was an associated community called the city of the house of Baal. This perhaps may have been where the priests of Baal and their families lived.

*2Ki 10:26 And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them.*

*2Ki 10:27 And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.*

*2Ki 10:28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.*

*2Ki 10:29 Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan.*

Not only were the followers of Baal exterminated, Jehu made sure that all images and physical reminders of Baal worship were obliterated from Israel. Where the temple of Baal had once stood, he made it into a city dump. To his credit, Jehu destroyed Baal worship out of the northern kingdom.

In verse 29, Jehu claimed to be zealous for Jehovah God. However, he still followed in the sin of Jeroboam and allowed the golden calves in Bethel and Dan. His zeal for Jehovah was therefore not as true as he professed.

*2Ki 10:30 And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.*



*2Ki 10:31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.*

God commended Jehu for his obedience in fulfilling His commands. Because of his obedience and resultant uprightness, God promised to Jehu that his children would be allowed to succeed him for four generations.

“But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin”.

*2Ki 10:32 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel;*

*2Ki 10:33 From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan.*

Disobedience and ignoring of God’s blessing inevitably leads to a loss of God’s blessing and then His chastening. Because of Jehu’s careless attitude toward God, the Lord allowed Hazael, king of Syria, to begin to attack Israel, especially from the north and east. This follows what Elisha had foretold in II Kings 8:12.

*2Ki 8:12 And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child.*

*2Ki 10:34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, and all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?*

*2Ki 10:35 And Jehu slept with his fathers: and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead.*

*2Ki 10:36 And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty and eight years.*

The final chronological details of the reign of Jehu are here noted. Jehu dies and was buried in Samaria. He ruled the northern kingdom for 28 years. Jehoahaz his son reigned as king.

God is not the author of any mans sin. Even that which men do from bad principles, He uses to serve His own purposes and takes vengeance on those who defile. The Lord’s arm is not shortened. He uses whom He will.

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

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