

Lesson 13 27 October 2013

Jehu's Zealous Reign

Lesson Scope: [2 Kings 9 and 10](#)

Lesson Focus

Approximately thirteen years had passed since Elijah had confronted Ahab in Naboth's vineyard and had pronounced terrible judgment upon Ahab, his wife, and their wicked descendants (1 Kings 21:23-24). In this lesson, we see that prophecy fulfilled to the letter. Ahab had been killed in battle, and the dogs had licked up his blood. In this lesson, Jezebel was slain, as well as the posterity of Ahab and Jezebel.

Ahab's sons, first Ahaziah and then Jehoram (Joram), ruled Israel under the continuing influence of their wicked mother, Jezebel. This influence spread to Judah through the marriage of Athaliah (Ahab and Jezebel's daughter) to King Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram. Is it any wonder that at the time of today's lesson, Judah's king Ahaziah (grandson of both Jehoshaphat and Ahab) was confederate with Israel's king Joram (son of Ahab) in conflict with the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead?

As chapter 9 opens, King Joram is in Jezreel recovering from a wound received in the battle. Jehu was apparently in charge of Israel's forces in the ongoing conflict. In God's timing, Judah's king Ahaziah was visiting his uncle Joram when Jehu arrived to execute divine judgment on the house of Ahab and to establish a new dynasty in Israel.

Before studying this lesson, we must allow the surety and finality of God's judgment upon all sin to grip our heart. Just as surely as God fulfilled all His promises in relation to judgment upon Ahab's house, He will mete out retribution on all sin at the end of time. To study a lesson like this should make us fear to do wrong and should give us a sense of urgency in spreading the Gospel to others, so that more souls may be saved before final judgment falls.

We need to have impressed upon our minds the fact that no one can do wrong and get by. Even if sin can be hidden from people, God still knows all about it. As God's people, our desire should be to stay as far away from sin as we can. Neither should we allow the devil to deceive us into thinking that a "little" sin will not matter.

Our ultimate goal in this lesson should be to help prepare ourselves and

others to face the truth and certainty of God's future judgment upon all sin. God does not overlook sin. He metes out judgment in recompense for sins committed.

Lesson Aim: To discover principles related to divine retribution.

Theme Verse: [Nahum 1:2](#). God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD Will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Lesson Text

"Thou Shalt Smite the House of Ahab"

[2 Kings 9:1](#) ¹And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead:

[2 Kings 9:4-9](#) ⁴So the young man, *even* the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead. ⁵ And when he came, behold, the captains of the host *were* sitting; and he said, I have an errand to thee, O captain. And Jehu said, Unto which of all us? And he said, To thee, O captain. ⁶ And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, *even* over Israel. ⁷ And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel. ⁸ For the whole house of Ahab shall perish:.....⁹ 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:

[2 Kings 9:14](#) ¹⁴So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had kept Ramothgilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Syria.)

"Cast Him in the ... Field of Naboth"

[2 Kings 9:21-26](#) ²¹ And Joram said, Make ready. And his chariot was made ready. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out against Jehu, and met him in the portion of Naboth the Jezreelite. ²² And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, *Is it* peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts *are so many*? ²³ And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, *There is* treachery,

O Ahaziah. ²⁴ And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot. ²⁵ Then said *Jehu* to Biker his captain, Take up, *and* cast him in the portion of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite: for remember how that, when I and thou rode together after Ahab his father, the LORD laid this burden upon him; ²⁶ Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, saith the LORD; and I will requite thee in this plat, saith the LORD. Now therefore take *and* cast him into the plat of *ground*, according to the word of the LORD.

2 Kings 9:30-33 ³⁰ And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard *of it*; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. ³¹ And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, *Had* Zimri peace, who slew his master? ³² And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who *is* on my side? who? And there looked out to him two *or* three eunuchs. ³³ And 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 trode her under foot.

"The LORD Hath Done That Which He Spake"

2 Kings 9:35-37 ³⁵ And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of *her* hands. ³⁶ Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This *is* the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: ³⁷ And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; *so* that they shall not say, This *is* Jezebel.

2 Kings 10:10-11 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. 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.

Questions for Study

"Thou Shalt Smite the House of Ahab"

1. In what ways was Jehu qualified to carry out God's judgment on the house of Ahab?
2. Why is any attempt to avoid divine retribution futile?

"Cast Him in the ... Field of Naboth"

3. What did Jehu mean by his question in verse 22?

4. Explain Jezebel's preparations for Jehu's arrival.
5. How do people attempt to avoid divine retribution today?
"The LORD Hath Done That Which He Spake"
6. What should the fulfillment of Elijah's prophecy concerning Jezebel tell us about God's future judgment on sin?
7. How can we reconcile Jehu's obedience in destroying Ahab's house with his refusal to follow God in his own reign?
8. For what reasons do carnal men ignore God's warnings?

Analyzing the Passage

The anointing of Jehu (1 Kings 9:1-3) fulfilled the charge given to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:16. Jehu was frequently referred to as the "son of Nimshi," but 1 Kings 9:14 shows that Nimshi was actually his grandfather. The Jehoshaphat mentioned here was not the king of Judah.

The words of Jehu in 1 Kings 9:25-26 indicate that he had heard the words of Elijah firsthand.

Jezebel had likely heard that Jehu had slain her son because of her whoredoms and witchcraft. Jehu's arrival at Jezreel meant that she would fall next before his avenging sword. She "painted her face, and tired her head" (put on ornamental head dress) in a final show of proud contempt. The eunuchs were likely Jezebel's attendants (1 Kings 9:32).

Principles and Applications

"Thou Shalt Smite the House of Ahab"

1. God sometimes uses men in carrying out divine retribution (1 Kings 9:1-5). God used one of the children of the prophets to anoint Jehu king of Israel. Then He commissioned Jehu to carry out vengeance against the house of Ahab. God often uses ungodly men and nations for this kind of purpose. In the New Testament Era, civil authorities continue to fill this role, but the church has a higher calling—spreading the Gospel of salvation.

2. Divine retribution is purposeful and predictable (1 Kings 9:7-9). God brings judgment because of men's actions. He desires that all men be saved, but His justice calls for judgment when men refuse His mercy. The same sins that brought judgment in the past will bring judgment in the future. Modern society is given to materialism, idolatry, immoral living, and shedding innocent blood. Divine judgment will surely fall soon.

"Cast Him in the ... Field of Naboth"

3. Any attempt to avoid divine retribution is useless (1 Kings 9:21-22). Both Joram and Ahaziah tried to escape from Jehu, but neither succeeded. "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

(Revelation 6:17). Similarly, those who are living in sin today will not escape divine judgment unless they repent.

4. According to the offense, so is the retribution (1 Kings 9:25-26). "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). Ahab and his family reaped bitterly for their sins. When God finally opens the record books (Revelation 20:12), every person will "receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

5. Those who defy God will face divine retribution (1 Kings 9:30-32). Jezebel is a notable example of one who defied God. She persecuted and killed God's prophets, rejected the mighty miracle on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 19:1-2), and continually stirred up Ahab to do evil. But even though she seemed to have gotten her own way all through life, she was helpless against divine judgment when it fell.

6. Neither position nor rank will stay God's hand of retribution (1 Kings 9:30-33). Jezebel met a horrible death, even though she was a prominent and powerful person. It makes no difference whether someone is homeless and living on the street, a powerful government official, a church member, or even a church leader. All who are harboring sin when they leave this world will be judged by God without respect of persons.

7. Shameless wickedness will result in shameful death (1 Kings 9:33). Jezebel had, seemingly without conscience, destroyed godly people. Now she had to pay for it with her own life. And what a shameful death—to be thrown from an upper-story window and then trampled by horses! This was merely a prelude to the "shame and everlasting contempt" that the wicked will experience in eternity.

"The LORD Hath Done That Which He Spake"

8. When God pronounces judgment, He carries it out in detail (1 Kings 10:10-11). God always does exactly what He says He will do. Because He had promised the complete destruction of Ahab's house, not one of Ahab's descendants escaped.

In the final day, God will resurrect the body of every sinner, whether he perished in the depths of the ocean or had his ashes scattered upon the mountains. How foolish to attempt to hide one "little" sin in some corner of our heart! God sees it there and will finally expose it for judgment.

Important Teachings

1. God sometimes uses men in carrying out divine retribution (9:1, 4-5).
2. Divine retribution is purposeful and predictable (9:7-9).

3. Any attempt to avoid divine retribution is useless (9:21-22).
4. According to the offense, so is the retribution (9:25-26).
5. Those who defy God will face divine retribution (9:30-32).
6. Neither position nor rank will stay God's hand of retribution (9:30-33).
7. Shameless wickedness will result in shameful death (9:33).
8. When God pronounces judgment, He carries it out in detail (10:10-11).

Answers to Questions

1. In what ways was Jehu qualified to carry out God's judgment on the house of Ahab?

He was willing and ready to follow God's directions. He was a ruthless man filled with zeal to finish the work God gave him to do.

2. Why is any attempt to avoid divine retribution futile?

Any attempt to escape divine retribution is useless, because no one can escape God's all-seeing eyes. He keeps records (Revelation 20:12), and those records are complete and accurate.

3. What did Jehu mean by his question in verse 22?

He was referring to the fact that there could not be peace as long as the wickedness of Queen Jezebel had not been judged. He was also telling Joram that there was no peace in store for him either, because of his wicked life. "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked" (Isaiah 57:21). The only way for a wicked person to find peace is to confess and forsake his sin.

4. Explain Jezebel's preparations for Jehu's arrival.

Painting her face and tiring her head was likely one last show of contempt for God, His judgment, and His people.

5. How do people attempt to avoid divine retribution today?

They may have their bodies cremated after they die, thinking that will prevent a bodily resurrection. Some church leaders teach that God's great love would not allow Him to mete out eternal punishment, and multitudes believe this error. Some people believe that in God's sight good works can compensate for sin.

6. What should the fulfillment of Elijah's prophecy concerning Jezebel tell us about God's future judgment on sin?

The fulfillment of this prophecy to the letter tells us that God's future judgment on sin will be exactly as He said it will be. No amount of trying to escape God's judgment will do any good. All hidden sin will be brought to light and will be punished. God's judgment will be according to His character, and

7. How can we reconcile Jehu's obedience in destroying Ahab's house with his refusal to follow God in his own reign?

Jehu apparently did not see the need to follow God carefully in his own life. Perhaps he thought he could deviate "just a little" from God's commands and get by. Perhaps meting out judgment upon others was more motivating for him than simply following God in his day-to-day life.

8. For what reasons do carnal men ignore God's warnings?

The devil deceives them into thinking that since judgment has not yet fallen, it will not fall at all. Many of them have not been taught to fear God or to respect the Bible as the Word of God. The devil hardens their hearts to the warnings that come. They are concerned about satisfying their carnal desires now.

Summarizing the Lesson

Men may ignore the Word of the Lord and live as they choose; but the day will come, perhaps even in this life, when they will reap the reward of their deeds. What are we doing with our moments and days? When the Son of Man comes in the glory of His Father, what will your reward be?

Research Guide

1. Read the complete lesson scope to get the full picture of the judgment brought on Ahab's family.
2. Read the chapters on "The Judgment" and "Hell" in *Doctrines of the Bible*.
3. Read Revelation 6 through 18 to refresh your mind on the judgments that God will bring upon this earth and its inhabitants.