

2 kings 9-10

Good morning and thank you so much for joining us. Would you please turn in your Bibles to 2 Kings chapter 9? We're going to study both chapters 9 and 10 in our study this morning

We love the fact that our God is a God of love, and mercy and grace. We love that don't we? Yet, one of the most neglected truths about the word of God is that the Bible clearly shows us that God is a righteous judge.

This morning's sections aren't exactly the most cheerful, in fact we're about to read of the grizzly details of God's judgment on the idolatrous house of Ahab.

And through these 2 chapters were going to be introduced to a shadowy figure who suddenly rises to the throne of Israel. His name is Jehu, and he's the main focus of these chapters.

And Jehu starts out as a faithful servant of the Lord. But like so many others before and after him, Jehu's faithfulness to God takes a backseat to doing his own will. Although a familiar failing, Jehu's is a tragic story of starting strong, yet falling short of the finish line.

The title of this mornings message is THE PITIFUL PATRIOT
Let's pray

SHOW PIC About 15 years ago, a Ukrainian man walked into the Kiev Zoo. He lowered himself on a rope into a concrete enclosure

that held four lions. As he did, he was shouting at and challenging God... “God will save me, if He exists.” He was tempting God.

For some reason the man took off his shoes and walked toward the lions. One of the lionesses knocked him down and severed his carotid artery, killing him instantly. Helpless zoo officials and a stunned crowd could only watch. **CLOSE PIC**

A spokesman for the Kiev Zoo said this was their first incident of this kind.

That might be true for the zoo, but in real life this scenario has played out countless times. Whenever a person thumbs their nose in God’s face and mocks God – and casts doubt on His existence... don’t be surprised when the Lion of the tribe of Judah knocks them down.

This is essentially what happens in chapters 9-10. No one was more blatant and blasphemous in his idolatry than King Ahab, and his wife queen Jezebel. If you remember from 1 Kings, Ahab treated the Law of God with disdain and made Baal worship the official religion of the northern kingdom. Ahab even put the prophets of Baal on the government payroll. Make no mistake, Ahab was Israel’s most wicked king.

Even after he was dead, Ahab’s idolatrous influence crippled both kingdoms – north and south. It was only a matter of time before God’s judgment came to the house of Ahab. And God uses an imperfect man to carry out this judgment, his name is Jehu.

1 And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, "Get yourself ready, take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead. Jewish tradition identifies the young prophet as Jonah.

2-3

2 Now when you arrive at that place, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, and go in and make him rise up from among his associates, and take him to an inner room. 3 Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, 'Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel."' Then open the door and flee, and do not delay." Simple instructions for a monumental act... At this time Ahab is dead, and his evil son Joram was the king of Israel. The next king would be Jehu.

4-8

4 So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth Gilead. 5 And when he arrived, there were the captains of the army sitting; and he said, "I have a message for you, Commander."

Jehu said, "For which one of us?"

And he said, "For you, Commander." 6 Then he arose and went into the house. And he poured the oil on his head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel.

7 You shall strike down the house of Ahab your 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; and I will cut off from Ahab all the males in Israel, both bond and free. God is saying that Jehu is

to kill all the males of the house of Ahab so Ahab's lineage will cease. Verse 8 quotes verbatim Elijah's prophecy against the house of Ahab in 1 Kings 21. The young prophet continues in verse 9

9 So 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. Both dynasties ended in a coup, and new families took over.

10 The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her.' " And he opened the door and fled.

11 Then Jehu came out to the servants of his master, and one said to him, "Is all well? Why did this madman come to you?"

Pause here Notice these army generals call the prophet Elisha a "madman." It was a derogatory term. The world always views a Christian who's sold out to God as a little crazy.

...11 And he said to them, "You know the man and his babble."

Maybe Jehu wanted time to think that he is the new king, or maybe he doubted the prophecy. Either way, he tries to downplay the prophet's visit. But Jehu has just been anointed by the prophet. He's drenched with olive oil.

12-15

12 And they said, "A lie! Tell us now."

So he said, "Thus and thus he spoke to me, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel." ' "

13 Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!" The red carpet treatment!

14 So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had been defending Ramoth Gilead, he and all Israel, against Hazael king of Syria. This is how chapter 8 ended last week if you'll recall. 15 But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which the Syrians had inflicted on him when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, "If you are so minded, let no one leave or escape from the city to go and tell it in Jezreel." Jehu is about to launch a government overthrow. He hopes to rely on the element of surprise so he needs to maintain his secrecy.

16-21

16 So Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram was laid up there; and Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to see Joram.

17 Now a watchman stood on the tower in Jezreel, and he saw the company of Jehu as he came, and said, "I see a company of men."

And Joram said, "Get a horseman and send him to meet them, and let him say, 'Is it peace?'"

18 So the horseman went to meet him, and said, "Thus says the king: 'Is it peace?'"

And Jehu said, "What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me."

So the watchman reported, saying, "The messenger went to them, but is not coming back." 19 Then he sent out a second horseman who came to them, and said, "Thus says the king: 'Is it peace?'"

And Jehu answered, “What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me.”

20 So the watchman reported, saying, “He went up to them and is not coming back; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously!”

21 Then Joram said, “Make ready.” And his chariot was made ready. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot; and they went out to meet Jehu, and met him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite. This was the very plot of ground coveted by the greedy Ahab. in 1 Kings we read that a Jewish man named Naboth’s vineyard was next door to King Ahab’s palace. Ahab wanted to buy the parcel from Naboth, but Naboth refused. And when Naboth refused to sell, Jezebel hired scoundrels to falsely accuse Naboth. He was stoned to death – allowing Ahab to take possession of his land.

It’s an act of God’s providence that Jehu meets the house of Ahab at the scene of the crime.

22 Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, “Is it peace, Jehu?”

So he answered, “What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?” You can hear the righteous anger in Jehu’s words! How can there be peace with God, when His laws are neglected and His people bow to idols?

But Jehu’s blunt words tip Joram off to Jehu’s true intentions. He starts to run, and calls for his nephew to get out of Dodge...

23-26

23 Then Joram turned around and fled, and said to Ahaziah, "Treachery, Ahaziah!"

24 Now Jehu drew his bow with full strength and shot Jehoram between his arms; and the arrow came out at his heart, and he sank down in his chariot. 25 Then Jehu said to Bidkar his captain, "Pick him up, and throw him into the tract of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I were riding together behind Ahab his father, that the LORD laid this burden upon him: 26 'Surely I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,' says the LORD, 'and I will repay you in this plot,' says the LORD. Now therefore, take and throw him on the plot of ground, according to the word of the LORD." It had been 12 years since Ahab's crimes, but the Lord has a flawless memory. Sin has no statute of limitations. If you want to resolve your sin with God you need to repent, not ignore

27-29

27 But when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth Haggan.[fn] So Jehu pursued him, and said, "Shoot him also in the chariot." And they shot him at the Ascent of Gur, which is by Ibleam. Then he fled to Megiddo, and died there.

28 And his servants carried him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the City of David. 29 In the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king over Judah. Another member of the house of Ahab perishes at the hand of Jehu.

30 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked

through a window. Jezebel doesn't want to show her face without putting on her make-up first!

31 Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?" This was a nasty comment dripping with hatred and sarcasm. Zimri was the man who murdered a previous king of Israel named Baasha.

32 And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. Jehu wants to see if Jezebel has any servants who want to side with him, and guess what they do.

33-37

33 Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot. 34 And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." 35 So 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 Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel;[fn]

37 and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel." ' ' "All that was left of Jezebel were her skull, feet, and palms because she was devoured by the wild dogs. In the end the wicked queen of Israel goes from princess to Purina. This fulfilled God's promise through Elijah in **1 Kings 21:23 And concerning**

Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall^[fn] of Jezreel.

And the judgment doesn't end with Jezebel. Jehu fulfills God's word that all males connected to the house of Ahab will also be cut off. In chapter 10 Jehu wages a campaign of genocide against any one related to Ahab and Jezebel. But we're about to see this man takes God's command and add's his own vigor to it. Jehu is about to confuse God's will with patriotism.

Chapter 10

1-7

1 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote and sent letters to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel,^[fn] to the elders, and to those who reared Ahab's sons, saying:

2 Now as soon as this letter comes to you, since your master's sons are with you, and you have chariots and horses, a fortified city also, and weapons, 3 choose the best qualified of your master's sons, set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.

4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, "Look, two kings could not stand up to him; how then can we stand?" 5 And he who was in charge of the house, and he who was in charge of the city, the elders also, and those who reared the sons, sent to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, we will do all you tell us; but we will not make anyone king. Do what is good in your sight." 6 Then he wrote a second letter to them, saying:

If you are for me and will obey my voice, take the heads of the men, your master's sons, and come to me at Jezreel by this time tomorrow.

Now the king's sons, seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, who were rearing them. 7 So it was, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons and slaughtered seventy persons, put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel. Jehu's letter — and his previous bold action against Joram and Ahaziah — persuaded the leaders of Israel to execute the sons of Ahab.

8 Then a messenger came and told him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons."

And he said, "Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning." Everyone entered the city by going through the gate. And now two piles of skulls line the road. This was a public display that highlighted God's judgment on Baal worship and the family that initiated it in Israel.

9 So it was, in the morning, that he went out and stood, and said to all the people, "You are righteous. Indeed I conspired against my master and killed him; but who killed all these? 10 Know now that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the LORD which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the LORD has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah." God promised to judge the house of Ahab for their wicked influence in Israel and in a very grizzly manner, God's word is being fulfilled.

11 So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his close acquaintances and his priests, until he left him none remaining. Here's the first clue

that Jehu doesn't have the purest of motives. Up until now he's done God's will, but God never told him to kill Ahab's generals, and advisors, and priests – just the house or family of Ahab. Certainly it took a brave man, a warrior, a man not afraid of violence and the sword to do the job God had for Jehu, but it appears Jehu grew bloodthirsty.

12-14

12 And he arose and departed and went to Samaria. On the way, at Beth Eked^[fn] of the Shepherds, 13 Jehu met with the brothers of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, "Who are you?"

So they answered, "We are the brothers of Ahaziah; we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother."

14 And he said, "Take them alive!" So they took them alive, and killed them at the well of Beth Eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them. Jehu captures these 42 men and executed them publicly.

15 Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab, coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?"

And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot. The Rechabites were a reform movement in Israel that tried to restore purity and morality to the northern kingdom of Israel. Jehonadab was their founder. In Jeremiah 35 the Rechabites are used as an example of faithfulness in the midst of rebellious times.

16 Then he said, “Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD.” So they had him ride in his chariot. Do you detect some pride in Jehu’s voice? Yes, judgment had finally come to Israel – and though it was predicted and necessary - all this bloodshed was breaking God’s heart. Ezekial 33:11 Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

Jehu is enjoying his role a little too much. Now Jehu invites Jehonadab to come along for the bloody ride.

17-20

17 And when he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed them, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to Elijah.

18 Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, “Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much. 19 Now therefore, call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. Let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live.” But Jehu acted deceptively, with the intent of destroying the worshipers of Baal.

20 And Jehu said, “Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal.” So they proclaimed it. Jehu is pretending to worship Baal to draw out all the idolaters. He’s gathering the Baal worshippers for a mass slaughter.

21 Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. So

they came into the temple[fn] of Baal, and the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other. God's orders for Jehu were to kill all the house of Ahab – not all the house of Israel!

22-23

22 And he said to the one in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out vestments for them. 23 Then Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the temple of Baal, and said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search and see that no servants of the LORD are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal." Jehu doesn't want to kill an innocent Hebrew who mistakenly stumbled through the wrong door

24-25

24 So they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had appointed for himself eighty men on the outside, and had said, "If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escapes, whoever lets him escape, it shall be his life for the life of the other."

25 Now it happened, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Pause here...Jehu chose to offer the sacrifice to Baal first, and then to call for the execution of the worshippers of Baal.

...25 that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, "Go in and kill them; let no one come out!" And they killed them with the edge of the sword; then the guards and the officers threw them out, and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal.

26 And they brought the sacred pillars out of the temple of Baal and burned them. 27 Then they broke down the sacred pillar of Baal, and tore down the temple of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day. 28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel. The site of the Temple of Baal became a public toilet - an outhouse.

God will reward Jehu for his faithfulness to God's instruction. The next four kings are all Jehu's descendants. But the Bible is clear that God was not completely happy with Jehu's actions. **Hosea 1:4 Then the LORD said to him:**

**"Call his name Jezreel,
For in a little while
I will avenge the bloodshed of Jezreel on the house of Jehu,
And bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel.**

And in a stunning manner, we're about to see that like all Israel's kings, Jehu succumbed to a more subtle form of idolatry...29-31

29 However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan. 30 And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." 31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin. How in the world does this happen... the instrument of God's judgment falls prey to

the very sin he was used to judge? Jehu started well, but ended in failure. Let's finish the chapter

32 In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael conquered them in all the territory of Israel 33 from the Jordan eastward: all the land of Gilead—Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh—from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon, including Gilead and Bashan.

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 35 So Jehu rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place. 36 And the period that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

If you were to take a poll of the nation of Israel, I bet most would say that Jehu was a great Israeli patriot. But just because He did things in the name of the Lord, it doesn't mean He was obeying the Lord.

By not taking heed to walk in the law of the LORD God, Jehu showed that he didn't live a life of fellowship with God. And here's the warning for us. We can be an instrument in the hand of God and yet never be in fellowship with Him.

Romans 12:19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,"[fn] says the Lord.

20 Therefore

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

If he is thirsty, give him a drink;

For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”