

2 Kings 10 – Thursday, April 7th, 2016

2 Kings 10:1 -- 1 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote and sent letters to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, 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. 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." 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." 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 we're provided with rather graphic detail concerning the judgment that is meted out on the house of Ahab's descendants.
- However, we're also given detail in verse 11 about Jehu going beyond the scope of that which God had commanded him to do.
- More specifically, that he killed all his great men, and his close acquaintances and priests, which God will yet future avenge.

Hosea 1:4 (NKJV) 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.

12 And he arose and departed and went to Samaria. On the way, at Beth Eked 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. 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.

- There's an interesting contrast as it relates to wickedness and righteousness between the brothers of Ahaziah, and Jehonadab.
- Namely, that of Jehonadab's righteousness, which speaks to how we can still live righteously in the midst of such wickedness.
- I think of Noah, who lived righteous in a world that was exceedingly wicked, so much so, that God had to destroy it with a flood.

16 Then he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD." So they had him ride in his chariot. 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.

- What Jehu does here is wrong on every level such that he is proud of his "zeal for the Lord," and wishes to impress Jehonadab.
- You know that you're in trouble and full of spiritual pride when you say things like, "come with me and see my zeal for the Lord."
- I would suggest that Jehu was finding much pleasure in being the instrument in the hands of God to mete out His just judgment.

Ezekiel 33:11 (NKJV) — 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?'

G. Campbell Morgan - "When proceeding against Baal worship, his words to Jehonadab, 'Come with me, and see my zeal for Jehovah,' are in themselves a revelation of a proud spirit."

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. 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 of Baal, and the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other. 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." 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, 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. 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.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that Jehu does everything right concerning Baal, however...
- Verse twenty-nine tells us that Jehu continued the false worship with the golden calf altars that were in both Bethel and Dan.
- This begs the question of why. Why is that he would eliminate the Baal worship, yet continue with this idolatrous false worship?

Charles Spurgeon - "Jehu did obey God up to a certain point. It happened to be a profitable thing to him to exterminate the old royal house of Ahab, because it would confirm himself upon his own throne; but anything beyond that did not pay, and therefore Jehu did not touch it."

F. B. Meyer - "Do not be content to be strong against evil; be eagerly ambitious of good. It is easier to be vehement against the abominations of others than to judge and put away your own secret sins."

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. 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.

- So the chapter here ends and in so doing we're given the account of the end of Jehu as well, in that God let him reign 28-years.
- However, we're also told in verse thirty-one he did not take heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart.
- This should send shivers up and down the spine of every one of us, particularly those whom God has called to lead His people.

- I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me as I share what I see as the take-away from this chapter, and what we can learn from Jehu.
- What follows, in no particular order are lessons that we can learn from Jehu, as it relates to his pride, which was how it started.
- In other words, his pride was the beginning of the end in the sense that it led to his fall in the end, as pride only always does.

- The first lesson we can learn is pride can lead us into the trap of the fear of man, by virtue of how pride seeks to please man.
- I believe that this was the reason Jehu did not destroy the golden calf altars at Bethel and Dan. He feared what man would do.
- The fear of man is roommates with being a man pleaser, and this is a textbook case of not wanting to make Israel mad at him.

Adam Clarke - "We have no chronicles in which there is any thing farther spoken of this bad man. His reign was long, twenty-eight years; and yet we know nothing of it but the commencement."

- The second lesson we can learn from Jehu's life is that pride leads us to seek our own personal glory in our service to the Lord.
- When Jehu seeks the approval of Jehonadab, who were told in Jeremiah 35 was righteous he takes all the credit for himself.
- Instead of Jehu saying, come and see what the Lord has done and is doing, he says come and see what I've done for the Lord.

- The third lesson we can learn from Jehu's life is when the sin of pride takes up residence in our hearts it distances us from God.
- We're told didn't have a close walk with the Lord throughout his reign, which explains why he went too far meting out judgment.
- When we're given over to pride and selfish ambition, we can be assured that God will resist us; and distance Himself from us.

James 4:4-8, 10 (NIV) — 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? 6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ... 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

G. Campbell Morgan - "How terrible a warning is the story of this man—that it is possible to be an instrument in the hand of God and yet never be in fellowship with Him."

- The fourth lesson we can learn from Jehu's life is that a heart full of pride disables us in obeying the Lord with all of our heart.
- I find it rather interesting that in verse thirty-one we're told Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord with all his heart.
- This would seem to indicate that Jehu's service for the Lord, and Jehu's obedience to the Lord, was only half-hearted at best.

Charles Spurgeon - "Hating one sin he loved another, and thus proved that the fear of the Most High did not reign in his [heart]. He was merely a hired servant, and received the throne as his wages, but a child of God he never was."