

II KINGS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Kings chapter 8 as we continue our study through the Word of God. We left off last time with the death, really the murder of the Syrian king Ben-Hadad II by the hands of Hazael, his military officer. And as we will see as we read on in II Kings, Hazael will come against the Northern Kingdom of Israel. All this is the fulfillment of what Elijah said back in I Kings 19:15, **“Then the Lord said to him: ‘Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria.’”**

As we pick up our study this evening, we will be focusing on the Southern Kingdom of Judah and their kings. So with that said, let’s begin reading in II Kings chapter 8, starting in verse 16 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

II KINGS 8

VERSE 16

1. Now this can get confusing because we have Joram, also called Jehoram, the son of Ahab who ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel and now we see Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat reign in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. First of all Joram is just a contraction of Jehoram and they are used interchangeably as we have seen. But the focus here is Jehoram who reigned in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Now, keep in mind that he co-reigned with his father Jehoshaphat for four years but now his father has died and he is the king in Judah and he will be the king for eight years, as we will see. Keep in mind he had a godly father and that should have influenced his life in a positive way. Let's read on and see how it affected his life, was Jehoram a godly man?

VERSES 17-18

1. Keep in mind that this was not a compliment that the Lord was giving him saying that **“he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel.”** The kings in the Northern Kingdom of Israel were all wicked and thus, Jehoram was wicked. How can that be when he had a godly father? First of all everyone has choices to make and he made some bad ones. Secondly, he married the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, Athaliah and he was influenced by her wicked ways. But you can't blame anyone but Jehoram, he made these choices and God is saying that he was evil; he was not a godly man.

2. Now you may be thinking that he was not that bad, but if God says it, why don't we believe it? We don't want to, that is the reason. Let me share with you what he did and you can see if God was right or not, and guess what, He is right and He is always right, we just need to listen to Him! Turn to II Chronicles chapter 21 and let's begin reading in verse 3. In this section Jehoshaphat gives his seven sons great gifts, including Jehoram. And we are told, **“Their father gave them great gifts of silver and gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn. Now when Jehoram was established over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself and killed all his brothers with the sword, and also others of the princes of Israel. . . . Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit harlotry, and led Judah astray.”** II Kings 21:3-4, 11. So he not only killed his brothers to keep control of his kingdom, but he led the nation into idolatry!

VERSE 19

1. As you read this verse it seem very clearly that Jehoram's actions were serious enough for judgment to come upon him but God extended His grace to Jehoram for the sake of David and the promises that He made to him. And when we read of this **“lamp”** it was more than just a symbol of life, it spoke of the covenant that God had made to David. We see this spoken of in II Chronicles 21:7, **“Yet the Lord would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.”** So God is faithful and we need to understand that! What He has promised, He will fulfill!

VERSES 20-24

1. Remember back in Solomon's days there was no king in Edom, but now there is and this king and his people are coming against, rebelling against the Southern Kingdom of Judah and Joram or Jehoram, it is the same person as we have seen. That tells me that his reign was weak and thus, other nations felt it was time to revolt and they did. And in this fight Jehoram and his men lost the battle, they failed to put down this revolt by the Edomites!

2. Now Jehoram dies, he rests with his fathers and was buried in the city of David but not in the honored tombs of the kings because he was a wicked king. (II Chronicles 21:20). And keep in mind that Jehoram was warned of his wicked ways, not to continue down them. Elijah the prophet sent him a letter warning him of what was going to happen if he continued down this path. Now I know, how could Elijah send him a letter when he was already taken up into heaven at this time? In thinking along those lines, we are taking God right out of the picture. You see, Elijah was a prophet of God and God could have had him write this letter in advance. There are many examples of this but one that sticks out in my mind is found in the book of Isaiah where we see hundreds of years before Cyrus the king of Persia was even born, God called him by name. He not only spoke of his name but also explained how they were going to destroy the Babylonians and enter this fortified city through its gates. (Isaiah 45). So it can be simply explained for God knows the things that are coming to pass before they happen, and He used the prophets to speak to the people, not only speaking forth the Words of God, but also speaking of future events that will come to pass.

Now listen to what we are told in II Chronicles 21:12-15, **“And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus says the Lord God of your father David: Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot like the harlotry of the house of Ahab, and also have killed your brothers, those of your father's household, who were better than yourself, behold, the Lord will strike your people with a serious affliction — your children, your wives, and all your possessions; and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines, until your intestines come out by reason of the sickness, day by day.”** The warning was not heeded and thus, we read in II Chronicles 21:18-20, **“After all this the Lord struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease. Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning for his fathers. He was thirty-two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed. However they buried him in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.”**

What a sad story this is and it did not have to end this way. God is very gracious, He is merciful and all Jehoram had to do is return to the Lord, but He didn't and at the age of 40 his life came to an end in terrible pain! God desires that none should perish, but it truly is a choice we have, to turn to Him or reject Him and there are consequences either way! Obviously one is good and the other is not.

3. With the death of Jehoram, his son, Ahaziah is now on the throne in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. And keep in mind that Ahaziah is the grandson of both Jehoshaphat and Ahab, the kings of the Southern and Northern Kingdoms. Thus, his uncle Jehoram is now the king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, also called Joram.

VERSES 25-27

1. The reign of Ahaziah lasted only 1 year and he did evil in the sight of the Lord. Now, this phrase, “**son-in-law**” can be confusing but it does not mean he was a son-in-law to Ahab but the idea here is that he was related to Ahab, or as the text says, “**he was the son-in-law of the house of Ahab.**”

VERSES 28-29

1. As we have read, during this battle against the Syrians, in which Ahaziah joined forces with his uncle Joram, king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, to help him out, Joram is wounded in battle. And as he goes to Jezreel to recover, Ahaziah goes down to visit his sick uncle.

2. Now as we move into II Kings chapter 9 we will fill in some details of what took place as Joram was in Jezreel recovering from his wounds he received in battle. And then we will pick back up where chapter 8 left off, with Joram recovering from his wounds he received at the hands of the Syrians and Ahaziah, the king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah visiting him.

II KINGS 9**VERSES 1-3**

1. We are now moving towards the end of Elisha's life and so to go out and anoint someone king while there was still someone on the throne was very dangerous. That may be the reason that Elisha sends out this young student to go and anoint Jehu king over Israel. Or he may have just been building up the faith of these students to carry on the work after he was gone. We don't know for sure, but this we do know, that this student was going to bring news, prophetic news of what was to take place, that Jehu was going to take over the throne in the Northern Kingdom of Israel as Elijah said back in I Kings 19:16. Those prophetic words were now coming to pass just as God had said!

2. One more point here before we move on and this can be confusing. We are told that Jehu is the son of Jehoshaphat, but please understand that he is not the son of the previous king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, but the son of another Jehoshaphat! And keep in mind that Jehoram or Joram is still the king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and he is recovering from wounds he sustained in battle against the Syrians.

VERSES 4-10

1. Jehu was the commander of the army in Israel, under the authority of the king, Jehoram. And we see this young prophet take Jehu aside, away from the other military leaders and this young prophet anoints him king over the Northern Kingdom. He also tells him that the house of Ahab would be destroyed just as was Jeroboam's and Baasha's. Why was this going to happen to the house of Ahab and why did it happen to the house of Jeroboam and Baasha? Back in I Kings chapter 21 Elijah told Ahab that because of his sin, the idolatry that he was in and was leading the nation in that his house would cease to exist. And we saw this take place with the house of Jeroboam and the house of Baasha and God means what He says and says what He means. And shortly, we will see that come to pass. Also, this young prophet tells Jehu that Jezebel will be killed and not buried. And once again in I Kings chapter 21 Elijah spoke of this coming to pass.
2. After this prophet spoke these words he fled from the area. Why did this prophet run for his life? The reason is simple; death was the penalty for anyone who was leading an insurrection against the king. And this young prophet did not know how the commander of Jehoram's army would respond to what he had to say. He might be loyal to Joram or revolt against Joram and heed the words of this prophet.
3. Now was Jehu a good king? No, but God was going to use him as a tool, as an instrument of judgment against the house of Ahab. God can use whomever He wants and the reality is, Jehu could have served the Lord, but he didn't and thus, he lost out in the end! Yes, he was better than most kings in Israel, but he was still bad.

VERSES 11-13

1. As Jehu returned to his men, oil dripping from his head, they wanted to know what this man told him. And please understand that they thought these prophets were crazy, their talk was foolish and Jehu agrees with what his men said of this prophet and makes some double talk. I think Jehu felt that would be the end of it but his men knew he was lying; his men are not fooled by it. They wanted to know the truth. So Jehu tells them that he has been anointed king and his men back him up and support him in this revolt. That would be a tricky announcement to make to his men because if his men sided with the king, he could be put to death for this insurrection. But they sided with him and blew the trumpets, shouting, “**Jehu is king!**” But keep in mind that Jehoram is still king and he is recovering from his war wounds in Jezreel and Ahaziah is visiting his sick friend, and thus, how will Jehoram respond to what is being done and for that matter, what is Jehu going to do with his new title as king? Let’s read on and see.

VERSES 14-15

1. Keep in mind that Jehu was a military commander and he knew how to plan out a battle. Thus, as this plot grew, Jehu tells his men not to let anyone leave the city to warn Joram or Jehoram about what was going to take place. You see, right now they had the advantage because king Joram was totally unaware of the revolt that was rising up around him. Remember, he was recovering from battle wounds that he received against the Syrians and is very vulnerable at this time!

VERSES 16-17

1. Again, the king is recovering in Jezreel and the valley of Jezreel is a gigantic open area, also known as the valley of Megiddo. And the king of Samaria had a palace there. Now around the palace were watchtowers to warn you of any problems that may be coming your way or to let you know if a messenger was coming. You see, you could see their dust from far away, and you could tell if it was just one man or a whole army coming your way. Thus, you can plan accordingly what you were going to do before they came upon you!

2. The watchman reports to Joram that someone is approaching the city and Joram tells the watchman to send out one of his men to see if, **“it is peace?”** Now Joram has no clue what is going on. In fact, he was seeking to find out how the battle was going with the Syrians, who is the victor in this battle? That was his mindset and there was nothing pointing to any trouble, just what was going on in the battle, are we winners or are we losing and need to think about fleeing! You see, if they were losing they were not going to wait around and be captured but flee for their lives! That just makes sense and that is what Joram was thinking!

VERSES 18-20

1. So the first horseman went out and he did not return. In fact, when he meets up with Jehu, Jehu tells him, **“What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me.”** In other words, Jehu was telling this soldier that this is not a time of peace; it is a time of conflict, that the throne of Joram, his dynasty was coming to an end. And this man follows after Jehu, which tells me that Jehu had the support of the troops once they found out what he was doing.

So Joram sends out a second man when this one does not return and the same thing happens. This man joins up with Jehu. And as the watchman looks at this chariot that is coming, he can tell that by the way this man was driving his chariot, that it is none other than Jehu, for he is driving furiously. I know that my wife would have loved to get me a license plate that read, “Jehu” because she felt that the way I drove my car was just like Jehu because I drove my car, *FURIOUSLY!* Not anymore, but I did drive like that.

Now with both men not returning with a report, and Jehu, the military commander driving furiously into Jezreel, what is Joram going to do. Let’s read on and see.

VERSE 21

1. Now after 2 of his men have not returned, Joram is getting worried about what is happening and so he gets his chariot all fired up and he and Ahaziah go out to meet Jehu to see what has happened.

2. The interesting thing to me is what the last part of this verse says, “**and met him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.**” Was this the property of Naboth or did king Ahab steal this property? Yes, Ahab stole this property from Naboth, his wife having Naboth and his sons killed to obtain it, but God still calls this the property of Naboth, even though Ahab owned it. You see, he conspired with his wife Jezebel to kill Naboth and obtain the property. But God does not recognize his little transaction. Now let’s read on and see what happens when they encounter Jehu at the property of Naboth!

VERSES 22-26

1. As Joram and Ahaziah approach Jehu, Joram asked, “**Is it peace, Jehu?**” Joram was a little concerned about what was going on but in his mind he is wondering how the battle was going. He was the military commander! But Jehu was not interested in the battle, and thus, the only response Jehu could say was that there could be no peace when all these abominations are filling the land. All the wickedness, all the idolatry, all the immorality and Joram is looking for peace. God says that there is no peace for the wicked and that is true and Joram is finding that out!

2. In America we are called a Christian nation where some 80 to 90 percent of the people think they are Christian. Folk’s, we are living in a post Christian nation. And thus, I think the same is true in this country. We are living in a war zone, and there is no peace, for the land is filled with all kinds of abominations before the Lord. We as Christians need to repent of our sin and fall before the Lord and ask Him to heal this land, for only when we turn back to Him will we find peace in this land and peace in our own lives!

3. Now as Joram hears these words from Jehu, he knows he is in trouble and begins to flee for his life and he warns Ahaziah to flee as he yells out, “**Treachery, Ahaziah!**” In other words, “Flee for your life!” And as Joram is fleeing, Jehu pulls back on his bow and launches an arrow that pierces his heart and he dies. Yes, Jehu was a good shot, but I think God guided it and it was a direct hit! In fact, that is exactly what Trapp wrote, “Jehu was an excellent marksman; but it was God that guided his hand, strengthened his arm (Ezekiel 30:24), and ordered his arrow (Jeremiah 1:9).”

4. Now Joram, a descendant of Ahab may have been the fulfillment of the prophecy given by Elijah in I Kings chapter 21. Remember that it spoke of the blood of Ahab being shed in the vineyard of Ahab and yet Ahab died in Samaria and not Jezreel.

Look at what we are told in I Kings 21:17-24, **“Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ‘Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. You shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: ‘Have you murdered and also taken possession?’” And you shall speak to him, saying, “Thus says the Lord: ‘In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.’””** So Ahab said to Elijah, **‘Have you found me, O my enemy?’** And he answered, **‘I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord: “Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.”** And concerning Jezebel the Lord also spoke, saying, **“The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.”** **The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field.”** It is possible that what God said here in I Kings is being fulfilled in the life of Joram, the son of Ahab, as his blood flows in the vineyard of Naboth!

VERSES 27-29

1. Now Jehu goes after the king of Judah, Ahaziah and as Ahaziah flees for his life, Jehu has him shot with an arrow as he is in his chariot and he dies in Megiddo.

VERSE 30

1. As Jehu heads to Jezreel, Jezebel has gotten word back of what Jehu had done, how Joram and Azariah have been murdered. And thus, as he approached the city, she fixed herself up; put on all kinds of makeup, fixed her hair, best jewelry. History tells us that she was a very beautiful woman but also keep in mind she was no longer young. But that did not matter to her because with her outward beauty she was able to seduce her enemies. Because of her outward beauty she was able to get what she wanted, and maybe she thought she could do the same with Jehu, so she put on her best and will present herself before him.

2. Now the saying is true, "Beauty is only skin deep." When you look at the life of Jezebel, she was very wicked. For as beautiful as Jezebel was outwardly, inwardly she was very ugly. She murdered to get what she wanted and served Baal instead of the Lord. She killed the prophets of God but feed the prophets of Baal. And in her mind she has done nothing wrong. She felt she deserved to get what she wanted but that is going to change; her beauty is not going to save her as we will see!

VERSE 31

1. Besides using her beauty to seduce Jehu, she is also trying to scare him by warning him of what happened to Zimri, who led a revolt against Baasha, killed him, and then 7 days later Omri led a revolt against him. Omri surrounded his house and in a no-win situation he burned himself to death. Thus, the rebellion of Zimri only lasted 7 days and Jezebel is warning Jehu that his rebellion will be just as short.

That takes a lot of guts when you think about it. So far Jehu has killed the king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Joram; and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, Ahaziah, and she has this to say. She was basically saying to Jehu, "The dynasty of Omri will defeat you just like it defeated Zimri!" She should have humbled herself instead of speaking like this, but that was Jezebel, she did it her way and in the end, it will cost her, she will also die at the hands of Jehu!

VERSES 32-37

1. As Jehu listens to her trash talk, he calls up to the men around Jezebel and asks them "Whose side are you on? If you are on my side, then throw her down off the wall!" And they did. And as her body crashed upon the wall and then the ground, the horses then trampled her, and she died. It is as Meyer wrote, "There cannot be true peace so long as we permit the infidelities and charms of some Jezebel of the soul-life to attract and affect us. . . . Whatever its charms, it must be flung out the window before we can be at peace."

2. As this takes place, as she comes crashing to the ground and is trampled upon, Jehu goes and has lunch! Talk about your cold-blooded killers. Afterwards, when he gets done eating, he remembers that Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians, and thus she should be buried. And when they come back to look for her body all they find is her skull, feet, and the palms of her hands, for the dogs had eaten the rest of her just as Elijah the prophet had said. In I Kings 21:23-24 we were told, **“And concerning Jezebel the Lord also spoke, saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’ The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field.”** That is exactly what happened to the wicked Jezebel!

3. Now, one more point before we move on and that is this man Jehu. Yes, God placed him in this position but Jehu became corrupt, and because of that he too will face the judgment of God. In Hosea 1:4 we are told, **“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.’”**

4. Now as we move into II Kings chapter 10 we will continue looking at the judgment coming upon the house of Ahab through Jehu!

II KINGS 10**VERSES 1-3**

1. Yes, Jehu has killed Joram and is now the king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. And yet, there is one problem, one threat you might say and that is these 70 sons of Ahab. You see, they could fight for the throne, they were blood relatives and thus, it should have been theirs, at least one of these 70 sons. And please understand that these are not necessarily 70 literal sons, although they could be, but are most likely the descendants of king Ahab, his grandsons who were living in Samaria. And as Jehu continues on this mission of destroying the house of Ahab, he sends this letter to those who were caring for these young men. And the letter is a challenge to place the best descendant of Ahab on the throne and let us do battle. The winner, of course, gets the kingdom.

VERSES 4-5

1. These guardians or officials who were watching over these sons of Ahab were terrified of Jehu. Word had spread quickly that Jehu had killed Joram, the king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and Ahaziah, king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Thus, how could they stand up to him, they could not see any hope in trying to fight against Jehu. So if you can't beat them what do you do? You are right, you join them, and that is what these guardians or officials did. They switched sides you might say and are denying the kingdom to the descendants of Ahab and giving it to Jehu.

And you can clearly understand why these guys wanted nothing to do with trying to fight against Jehu, and they refuse to take up his challenge and place a king on the throne. And they send word to Jehu asking him what they can do, for they want to serve him.

VERSES 6-8

1. This was not an uncommon practice in those days. When a new king came to the throne, he would kill all the descendants of the previous king, thus, putting an end to any overthrow attempts. Also, by placing their heads in plain view, for everyone to see, was a public warning against any rebellion. These guardians, once they receive Jehu's second letter, go and kill the people they were suppose to be carrying for. Not only that, but they placed their heads in two baskets and brought them to Jehu showing their allegiance to him and they are placed in two piles. I guess two piles of heads are better than one! Anyway, these guys were tough; today we show our allegiance to a sport team by wearing their colors, not cutting off the heads of the enemy! I am thankful for that living in Green Bay and being a Bears fan! Wiseman makes these comments regarding the events that took place here. He wrote, "It was a contemporary custom throughout the ancient east to 'pile-up' the heads of the captured rebels by the main city gate as a public warning against rebellion." And as awful as this was, and it was, Trapp makes these interesting comments, "This was suitable to Ahab's sin. He had sent for baskets of grapes out of Naboth's vineyard at Jezreel; and now the heads of his sons are brought thither in baskets." Sin has devastating consequences as we have seen as we began in Genesis and continue on in our study through the Word of God!

VERSES 9-11

1. You have to love what Jehu does here as he is justifying his actions. Poole made these comments regarding this, “You are righteous in your own eyes, and you look upon me as a traitor, and rebel, and murderer, because I have risen against and slain my master, which I acknowledge I have done. But if I am guilty, you are not innocent, and therefore cannot accuse me; for I have killed one, but you a great number.” First of all he tells the people you can’t accuse me of wrong because you have done much more than I have done. That is an interesting way of justifying his actions.

And Jehu lets the people know that what has happened to Ahab’s house is according to what the Lord had said. Jehu was used by God as an instrument of judgment upon the house of Ahab. Now did Jehu act according to the will of God? I believe in his actions he was fulfilling what God had spoken but it almost seems like he is a little unsure and is trying to justify his actions, and the people are a little unsure and he is trying to reassure them and make sure they don’t accuse him of any wrong. When you are not walking with the Lord, it is very confusing as we see here with Jehu!

VERSES 12-14

1. So after this we see Jehu and his men depart and they are heading to Samaria and as they are traveling he runs into the relatives of Ahaziah, who apparently did not hear that Jehu had killed, not only king Joram, but also king Ahaziah. And keep in mind that Ahaziah, king of Judah, was the grandson of Ahab and Jezebel. (Ahaziah was the son of Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, and Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab.) Thus, he was a descendant of Ahab. Was this a fulfillment of the judgment that was to come upon the house of Ahab, that all of his descendants should be killed? It could be and yet, there are some who feel that Jehu went too far!

Now we are told that Jehu ran into the sons of Ahaziah at Beth-Eked, which means, “the house of shearing.” It was the place that the shepherds would come each year to shear their sheep. And upon seeing them and finding out who these men were, Jehu has all 42 of these descendants of Ahaziah killed. He was a tough dude!

VERSES 15-17

1. Jehonadab was a godly man and Jehu knew it, so he wants to team up with him, to be seen with him, because that would help his position before the people. Now keep in mind that the Kenites were a nomadic people from which Jehonadab was a descendant of. And if you remember back in our studies in Genesis, Jethro was the father-in-law of Moses, and he was a Kenite.

Now their reputation was well known, for they were a godly people, so much so that some 300 years after this event in II Kings, God holds them up as an example of what a godly man is suppose to be, as was evident in his life and the lives of his descendants. This was in stark contrast to the nation that was wicked, and you can read of this in Jeremiah 35:1-10. Of these people, we are told, “Jeremiah records that Jehonadab was the leader of an aesthetic group that lived an austere, nomadic life in the desert, drinking no wine and depending solely on the Lord for their sustenance. Separatists to the core and strong patriots, they lived in protest to the materialism and religious compromise in Israel.” (Patterson and Austel)

2. What can we learn from this? I want you to notice how they had separated themselves from worldly possessions. They, in a sense were pilgrims. This was not their home, but only a temporary dwelling place. That should be our focus as Christians, not what we can amass on earth, but the treasures we are storing up in heaven. Paul put it this way in Philippians 3:20-21, **“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”**

3. And Jehu asks him if he wants to see the zeal he has for the Lord and he goes and kills the rest of the descendants of Ahab in Samaria, fulfilling God’s promise of judgment upon the house of Ahab!

VERSES 18-23

1. Jehu throws this big celebration to all the worshipers of Baal, but his plan is to gather them together so that he may kill them. And to distinguish the worshipers of Baal and the worshipers of God he calls for the colorful costumes to be brought out that were used in the worship of Baal. In doing so he was marking out the enemy, a kind of bull's eye, you might say. And just to be on the safe side, Jehu makes sure that the only people that are in the temple are those who are worshipping Baal, for he did not want to kill his own.

VERSES 24-28

1. As Jehu's plan goes on, he then stations his men around the temple with the orders to let no one escape alive or it will cost you your life. You might say that was a good incentive program. And at Jehu's orders, these worshipers of Baal were killed and this temple of Baal that Ahab built for his wife Jezebel (1 Kings 16:32); Jehu tore it down. He worked to completely eliminate the worship of Baal from Israel, making him a unique king among the other rulers of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. And it seems that Jehu was moving the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the right direction for the first time since the nation was divided. But as we shall see, his zeal for the Lord is only half-hearted.

VERSES 29-31

1. Notice what a contrasting life Jehu lived. Yes, Jehu did eliminate Baal worship from the land, but he fell right back into the sin of Jeroboam, the first king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. He set back up the golden calf worship in the areas of Dan and Bethel. And maybe, like Jeroboam, Jehu felt the people needed a place to worship God and since the temple was in Jerusalem, he decided to set up these altars. Jehu's heart was loyal to the people, in making them happy and thus fell short of what God wanted out of this man. We must not be man pleasers but God pleasers!

Listen carefully to what Poole wrote of Jehu, "Herein he discovers his hypocrisy, that he follows God as far as his interest would permit . . . but no further." And Knapp makes these remarks, "Jehu's zeal, on the contrary, consumed and destroyed everybody and everything that stood in the way of his own advantage or aggrandizement, but never touched himself. He appears to have been a total stranger to real exercise of soul." And lastly, Spurgeon wrote, "Hating one sin he loved another, and thus proved that the fear of the Most High did not reign in his breast. He was merely a hired servant, and received the throne as his wages, but a child of God he never was." May we learn the lesson and be sold out to the Lord!

2. Make no mistake about it, Jehu had great potential to be used by God and yet he came up short. I wonder what God has planned for us? I pray we don't come up short but are totally sold out to God that we may be vessels that not only contain God, but also are vessels in which God can flow through and touch the lives of others. I pray that we may be used for His glory.

3. Now as wrong as Jehu was in his actions, we also see here God's great love for Jehu and for us in that He honors the actions of Jehu, even though he fell far short of all that God wanted of him.

VERSES 32-33

1. Hazael is now king over Syria, and he is doing just what Elisha said he would do, wiping out the children of Israel. He attacks first those nations that did not enter the Promise Land, those that were living on the east side of the Jordan River. You see, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the 1/2 tribe of Manasseh were living in an area that had no natural defenses and they were cut off from the rest of the nation by the Jordan River. And we are seeing judgment come upon the Northern Kingdom of Israel for their idolatry as their king Jehu was leading them in!

2. Now as we look at these nations that were living outside the Promise Land, what a lesson for us. You see, we too must enter into that fullness of the Spirit and not live in the wilderness. It is a life that is lived in the Spirit that is a life that is victorious.

VERSES 34-36

1. Jehu reigned for 28 years and was one of the better kings of the Northern Kingdom, from which none were really good. He still led the nation in idolatry with the golden calf worship. And now his son Jehoahaz is on the throne in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and we will pick up his story in II Kings 13:1-9.

2. As I close this evening, let me close with these words from Knapp regarding the lessons we can learn from Jehu. He wrote, “The great lesson to be drawn from this remarkable man’s life is that of being constantly on guard, as servants of God, lest we be found doing His work – whether it be in the exercise of discipline, or the accomplishment of reformation – in a spirit of unbrokenness and without due exercise of heart and conscience between Him who is ‘a God of judgment,’ and by whom ‘actions are weighed.’” May we learn the lesson!

3. Next week we will focus back on the Southern Kingdom of Judah and the problems they have with the death of their king, Ahaziah. Who will be on the throne now? We will see that next time!