

FOR HE DRIVETH FURIOUSLY

2 KINGS 9:1 – 10:36

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~ Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap. God has demonstrated this principle over and over again in myriad ways in our expedition through the entire Word of God. Our Spiritual Safari arrives today at one of the most dreadful passages of Scripture we will come across in the Bible. The reckless, violent and ferocious Jezebel's time has come to meet her maker in this report. Remember, she had killed the prophets of the Lord; and it seemed as if God looked the other way while she ran wild. Well, God will remain silent no longer! This report brings the tragic end of this treacherous woman.

There is evidence in the world today of humanity reaping what it has sown in sinful rebellion towards God; but this is still the age of grace. The full wrath of God in His judgment for this present evil world is yet to come – but probably will happen sooner than we think. Either way – it is coming! In the meantime, God has made it possible for us to get out His Word and proclaim His Gospel of Grace. God has given us a tremendous open door in this so-called safari; I hope you will stand with me in prayer and other support if you are able. Anyone who knows anything about this missionary ministry to the entire world knows one thing: the Bible is taught properly, correctly and completely here.

The ninth chapter of second Kings is a continuation from where we broke off in our last report – and we need to keep many things in mind – because we saw Ahaziah go to Jezreel to visit Jehoram who had been wounded by the Syrians. Ahaziah had been seriously wounded in battle and he was, apparently, sick from the wounds. In our last report, we learned that this section of Scripture becomes staggeringly complicated to follow without the chart of the kings of Israel and Judah below:

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF THE KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM

JUDAH				ISRAEL				
King	Reign	Character	Prophet	King	Reign	Character	Prophet	
1. Rehoboam	931-913 BC	(17 yrs.) Bad	Shemaiah	1. Jeroboam I	931-910 BC	(22 yrs.) Bad	Ahijah	
2. Abijam	913-911	(3 yrs.) Bad		2. Nadab	910-909	(2 yrs.) Bad		
3. Asa	911-870	(41 yrs.) Good		3. Baasha	909-886	(24 yrs.) Bad		
				4. Elah	886-885	(2 yrs.) Bad		
				5. Zimri	885	(7 days) Bad		
4. Jehoshaphat	870-848*	(25 yrs.) Good	Obadiah	6. Omri	885-874	(12 yrs.) Bad	Elijah Micaiah	
5. Jehoram	848-841*	(8 yrs.) Bad		7. Ahab	874-853	(22 yrs.) Bad		
6. Ahaziah	841	(1 yr.) Bad	Joel	8. Ahaziah	853-852	(2 yrs.) Bad	Elisha	
7. Athaliah	841-835	(6 yrs.) Bad		9. Joram	852-841	(12 yrs.) Bad		
8. Joash	835-796	(40 yrs.) Good		10. Jehu	841-814	(28 yrs.) Bad		
9. Amaziah	796-767	(29 yrs.) Good		11. Jehoahaz	814-798	(17 yrs.) Bad	Jonah Amos Hosea	
10. Azariah (or Uzziah)	767-740*	(52 yrs.) Good		12. Jehoash	798-782*	(16 yrs.) Bad		
				13. Jeroboam II	782-753*	(41 yrs.) Bad		
				Isaiah	14. Zechariah	753-752	(6 mo.) Bad	
					15. Shallum	752	(1 mo.) Bad	
11. Jotham	740-732*	(16 yrs.) Good		Micah	16. Menahem	752-742*	(10 yrs.) Bad	
12. Ahaz	732-716*	(16 yrs.) Bad			17. Pekahiah	742-740	(2 yrs.) Bad	
				18. Pekah	740-732*	(20 yrs.) Bad		
13. Hezekiah	716-687*	(29 yrs.) Good	Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah	19. Hoshea	732-722	(9 yrs.) Bad		
14. Manasseh	687-642*	(55 yrs.) Bad		<i>(Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel)</i>				
15. Amon	642-640	(2 yrs.) Bad						
16. Josiah	640-608	(31 yrs.) Good						
17. Jehoahaz	608	(3 mo.) Bad						
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	(11 yrs.) Bad						
19. Jehoiachin	597	(3 mo.) Bad						
20. Zedekiah	597-586	(11 yrs.) Bad						

(Destruction of Jerusalem and captivity of Judah)
*Co-regency

IX

1 And 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 And when thou comest thither, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brethren, and carry him to an inner chamber;

3 Then take the box of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not.

4 So the young man, even the young man the prophet, went to Ramothgilead.

~ I have a suspicion this young prophet Elisha sent was the same one who lost the ax head – but I’m not sure. I just get that feeling. Either way – he immediately did what he was told to do without question. We know Elisha was not the sensational and spectacular prophet in mannerism. I would

never have thought he would have sent a young and inexperienced prophet to anoint a king – I would think he would have executed that task personally – but that’s how Elisha did it. Remember, Samuel did the job himself anointing both Saul and David king over Israel – but not Elisha. He was a delegator.

We also saw Elisha send a servant to instruct Naaman the leper when it was time for Naaman to be healed in chapter five. In this account, we have secrecy and privacy. One good explanation for this anointing is that, if Elisha had gone to Jehu, people would have suspected something was going on. With just one young unheard of prophet going, I don’t think anyone was suspicious. Well, Jehu was anointed king, and he was one of the bloodiest men in the Bible. He kills anyone and everyone who is not in the will of God – and Jehu does the will of God – in many respects....

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: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel:

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:

10 And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. And he opened the door, and fled.

~ This is just a repeat of what Elijah had said would happen to the house of Ahab and Jezebel so long ago. Jehu just happens to be the chosen executioner. As we read on, the entire nation gets in a flurry about Jehu becoming king. Remember, the reigning king of Israel, Jehoram, is laying around nursing his wounds; and the king of Judah, Ahaziah, is visiting Jehoram in the hospital. So, in Jezreel, Jehu is bringing the land to the brink of pandemonium. Everyone wants peace, but Jehu isn't coming in peace. The messengers who are sent out to ask Jehu what was happening never went home. This is where Jehu begins the extermination of anyone related to Ahab and Jezebel – and anyone who gets in his way – like Ahaziah....

11 Then Jehu came forth to the servants of his lord: and one said unto him, Is all well? wherefore came this mad fellow to thee? And he said unto them, Ye know the man, and his communication.

12 And they said, It is false; tell us now. And he said, Thus and thus spake he to me, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel.

13 Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king.

14 So 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.

15 But king Joram was returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.) And Jehu said, If it be your minds, then let none go forth nor escape out of the city to go to tell it in Jezreel.

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

17 And there stood a watchman on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company. And Joram said, Take an horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, Is it peace?

18 So there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he cometh not again.

19 Then he sent out a second on horseback, which came to them, and said, Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu answered, What hast thou to do with peace? turn thee behind me.

20 And the watchman told, saying, He came even unto them, and cometh not again: and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously.

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 Bidkar 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.

27 But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot. And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there.

28 And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulchre with his fathers in the city of David.

~ We know from previous reports that Ahaziah was keeping bad company by associating with the house of Ahab – and it all catches up with him here! Maybe Ahaziah was in the wrong place at the wrong time, but, either way, now they're all dead! So, as we read on, we come to that which is, indeed, frightening – the slaying of Jezebel. We cannot say enough bad things about Jezebel on this safari; she was simply an evil, terrible and awful person.

Jezebel was a member of a royal family. I'm sure she was one of the most physically beautiful women in the day in which we are studying – and probably in all of history; otherwise, she would not have ended up being taken by Ahab. As a young woman, I believe Jezebel would have easily won any Miss Universe pageant; and was more beautiful than Helen of Troy, Cleopatra, Salome and Catherine de' Medici all rolled into one. When Ahab married Jezebel, it was the society event of the century. All of the most beautiful people in the two kingdoms were in attendance and royalty was bubbling over! It was respectable and dignified affair that made any modern English matrimonial ceremony look like a shotgun wedding. The common folks from all walks of life celebrated; and I doubt even Elijah could have found fault in the proceedings. Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, king and high priest of the Zidonians; and the demons of hell were present for the festivities; laughing with glee and drinking themselves into oblivion. On this day, the devil rejoiced as angels wept in Heaven. The people heard wedding bells, but the reality was a funeral dirge.

See, Heavens view and the world's view are ALWAYS in conflict. The world is overly optimistic about the future of mankind, but Heaven is exceedingly

pessimistic; because God looks upon our hearts; hearts that are desperately wicked and deceitful above all things. Man has a blinded view draped in designer clothes and distorted by premium alcoholic beverages. Jezebel is the most remarkable woman in history in this regard: she was capable, influential, dominant, domineering and all with mesmerizing personality. If Jezebel wanted to woo you, then any man or woman on earth would have become a deer in her headlights. Of course, underneath, she was as cold as a dead fish and highly likely, she was totally incapable of normal and natural affection. She had a heavy influence over three kingdoms that extended beyond her lifetime. A notorious life became a proffer as she poured her stream of evil poison into the stream of history.

Scripture doesn't even mention her name again until the end of the Bible. Jezebel means "unmarried" or "chaste." The mere mention of her name today is associated with abnormality and perversions. She was feminine with an extremely masculine touch; very seductive and alluring, to be sure. She had what Hollywood brazenly calls "sex appeal!" She would have made any casting couch come alive, and no man would have been able to resist her seductive charm. She controlled and ruled Ahab's life, and, in the northern kingdom, she was the force behind the man. She magnified the worship of Baal as she brought in four hundred fifty of his prophets and four hundred more prophets of Ashtaroht. She killed God's prophet's and God's people without even batting an eye. She engineered the marriage of her daughter to the house of David for obvious reasons – but that didn't end well.

Here, Jezebel knows the end has come. She ends as the epitome of any Greek tragedy. She is the Lady Macbeth of Shakespeare. Her crimes were myriad. Seeing blood flow and people suffering is what brought her pleasure. I think it really turned her on to hurt others. During her excessively long reign with Ahab as her puppet front, no person dared oppose her on any issue – with one exception: Elijah! Now, her crowning crime, which was the cold-blooded first-degree murder of Naboth for his vineyard, must be accounted for by God. God's patience is exhausted with this woman; and He sends out His executioner. Jezebel will be trodden underfoot, and the dogs will eat her – exactly as Elijah said they would. She isn't even going to be afforded a burial. Fourteen years have elapsed since

the death of old man Ahab at this time, and Jezebel didn't believe God's Word by Elijah would ever be fulfilled – in fact, she laughed in Elijah's face. She had been unmoved as she defied the Lord; and chalked Ahab's death up to fate or coincidence. She never thought for one moment anything could ever happen to her. Well, one immutable law of God is written in neon lights in every sphere of the crossroads in this world: be not deceived – God is not mocked! Friends, whatsoever you sow down here is what you shall reap – you can just write that down – again! With what measure you meet it will be measured unto you.

Well, here we have the goriest, most gruesome and grizzly chapter we're going to read on safari. This account should be revolting and repulsive; and it is directly from the pages of the Word of God. We see Jezebel as the queen mother living in luxury in her palace in Jezreel as the prophecy of Elijah begins to unfold. Jehu comes out of the north in a chariot driving furiously. He has just killed two kings, but Jezebel still thinks she has full control over him – and all men. Unfortunately for her, Jezebel has grown old. She painted her face; but all the lotion, creams, gels and body washes on the market couldn't make her attractive to Jehu. Even so, she still tries to flatter him, but Jehu is unmoved and untouched. Then, as we read here, Jehu snuffs her out in an instant without pity and without mercy – and then sits down to a hearty meal before dealing with her corpse! While Jehu is having a gourmet meal – so are the dogs....

29 And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah.

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.

34 And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter.

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.

~ Let's take care how we present this section of Scripture; because, in spite of what we have said and read, there was no laughter nor rejoicing in Heaven because of this – but there's no mourning, either. The Seraphim were saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God of Hosts!" The angels proclaimed, "just and righteous and strong is the Lord God Who judgeth her and all nations!" The Psalmist said, "only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked...." – and that has been fulfilled as God is vindicated. Well, this is just the beginning of the judgment which will now fall fast and furiously on the house of Ahab....

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.

X

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,

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;

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

12 And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. And as he was at the shearing house in the way,

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

20 And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

26 And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them.

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.

28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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?

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

36 And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty and eight years.

~ Jehu was a cunning, tricky, divisive, bloody – and just plain mean – man. We must notice that he did the will of the Lord God, but he didn't turn to God. He executed God's plan and purpose – and all of Baal's prophets – but he continued the calf worship Jeroboam had instituted. If you'll turn all of that over in your mind a few times, it should make the hair of any believer stand on edge. Friends, the Lord is just and right in all that He does. God makes even the wrath of man to praise and glorify Him. We really need to recognize the Lord moves in much more than mysterious ways.

Alright, Jehu has now killed everyone in Ahab's lineage – and the brother of Ahaziah, king of Judah, too. There was one who was spared, and he happened to be from the house of Saul; that's Jehonadab – whom Jeremiah calls Jonadab. Further, Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, has intermarried into the royalty of Judah. She is a bloody and wicked woman

just like her momma was. Actually, what Athaliah is going to do seems almost unbelievable. The northern kingdom is heading quickly into captivity by Assyria at this time in which we are studying. It is all decline and decay for Israel from this point forward. Their downward spiral is going to ultimately end in disaster.

This has been an awful leg of our Spiritual Safari but, my friends, this is what happens when people depart from and turn against God. I know we think we are very civilized today, and we talk about peace and prosperity and all of that; but, we – America – happen to be one of the bloodiest countries the world has ever seen. The wars and atrocities we carry on make it more attractive to be a tribal recluse in the jungles of South America or Africa. May I say – we have embarked on a gross departure from God – and all of our troubles in our government, schools, workplaces, universities, homes – and the church – are a direct result of turning our backs on the True and Living God.

In an effort to avoid the obvious, the atheist and agnostic in modern society claim all of the troubles the world is experiencing have been brought on by religion. Carl Marx stated, ever so boldly, that religion is the opiate of the masses. He obviously knew something about drug trafficking because he funded his government with opium proceeds. The Word of God makes it perfectly clear our problems are due to a wholesale defiance of Him. Because of man's unrighteousness, Paul said, *"the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in their unrighteousness!"* That's Romans chapter one verse eighteen, by the way. Not only are we seeing the rejection of God by mankind in general today, but we're also seeing an accelerating trend of apostasy in the church. What we have is a truth war being waged within the body of Christ. God help us ~