

Removal of Jehoram, Jezebel, and Ahaziah

2 Kings 9:14-37

2 Kings 9:14-29 - *“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. But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds that 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.” 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. 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?’” 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.” 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.” 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!” 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. 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?” Then Joram turned around and fled, and said to Ahaziah, “Treachery, Ahaziah!” 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. 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: ‘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.”*

But when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth Haggan. 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. And his servants carried him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the City of David. In the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king over Judah.”

Background Notes for 2 Kings 9:14-29

God had designated that Jehu, a military commander, was to be the next king of Israel – but not because Jehu was a good and godly man. Far from it! However, God used Jehu to hold back the increasing Baal worship in the northern kingdom of Israel, and to bring about the downfall and removal of the Ahab’s dynasty, and everyone connected with the evil house of Ahab.

After Jehu was anointed, he quickly made plans to ride to Jezreel where King Jehoram was recovering from battle wounds. Verse 20 says that Jehu “drove furiously.” If anyone ever says to you, “You’re driving like Jehu,” that’s not a compliment!

King Ahaziah of Judah was visiting his uncle, King Jehoram, at Jezreel. Both of them got into their chariots and went out to meet Jehu. They were totally unsuspecting, and wore no armor; they thought they were just going out to get the battle report. They asked, “*Is it peace, Jehu?*” In other words, what’s the report from the battlefield? Is it peace? Jehu replied, “*What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?*” At that point King Jehoram realized that Jehu intended to usurp the throne. He and Ahaziah tried to escape, but both were killed.

Doctrinal Point for 2 Kings 9:14-29

God’s prophecies of judgment will come true.

The deaths of King Jehoram, King Ahaziah, and later in this chapter the death of Queen Jezebel, were not by chance. They were the fulfillment of prophecy. Back in 1 Kings 21, God had pronounced judgment upon the house of Ahab. Elijah gave that prophecy of judgment a number of years before, and now it was being carried out.

And isn’t it interesting to note that Jehu told his captain to throw King Jehoram’s body into Naboth’s vineyard, the very place where the prophecy was given (v21)? God’s prophecies of judgment always come true.

The Bible contains prophecies of judgments to come in the future - judgments on this wicked world and on individuals who reject Christ. And these judgments will happen. Even though people ridicule the Bible and doubt its prophecies, these prophecies of judgment will come true. God’s prophecies of judgment will come true.

Practical Application for 2 Kings 9:14-29

You cannot escape God’s judgment.

God had pronounced judgment on the house of Ahab. He said that no one would escape - and no one did! People who reject Jesus Christ cannot escape God’s judgment. I trust you are a true believer in our Lord Jesus. I trust that no one hearing this Talk is just “going through the motions” of believing in Jesus. That’s always a possibility. I trust you’re not just going through the motions, because you cannot escape God’s judgment.

Listen to the words of Hebrews 2:3, “*How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?*” Escape what? Escape the judgment of God! If you neglect God’s great offer of salvation through Jesus Christ, judgment awaits you in the future. You cannot escape God’s judgment.

2 Kings 9:30-37 - *“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. Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, “Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master? And he looked up at the window, and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. 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.*

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.” 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. 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; 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.”’

Background Notes for 2 Kings 9:30-37

Jezebel didn’t “paint her eyes and adorn herself” to try to seduce Jehu. No, that’s not what was going on here. She wanted to die like a queen. Jezebel was originally a Phoenician princess, and that’s what Phoenician queens did as they prepared for death. In verse 31 she said to Jehu, *“Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?”* What did she mean? She was referring to a former king of Israel named Zimri, who usurped the throne by murdering his predecessor.

When Jezebel, the queen mother, was thrown out of the window, her blood splattered on the wall and dogs ate her body. Not a pleasant story. You can see Jehu’s ruthless personality as he trampled over her body with his horse and chariot. But this also was fulfillment of Elijah’s prophecy spoken years before. 1 Kings 21:3: *“And concerning Jezebel, the Lord also spoke saying, ‘The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’”*

Doctrinal Point for 2 Kings 9:30-37

Jezebel’s violent end is a prophetic picture of the end of “future Babylon.”

In Revelation 17-18, we read of a future Babylon that will be destroyed. This “Babylon” of the future will be a “politico-religious system” that opposes God. It will meet a sudden end, just as Jezebel did.

In Revelation, this future Babylon is symbolized as a prostitute, living in sinful luxury, using sorcery, and plotting the death of the saints, God’s people - just as Jezebel did. But Babylon will meet a violent and sudden death, just as Jezebel did. And as Jezebel’s destruction was total and complete - not even a grave marker - so the destruction of the future Babylon will be total and complete.

Let me read a couple of Scriptures from Revelations 18 in this connection. Verse 2: *“Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit.”* Verse 7: *“In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, ‘I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.’ Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.”*

What a day of utter and complete judgment that will be! Jezebel’s violent end is a prophetic picture of the end of future Babylon.

Practical Application for 2 Kings 9:30-37

Prepare your soul, not just your body, for death.

Jezebel “painted her eyes” and “adorned her body” as she prepared for death - but her soul was not prepared! Jezebel will be in hell forever.

Many people today prepare for death, but they forget about their souls. They settle their financial affairs; they buy a cemetery plot; they write their wills - but they never settle their account with God. They never trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. They die in their sins.

In Matthew 10:2-8 the Lord said, *“Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Prepare your soul, not just your body, for death.