



Lesson 137

Jehu's Rise to Power

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 9:1-38 • Setting: circa 841 B.C., in Ramoth-gilead and Jezreel • Main Characters: God, Elisha, a young prophet, Jehu, Jehoram, and Ahaziah • Plot: Jehu is anointed king and Jehoram and Ahaziah are killed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “according to the _____ of the LORD” • Climax: 2 Kings 9:22 <i>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?</i> |
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Background

1. Elisha had gone to Damascus to perform one of the three directives that God gave to Elijah on Mt. Horeb (1 Ki. 19:15-16) – to anoint Hazael the new king of Syria.
 - a) Later, war erupted between Israel and Syria. Jehoram of Israel and _____ of Judah joined forces against Hazael of Syria.
 - b) The Syrians gained the victory and even wounded Jehoram who fled to Jezreel. Ahaziah journeyed to _____ to visit the recuperating Jehoram.

Jehu Anointed King

2. (2 Ki. 9:1-3) Elisha summoned his apprentice prophet and charged him to take a flask of oil, find Jehu in Israel's camp at Ramoth-gilead, and privately anoint him king. Then, the apprentice was to run as fast as he could away from the camp. Why do you think such haste was necessary? _____

3. (vv 4-10) As the young prophet anointed Jehu, he referenced the proclamation made by Elijah many years before – that Ahab's house would perish because of Naboth's murder, because Jezebel persecuted the sons of the prophets, and because of their continued and rampant _____. (1 Kings 21:17-28)
 - a) (vv 11-13) Because of the young messenger's hasty manner and his prophet's demeanor, Jehu's fellows called him _____.
 - b) When Jehu informed them that he had just been anointed king, the officers immediately did obeisance to their new leader. Though they had a low view of God's prophet, they nevertheless recognized that prophets had authority to _____ kings.

Jehu Assassinate His Rivals

4. (vv 14-16) After ensuring that no pro-Jehoram soldiers could not sneak out of _____ and warn Jehoram of the coup, Jehu gathered a band of supporters and rode towards Jezreel where Jehoram was recovering from his wounds (and, providentially, where Ahaziah of Judah was also located).

- a) (vv 17-21) As Jehu approached the fortified city, the watchman recognized his _____ style. Jehoram was notified of Jehu's approach. Thinking he was bringing news from the front, Jehoram dispatched messengers to meet Jehu in the way.
- b) As the messengers began to fall-in behind Jehu, Jehoram would've assumed they would be accompanying him as he delivered good news. Jehoram and Ahaziah go out to meet Jehu, with _____ curiosity.
5. (vv 22-26) King Jehoram did not receive the customary greeting from Jehu but instead was greeted with, "What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her _____ are so many?"
- a) Jehoram realized Jehu's intentions and attempted to flee but was cut down by Jehu's _____.
- b) Ahaziah likewise attempted to flee, and he too was felled by Jehu's _____.
6. (vv 30-31) Once inside the gates of Jezreel, Jezebel greeted Jehu in royal fashion, making a royal appearance from an upper balcony.
- a) She called Jehu "Zimri" to imply that he would suffer the same fate. (Zimri died after a _____ reign).
- b) (vv 32-37) Unfazed by Jezebel's taunts, Jehu commanded her attending officials to throw her out of the window. Jezebel fell to her death and was trampled underneath Jehu's chariots. Her corpse was devoured by dogs; only her head, palms, and feet remained – a graphic illustration that her thoughts, actions, and _____ were too foul for even dogs to consume.

Application

7. Jehu's companions referred to Elisha's servant as "mad." Mathew Henry notes, "They all called him a mad fellow, because he was one of those that would not run with them to an excess of riot (1 Pt. 4:4), but lived a life of self-denial, mortification, and contempt of the world, and spent their time in devotion; for these things they thought the prophets were fools and the spiritual men were mad, Hos. 9:7."¹ Can you think of other prophets that were considered crazy by their contemporaries? _____
8. Sin does not go unpunished. Either we trust in Christ's suffering the punishment for our sins, or we pay for them ourselves. But sin always has a _____. *Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "king" • 1. mission • 2. Hazael; a) die; b) weep • 3. suffocating • 4. a) Ahab; b) bowels • 5. a) Jehoram; b) prophecy • 6. purpose • 7. value • 8. hope

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.

and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.