



Lesson 138

Jehu's Violent Reign

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Kings 10:1-36 • Setting: circa 841 B.C., in Samaria and Jezreel • Main Characters: God, Jehu, and various elders of Israel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot: Jehu destroys the house of Ahab and the prophets of Baal. • Key word(s): “ _____ ” • Climax: <i>2 Kings 10:16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD...</i> |
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Background

1. The LORD had cursed Ahab's house because of idolatry, murder, and persecuting the prophets (1 Kings 21:17-28). The fulfillment of this judgment began when Jehu was anointed king of Israel, after which he went to Jezreel and killed Ahab's son, Joram and Ahaziah, the king of Judah. Later, Jehu went to Samaria and executed the wicked _____.

The Devastation of the House of Ahab

2. (vv 1-5) Knowing that any living male descendant of Ahab would pose a threat to his life, Jehu determined to wipe out all heirs to Ahab's throne.
 - a) He sent letters to three groups of leaders: royal officials of Jezreel, the city elders of Samaria, and the _____ of the princes. In the letters, he challenged any who remained loyal to the house of Ahab to a battle – winner take all.
 - b) All the leaders decided that Jehu was too fearsome a combatant and they declined his challenge and recognized his right to the _____.
3. (vv 6-8) Jehu demanded the officials, rulers, and tutors display their loyalty to the new king by executing all _____ of Ahab's sons and bringing their severed heads to Jezreel.
 - a) Jehu's orders were obeyed; the seventy princes were killed, and their heads brought to Jezreel, where they were stacked in two heaps outside the city _____.
 - b) (vv 9-11) The next morning, Jehu viewed the gruesome scene and said to all the people, “Ye be righteous: behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him: but who slew all these? 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.” By saying this, Jehu was acquitting them of the murders and insinuating that he should not be _____ for killing Joram “when their own elders, and the very guardians of the orphans, have done this.”¹
4. (vv 12-14) Jehu's violence continued when he came across relatives of _____ and supporters of Joram; they likewise were immediately executed.
5. (vv 15-17) Jehu sought approval of his reforms from Jehonadab the son of Rechab. Jehonadab was a godly man, zealous for the Mosaic law and living as a nomadic _____. His godly descendants were a testament to his holy life. (cf Jeremiah 35)

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

The Destruction of the House of Baal

6. (vv 18-27) Jehu feigned devotion to Baal and organized a worship ceremony in which all the prophets of Baal were required to attend.
- a) After the temple of Baal was filled with priests, Jehu commanded _____ men to go kill every prophet, priest, and worshiper inside, letting none escape and leaving none alive.
 - b) Afterward, the pillar of Baal was destroyed, and the temple ground was converted to a _____ (or city sewer).
7. (vv 28-35) Jehu's zeal for the LORD was superficial. He destroyed Baal but worshiped in the way of _____. Because of this, he was punished with the loss of large tracts of territory to enemy conquerors.

Application

8. Jehu illustrates the folly of false _____: he destroyed Baal but was devoted to calves. A heart changed by God's grace abhors all sin, not just convenient sins. Baal worship was vile to patriotic Hebrews, but calf worship was tolerated as politically convenient. Jehu hated some evils, but never learned to love God with all his heart.

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

9. Jehu's zeal for the Lord was not a righteous zeal. Matthew Henry explains that his words and actions give "cause to suspect that his heart was not right with God in what he did, and that the zeal he pretended for the Lord was really zeal for himself and his own advancement. For, (1.) He boasted of it and spoke as if God and man were mightily indebted to him for it. (2.) He desired it might be seen and taken notice of, like the _____, who did all to be seen of men. An upright heart approves itself to God and covets no more than his acceptance."²

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "zeal" • 1. Jezebel • 2. a) tutors; b) throne • 3. seventy; a) gate; b) reproached • 4. Ahaziah • 5. teetotaler • 6. a) eighty; b) draught • 7. Jeroboam • 8. conversion • 9. Pharisees

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 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.

² Ibid