

Jehu
Lesson 36

INTRO:

- A. It is necessary for us to remind ourselves of Ahab in order to begin our study of Jehu.
 - 1. We recall, of course, Ahab's wickedness: "*Now Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him.*" (**1 Kings 16:30**)
 - 2. He was a murderer and an idolater and so in **2 Kings 9** God used one of Elisha's prophets to anoint Jehu to be the next King of Israel.
 - 3. As the prophet poured oil on Jehu's head to anoint him king, he said to him, (**vs. 6-10**)
 - 4. The prophet then opened the door and fled.

I. Jehu Is Used by God to Bring Judgement Upon Ahab!

- A. Jehu was given a hard assignment.
- B. So, in **2 Kings 9:20**, we can perhaps see why God chose Jehu:
 - 1. He is a very intense man.
 - 2. Jehu "*drives furiously*" towards the battle as he obeys what God has told him to do and in **verse 24**, he draws his bow "*with his full strength*" and pierces the heart of the son of King Ahab, Joram/Jehoram.
 - 3. He continues on and pursues King Ahaziah and kills him as well.
 - 4. So in one day, two kings are killed.
 - 5. However, Jehu is not finished; he completes his assignment putting Jezebel, Ahab's wife, to death.
- C. By the time 2 Kings 9 ends, we see God used Jehu to fulfill the words of the prophet.
- D. At the start of chapter 10, Jehu puts to death 70 sons of Ahab, again, fulfilling the word and the judgement of the Lord.

II. Jehu's Zeal!

- A. However, in **2 Kings 10:12-14**, Jehu goes too far!
 - 1. He sets out and goes to Samaria. On his way, he meets the relatives of Ahaziah, king of Judah.
 - 2. He asked them who they were and they answered, (**v. 14**)
 - 3. With that he took them alive and slaughtered all 42 of them at the pit of Beth-eked.
 - 4. Jehu's zeal carried him beyond the doing of God's will.

III. Jehu's Pride and Desire for Glory!

- A. One thing we'll see, as we look at the life of Jehu, is that he does not have a real and personal walk with God.
 - 1. Yes, he obeyed God with zeal and enthusiasm, which is to his credit, but his downfall began with his pride and desire for personal glory.
- B. Jehu went to a highly respected and godly man named Jehonadab and he said, "*Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord.*" (**2 Kings 10:16**)
 - 1. So he had him ride in his chariot and when he came to Samaria, (**v. 17**)
 - 2. **2 Kings 10:18-27** records the manner in which Jehu went about killing the prophets of Baal and burning the sacred pillars of Baal.

Jehu
Lesson 36

3. *“Thus, Jehu wiped out Baal from Israel.” (v. 28)*
- C. However, in the doing of all this, it appears Jehu was proud of himself for his zeal and wanted recognition for what he was doing.
 1. Consider **verse 29**:
 2. Jehu did not follow God with all of his heart. **(v. 31)**
 - a. He was not a true worshipper of God.
 - b. He got rid of what was clearly evil and that which would bring him respect but he refused to remove the idolatry within himself and his own land.

IV. The Consequence of Jehu Being a ‘Successful Failure’!

- A. God was not please with Jehu because he was not careful **(v. 31)**
- B. That being the case, *“In those days the Lord began to cut off parts of Israel;...”* **(v. 32)**

V. The Road to Exile Begins!

- A. Israel is now on the road to exile and by the time the book of 2 Kings ends, they will have been taken into captivity.
- B. Here, with Jehu, is where it begins.
- C. As king, he was a military success and he was zealous to cleanse the land, but he did not *“walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart”*.
- D. It is because of this that we can say Jehu was a ‘successful failure’.
- E. For 600 years God had been protecting Israel from their surrounding enemies but now, things are about to change as God allows her enemies to overcome them because of her unfaithfulness to Him.
- F. God’s promise to Jehu: *“Your sons to the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.”* (2 Kings 10:30)

VI. Jehu’s Death. (2 Kings 10:34-36)

- A. He reigned 28 years and was followed by his son, Jehoahaz.
- B. He died and was buried in Samaria.

I. Lessons From Jehu:

- A. **Worldly Success Can Tempt Us To Be Proudful And Seek Self Glorification Rather Than God’s Glory!**
 1. Remember pride is one of the three avenues by which we are tempted.
1 John 2:16; Proverbs 29:23; 8:13; 2 Corinthians 10:17; Philipppines 3:19
- B. **It Is Possible On One Hand To Do God’s Will But Not Walk In All Of God’s Commands “with all our heart”!**
 1. **Matthew 22:37; Colossians 3:22**

**Jehu
Lesson 36**

- C. We Must Be Careful To Not Pursue, With More Zeal, Our Goals Or Hobbies Than The Zeal We Have For Following God!**
 - 1. **Luke 8:13-14**

- D. How We Worship God Matters!**
 - 1. **John 4:24; Luke 4:8; Matthew 15:9\”**

- E. We Mustn’t Only Follow The Commands Of God That Benefit Us But Rather Follow All The Lord Commands!**
 - 1. **Deuteronomy 10:12; 2 Corinthians 2:9; Ephesians 6:13**

- F. A Life Of Faithfulness To God Is Necessary For The End To Be Well With Us!**
 - 1. **Revelation 2:10; HebrewS 3:6,14**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Jehu was zealous but his zeal was misplaced.
 - 1. Rather than caring about the glory of God, he cared about his own advancement.
 - 2. He rightly judged the house of Ahab and carried out judgment upon sinners in obedience to God’s command but he didn’t care about the sin that brought this judgment.

- B. It is obvious he rightly dealt with false religion and idolatry of the Baal worshipers in a forthright way but he did not deal with the false religion and idolatry of Israel or his own heart in the same forthright way.

- C. The twist in all of this was that Jehu had destroyed the false religion of Baal but did not himself care for true religion because he allowed himself to keep the golden calves and to be in disobedience to God’s law.

- D. So, on one hand, Jehu is commended by God for his service to Him and is rewarded, but on the other hand is rebuked for his half-heartedness and judged for his disobedience.

- E. The sad conclusion we can draw about Jehu is that this man who carried out God’s judgment on sinners had in himself a disregard for sin itself.
 - 1. He was zealous about destroying false religion but he had in himself no zeal for true religion.
 - 2. The truth in the matter is Jehu was a hypocrite!

- F. To briefly summarize all this and what it should mean to us is...
 - 1. Don’t be a successful failure!
 - 2. Don’t stop half way in following God!
 - 3. Follow God wholeheartedly every day!

LESSON 37

Joash & The Prophet Joel

2 Kings 11:1-12:21; 2 Chronicles 22:10-24:27

Book of Joel