

THE MAN WHO DROVE FURIOUSLY

BIBLE TEXT : II Kings 9:1-37; 10:1-36.

LESSON 317 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

2 Kings 9:1-37

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.

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.

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

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

Jehu

In one of the battles between the Israelites and the Syrians, Joram, king of Israel, was wounded. It was necessary for him to return to Jezreel while his wounds healed. He commanded an army to stay at Ramoth-gilead as protection for the Children of Israel. One of the captains of the host there was a man by the name of Jehu. It seems that Jehu had been with Ahab when God had pronounced judgment on Ahab and his house (**1 Kings 21:21** **Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel, 1 Kings 21:27-29** **And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.** **And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house.**). God had announced to the Prophet Elijah that Jehu would be king of Israel and that he would carry out the judgments of the Lord.

A Messenger

One day as the captains of the host were sitting around, there came a messenger, a young prophet, who wanted to talk to Jehu. They went into a private room where the young prophet told him that he was sent by Elisha. He anointed Jehu with oil and said, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel." Jehu was instructed that he should carry out the judgments of God upon the family of Ahab. None was to escape; the "whole house of Ahab" was to be slain to avenge the blood of the Lord's prophets whose lives were taken by that family. This was Jehu's commission from the Lord.

Judgement

"The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9). The work of Jehu may seem cruel, but consider the evil that Ahab had done. The Lord and His prophets had warned Ahab about his sins. Ahab had refused every opportunity to repent. "There was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD" (1 Kings 21:25). Ahab worshiped idols and caused others to do so, too. He had failed to instruct his children in the ways of the Lord, and his children followed their father's evil example. All were guilty before God, and worthy of death. Their time of repentance was over and now they must suffer the penalty. No wonder the Prophet Isaiah sent forth this warning: "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call Iye upon him while he is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

Life or Death

The preaching of the Gospel today brings judgment to those who do not repent. When a person hears the Gospel, he is given light. To walk in that light, means spiritual life. To refuse that light means spiritual death. When a person hears the Gospel,

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.

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.

believes the report, and obeys, he has life. When he does not believe and obey, he will not live. These are the words of Jesus: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24). Jesus also said: "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).

A Man of Action

After the young prophet had anointed Jehu, and given him the commission from the Lord, the prophet left. Jehu returned to the others, who spoke of the young prophet in a disrespectful manner. They wanted to know what he had said. When Jehu admitted that he had been anointed king, his fellow-soldiers honoured him. As a custom of respect, they placed their coats at the top of the stairs to make a throne. They placed Jehu upon it, and with a blare of trumpets declared Jehu to be king.

Jehu was a man of action. He had been given work to do, so he started immediately to carry out the Lord's command. He gave orders to the soldiers at Ramoth-gilead that none was to report this in Jezreel where Joram was living.

The Watchman's Warning

The first to be destroyed by Jehu was Joram, Ahab' son. Because Joram was sick, Ahaziah the king of Judah had gone to visit him. While he was at Jezreel, a watchman on the tower warned them that someone was approaching. Joram was alarmed, and sent a messenger on horseback to inquire if the errand was peaceful. When the messenger did not return, another was sent. When he did not return either, Joram ordered his chariot so that he could go to meet the visitor.

Driving Furiously

The watchman had said that he thought it must be Jehu coming, because he was driving furiously. He was in a hurry, seemingly in a frantic rush. Jehu seemed to have the reputation of doing things with enthusiasm. No doubt he felt as David who said, "The king's business required haste" (I Samuel 21:8).

Too many people do not have enough enthusiasm for the Lord's work. Some of them move very slowly in obeying the Lord. When God gives us something to do for Him, let us show our appreciation of the privilege by doing it immediately instead of postponing that assignment until a later date.

No Peace

Joram, or Jehoram as he was sometimes called, was the son of Ahab and was the king of Israel. There was another man by the same name. He was the son of Jehoshaphat and was the king of Judah (II Kings 8:16). Joram, son of Ahab, "wrought evil in the sight of the LORD" (II Kings 3:2). He committed the same sins as Jeroboam, "which made Israel to sin" (II Kings 3:3). Joram was like other sinners: he had no peace and was fearful of what the future might bring. Apparently he did not trust the captain of his host and was afraid when he saw someone coming. In the Bible we read, "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22).

Ahaziah and Joram, each in his own chariot, went out against Jehu. When they met, Joram called out: "Is it peace, Jehu?" How could he have peace when he was about to suffer judgment for his sins? As he turned to flee, he was smitten by an arrow from Jehu's bow. His body was placed on the plot of ground which had been Naboth's vineyard. This was the land which Ahab had coveted so much that the owner was murdered that Ahab

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.

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.

2 Kings 10:1-36

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

could have his property. The life of Ahab's son, Joram, was required in this very same place to pay for the blood of Naboth and his sons.

When Ahaziah saw what had happened to Joram, he fled, but he did not escape. "The destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab" (II Chronicles 22:7). Moreover, Ahaziah's mother was the daughter of Omri who was Ahab's father (II Kings 8:26; I Kings 16:28). Ahaziah was also related to the family of Ahab by marriage (II Kings 8:27). Concerning the life and reign of Ahaziah we read: "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction" (II Chronicles 22:2, 4).

Jezebel

When Ahab's wife heard what had happened and that Jehu had come to Jezreel, she painted her face and put on a fancy headdress. Perhaps she had hoped to overawe or to scare Jehu. As Jehu entered the gate, she put her head out the window and asked him if a murderer had had any peace. She should have known, because she had caused the death of God's prophets (I Kings 18:13). Jezebel mentioned Zimri who had committed treason by conspiring against his master and slaying him. He took upon himself the work of carrying out God's judgment. Zimri "sinned in doing evil in the sight of the LORD" (I Kings 16:19).

No Escape

By Jezebel's actions and words, she showed that she did not believe what God had said. She suggested that Jehu was like Zimri — and not a man obedient to the word of the Lord. Apparently, she thought that by her words and actions she could escape the judgment of God. The only way one can escape death for the punishment of sins is to repent and have his sins blotted out by the Blood of Jesus. From a sermon preached by Peter, we read, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). When a person repents, his "sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment" (I Timothy 5:24), but Jezebel had not prayed for forgiveness of sins.

The words of prophecy came to pass. Jezebel was tossed out the window, and trodden underfoot by horses. When they went to bury her, they found that only a part of her remained. Judgment had been according to the word of God.

The King's Sons

In Samaria there were seventy persons who were considered Ahab's sons. No doubt this included his grandsons as well as his sons. Jehu caused these "king's sons" to be beheaded. He said: "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." Jehu was not content with slaying only a part of Ahab's family when the Lord had commanded the death of the whole family. He did not draw back from his gruesome task. He did not stop until none remained of the house of Ahab — all his great men, his kinsfolk, and his false priests were slain.

Baal Worshipers

Jehu felt that he should wipe out Ahab's false religion as well as wipe out his family. Ahab had been responsible for the worship of Baal among the Children of Israel at this time. Not only had Ahab set a sinful example by worshipping Baal, but he

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

had also built "an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria" (I Kings 16:32). After the death of Ahab, the idol worshippers continued to serve Baal.

Jehu called together all the prophets of Baal, all his servants and all his priests. Death was threatened to all those who would not appear before Jehu. He made them think that he had a sacrifice to offer to Baal. But Jehu was subtle in this, "to the intent" that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal.

He asked them to proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. He sent word throughout the land of Israel. All the Baal worshippers were there and the house of Baal was full from one end to the other. There was a careful examination to see that none but Baal worshippers were there. As they proceeded with their sacrifices, Jehu stationed 80 men on the outside of the building with orders to let none escape.

This was the last meeting for these Baal worshippers. They were not serving the true and living God. They were sacrificing to an idol which could not see, hear, or help. These people were not keeping the first two commandments that God had given to the Children of Israel through His Prophet Moses. Do you know the first two of the Ten Commandments? You can find them in Exodus 20:1-6.

When Jehu gave the signal, the guards and captains rushed in and slew all the worshippers of Baal. The image of Baal and the house of Baal were broken down. "Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel."

Golden Calves

Because Jehu had been zealous and obedient to carry out the command of God, it was promised him by the Lord that for four generations his family would reign in Israel. Thus far Jehu had done well, but there are sad words recorded about him. He "took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart." He did not continue to serve and to obey God. Jehu followed the sins of Jeroboam, who made two golden calves — images — for the people to worship in Bethel and in Dan (I Kings 12:28, 29). He even declared unto the people that these golden calves — idols — were the gods, which brought them deliverance from Egypt.

Now Jehu followed Jeroboam's sins. Jehu had destroyed the idol of Baal but he continued to worship the golden calves. This was not God's plan, and was just as sinful as any other idol worship. Regardless of how many good works or how much zeal a person has, he must obey God in all things and continue in the path of righteousness. These are the words of Jesus: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31); and "He that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Jehu?
2. Who anointed him to be king over Israel?
3. What work did God give him to do?
4. How did Jehu go about his work?
5. Why was the family of Ahab to be destroyed?
6. Who was Jezebel?
7. What prophecy was fulfilled when she died?
8. What kind of worship had Ahab established in Israel?
9. Why were the Baal worshippers and their idol destroyed?
10. How can a person escape the judgment of God?

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.