



Jehu came into power with a bang. Once one of the prophets of God anointed Jehu as the next king of Israel, he overthrew the house of Ahab and Ahaziah, the high-ranking men of Israel, and the worshipers of Baal. But unfortunately, Jehu did not finish well. His reign was littered with compromise, for he did not worship the Lord with an undivided heart. As a result, though God kept one of Jehu's descendants on the throne unto the fourth generation, the Lord divided the land of Israel because of Jehu's disobedience. From Jehu's life, we can learn of the importance of submitting fully to the Lord, and of the dangers of disobeying God.

1. Context

a. Two prophecies

- i. God gave a word of prophecy to Elijah in **1 Kings 19 and 21** that was fulfilled in **2 Kings 9**.

1. God said Jehu, the commander of Israel's army, would become the next king of Israel.
2. God said Ahab's wicked house would come to an end.

b. Israel and Judah

- i. Joram ruled Israel to the north.
- ii. Ahaziah ruled Judah to the south.
- iii. These two evil kings teamed up against Hazael, the king of Syria.
 1. Joram and Ahaziah were blood relatives.
 - a. Ahab, the former king of Israel, had a daughter named Athaliah. Athaliah had a son, Ahaziah.
 - b. Joram was Ahaziah's uncle.
 2. Joram and Ahaziah went in defense mode.
 - a. The king of Syria was trying to take some of Israel's northern territories.
 3. Joram and Ahaziah teamed up at Ramath-Gilead, southeast of the sea of Galilee.

c. Jehu

- i. During Joram's reign, Elisha told his servant to anoint Jehu as the next king of Israel.
- ii. Jehu would wipe out the line of Ahab.
 1. God is faithful to fulfill His word.
 2. **2 Timothy 2:13** – *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."*

3. **Philippians 1:6** – *“I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”* (ESV)
 4. We do not find confidence in our own strength, but in the promises of God.
 5. “Confidence” in Latin is **confide**, meaning “with faith.”
 6. **DISCUSS**: How has leaning on God’s Word helped you have confidence in the Lord despite your circumstances?
2. **2 Kings 9:14–17** – *“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 which 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!’”*
- a. Joram
 - i. Joram was wounded during the battle against Hazael, king of Syria.
 - ii. Ahaziah visited Joram as he recovered.
 - b. The watchmen
 - i. The first watchman saw Jehu’s company coming, and reported this to the king, Joram.
 - ii. Joram twice told the watchman to send a man on horse to ride out and ask the company if they came in peace.
 1. Both horsemen joined Jehu’s company.
3. **2 Kings 9:21–29** – *“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.”

a. Joram’s question

- i. Joram knew Jehu, for Jehu was his army commander.
- ii. Joram asked Jehu if he came in peace.

b. Jehu’s response

- i. Jehu knew there could be no peace in Israel while Jezebel’s evil influence remained in the land.
 1. Sexual immorality and idolatry had infiltrated the nation.
 2. We will experience a lack of peace in our lives if we allow unrepentant sin to abound.
 3. **DISCUSS:** Are you walking in God’s peace? Why or why not?
 4. God in His grace can still pursue us, but we cannot take His grace for granted.
 5. We cannot expect God’s blessing over our nation if our nation does not repent.
 6. **DISCUSS:** Have you ever prayed for God’s help and only received the help after you walked in obedience?
- ii. God is willing to pour out grace and mercy to the repentant.
 1. **Psalms 103:8** – “The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.” (ESV)
 2. **1 John 1:9** – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
 3. Repentance requires us to agree with how God sees our sins and to walk in Him.
- iii. Jehu killed Joram as he fled and had him buried in the field of Naboth the Jezreelite.

1. Ahab and Jezebel had Naboth killed to take his field.
- c. Ahaziah's response
 - i. Ahaziah fled and was killed by Jehu.
4. **2 Kings 9:27–37** – *“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.’””*
 - a. Jezebel's mockery
 - i. Jezebel heard of her son's death and put on makeup.
 - ii. Jezebel called Jehu “Zimri.”
 1. Zimri was a king of Israel who reigned for only seven days.
 2. Jezebel was mocking Jehu.
 - b. Jezebel's death
 - i. Jehu had Jezebel thrown off the window, and she died according to the word of the Lord.
 1. Elijah had prophesied of how Jezebel would be eaten of dogs.
 2. God's judgment on wickedness is no joke.
 - a. **DISCUSS:** How do you take comfort in entrusting final judgment to God?
 3. Ahab and Jezebel had led God's people astray.
 - a. They pushed forward the worship of Baal and Ashtoreth—which involved human sacrifices and sexual immorality.
 - b. They persecuted the prophets of God.
5. **2 Kings 10:1–11** – *“Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote and sent letters to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to those who reared Ahab's sons, saying: Now as soon as this letter comes to you, since your master's sons are with you, and you have chariots and horses, a fortified city also, and weapons, choose the best qualified of your master's sons, set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house. But they were exceedingly*

afraid, and said, ‘Look, two kings could not stand up to him; how then can we stand?’ And he who was in charge of the house, and he who was in charge of the city, the elders also, and those who reared the sons, sent to Jehu, saying, ‘We are your servants, we will do all you tell us; but we will not make anyone king. Do what is good in your sight.’ Then he wrote a second letter to them, saying: If you are for me and will obey my voice, take the heads of the men, your master’s sons, and come to me at Jezreel by this time tomorrow. Now the king’s sons, seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, who were rearing them. So it was, when the letter came to them, that they took the king’s sons and slaughtered seventy persons, put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel. Then a messenger came and told him, saying, ‘They have brought the heads of the king’s sons.’ And he said, “Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning. So it was, in the morning, that he went out and stood, and said to all the people, ‘You are righteous. Indeed I conspired against my master and killed him; but who killed all these? Know now that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the LORD which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the LORD has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah.’ So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his close acquaintances and his priests, until he left him none remaining.”

a. Ahab’s sons

- i. Likely, the 70 sons include both Ahab’s sons and grandsons.
- ii. These 70 sons resided in Samaria, the capital of Israel.

b. Jehu’s killing spree

- i. Jehu commanded the death of Ahab’s 70 sons.
 1. Jehu wrote to Israel’s elders and rulers.
 - a. Jehu told the elders and rulers to set one of Ahab’s sons on the throne and prepare for war.
 2. The elders and rulers feared Jehu, so they told him that they were his servants.
 3. Jehu told the elders to chop off the heads of Ahab’s sons if they were his servants, and then to come to Jezreel.
 4. The elders and rulers chopped off the heads of Ahab’s sons and sent them to Jezreel.
 5. Jehu left the heads of Ahab’s sons out at the entrance gate till morning.
 - a. Leaving chopped heads out for display was ancient practice meant to dissuade opposition.
- ii. Jehu killed Ahab’s high-ranking men.

6. **2 Kings 10:12-17** – *“And he arose and departed and went to Samaria. On the way, at Beth Eked of the Shepherds, Jehu met with the brothers of Ahaziah king of*

Judah, and said, 'Who are you?' So they answered, 'We are the brothers of Ahaziah; we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother.' And he said, 'Take them alive!' So they took them alive, and killed them at the well of Beth Eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them. Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab, coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, 'Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?' And Jehonadab answered, 'It is.' Jehu said, 'If it is, give me your hand.' So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot. Then he said, 'Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD.' So they had him ride in his chariot. And when he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed them, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to Elijah."

a. Ending Ahab's line

i. Jehu killed the descendants of two kings.

1. Jehu killed the 70 sons of Ahab, king of Israel.
2. Jehu killed the 42 sons of Ahaziah, king of Judah.
3. Ahaziah was blood-related to Ahab, so ending his line was also part of ending Ahab's line.
 - a. This was part of the fulfillment of the word of the Lord that promised to end the line of Ahab.
 - b. **DISCUSS:** What can we learn about God's character from the fulfillment of this prophecy?

7. **2 Kings 10:18–28** – "Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, 'Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much. Now therefore, call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. Let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live.' But Jehu acted deceptively, with the intent of destroying the worshipers of Baal. And Jehu said, 'Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal.' So they proclaimed it. Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. So they came into the temple of Baal, and the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other. And he said to the one in charge of the wardrobe, 'Bring out vestments for all the worshipers of Baal.' So he brought out vestments for them. Then Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the temple of Baal, and said to the worshipers of Baal, 'Search and see that no servants of the LORD are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal.' So they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had appointed for himself eighty men on the outside, and had said, 'If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escapes, whoever lets him escape, it shall be his life for the life of the other.' Now it happened, 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 kill them; let no one come out!’ And they killed them with the edge of the sword; then the guards and the officers threw them out, and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal. And they brought the sacred pillars out of the temple of Baal and burned them. Then they broke down the sacred pillar of Baal, and tore down the temple of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day. Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.”

- a. Jehu killed the prophets of Baal.
 - i. Jehu pretended to seek to worship Baal and invited all the prophets of Baal.
 - 1. This trick allowed Jehu to gather all the Baal worshippers together to kill them.

8. **2 Kings 10:29–36** – *“However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan. And the LORD said to Jehu, ‘Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation.’ But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin. In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael conquered them in all the territory of Israel from the Jordan eastward: all the land of Gilead—Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh—from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon, including Gilead and Bashan. Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Jehu rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place. And the period that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.”*

- a. Jehu did not end well.
 - i. Jehu zealously rid the land of Baal worship.
 - 1. God honored Jehu for his obedience in this part of his life.
 - ii. Jehu fell into the sins of Jeroboam: the worship of golden calves.
 - 1. God desires that His people have an undivided heart.
 - 2. Because Jehu had a divided heart, God began to divide the land.
 - a. **DISCUSS:** What does it mean to have an undivided heart? What have you had to submit to God so that you may have an undivided heart?
 - 3. The land God took away from Israel under Jehu’s reign included parts of Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh.
 - 4. To this day, these territories are part of modern-day Syria and Jordan.

5. **Psalm 86:11-12a** – *“Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart.”* (1984, NIV)
 - a. **DISCUSS:** How does an undivided heart lead to a healthy fear of God?

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James (NKJV)