

General Church Education



Jehu's Slaughter

2 Kings 9:1-37; 10:15-36

Lesson 21

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is the Prophet and
Preserver

For ages 11-12 years

Jehu's Slaughter

2 Kings 9:1-37; 10:15-36

Teacher Background

This story tells of the fulfillment of the prophecy that Ahab's descendants would be destroyed and that his wife Jezebel would be eaten by dogs. At the Lord's direction, Elisha anointed Jehu, commander of the army, king of Israel. Elisha and told Jehu his role in fulfilling the prophecies. First, Jehu killed Joram and threw his body on the land where Naboth's vineyard had stood. Then, Jehu shot Ahaziah, who fled to Megiddo and died. Next, Jehu persuaded Jezebel's servants to throw her down from a window and trampled her with his horse. Following this, Jehu killed Ahab's descendants and the worshippers of Baal.

The fulfillment of the destruction of Ahab's house is violent and seemingly brutal. However, these acts were the only way in which the Lord could root out the worship of Baal, the love of self and the world. Without that, there was no chance that people could return to faith in the Lord and obedience to His commandments. Similarly, we must destroy the love of self and the world in ourselves, since it interferes with loving the Lord and the neighbor.

Focus Points

- Jehu, the king of Israel, fulfilled the prophecies concerning the house of Ahab.
- Jehu slew Joram, destroyed the house of Ahab, and punished Jezebel for her actions.
- Jehu wiped out Ahab's house and destroyed the temple of Baal.

Readings from the Writings

As all the historical as well as the prophetic parts of the Word signify the spiritual things of the church, so also do [the actions of Jezebel] ... signify faith separated from charity...as is evident from the spiritual sense, and from collating them together. For by 'going and serving Baal' and 'building him an altar' and 'making a grove' is signified to serve lusts of all kinds, or what is the same, the devil... By 'the dogs' which ate her, are signified lusts. By 'casting from the window, sprinkling the blood on the wall, and being trampled by the horses' is signified their destruction.... 'Window' signifies truth in the light; 'blood' falsity; 'wall' truth in ultimates, 'horse' the understanding of the Word. Hence it may be concluded, that these things, collated together, coincide with faith separated from charity. *Apocalypse Revealed* 132.2

"By the 'hand' is signified power, thus by the 'hand' of another, vicarious power, which is the same as mediately, for what is done mediately is done by the power of another in one's self ... 'by the hand of Jehu the prophet.'" *Arcana Coelestia* 7619

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord.” (2 Kings 10:16)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Questions

Use one sentence to answer each question.

The Story of Jezebel

Jezebel acted selfishly and helped her wicked husband, Ahab, act selfishly as well.

However, her story is relevant because we, too, struggle with selfishness. Think about the events of Jezebel's life.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Play: Judgment on the House of Ahab

Act out the story of Jehu being anointed king, and the deaths of Joram and Jezebel of the house of Ahab. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/play-judgment-on-the-house-of-ahab-2-kings-9.pdf>

Righteousness in Battle

Consider the reasons for wars and the actions commanders are asked to do to protect their country. Is it possible to lead a country in a war and be righteous? Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-righteousness-in-battle-2-kings-9-10.pdf>

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. As you fill in the spaces, think about whether the king is good or evil. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

Jehu's Slaughter

2 Kings 9:1-37; 10:15-36

Vocabulary

repel—drive or force back or away

seduce—entice someone to do something unwise

fulfillment—the achievement of something promised, predicted or desired

Prophecies Are Fulfilled

For years after the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah, the kings of Israel disobeyed the Lord and followed false gods. The only good king of Israel, Jehu, was not descended from the other kings of Israel. The events of this story fulfil the words which the Lord's gave to Elijah on Mount Horeb, the mountain of God.

“Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill.” (1 Kings 19:16,17)

Other prophecies were also given concerning Ahab and Jezebel, his wife. Ahab's descendants were to be destroyed, and Jezebel would be eaten by dogs.

Jehu Is Anointed King of Israel



After Hazael killed Ben-Hadad, he led the Syrians against Israel. The kings of Israel and Judah combined forces to repel the attacks, but during a battle at Ramoth Gilead, Joram, the king of Israel, was wounded. Ahaziah, the king of Judah, went to visit Joram. Both kings were evil, like their fathers, so the Lord told Elisha to anoint a new king to rule Israel. Elisha told one of the sons of prophets who was with him to take a flask of oil to Ramoth-Gilead and find Jehu, a commander of the Israel's army. The prophet was to anoint Jehu king.

The prophet obeyed Elisha's orders. He went to Ramoth-Gilead and anointed Jehu. He told Jehu that it was the Lord's will that he become the new king of Israel. Then he repeated the prophecies concerning the house of Ahab and Jezebel, and he told Jehu his role in their fulfillment. When the prophet had carried out Elisha's orders, he fled. In those days it was common to harm or kill messengers who brought bad news.

Jehu Prepares to Attack

When Jehu came out of the house, the commanders outside asked him what the prophet wanted. At first, Jehu was reluctant to answer. He might have felt overwhelmed by what had just occurred. But when he was pressed, he revealed that he had been anointed the king of Israel.

The captains immediately proclaimed Jehu their king by putting their garments under his feet—a sign that Jehu was to rule Israel. First, they were to keep the people in Ramoth-Gilead from letting King Joram and King Ahaziah know that the Lord had chosen Jehu to rule Israel.

Then Jehu went to Jezreel, where the kings were staying, with a chariot and some soldiers. When a watchman sighted Jehu, he twice sent a messenger to ask if he was coming in peace. Both times Jehu said “No,” and persuaded the messenger to stay with him. As they approached, the watchmen recognized Jehu due to the way he was driving his chariot.

Jehu Kills Joram

Joram and Ahaziah went out to meet Jehu, to ask him if he came in peace. Jehu responded,

“What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?” (2 Kings 9:22)

As Joram fled, Jehu shot him with his bow and killed him.

Jehu Destroys the House of Ahab

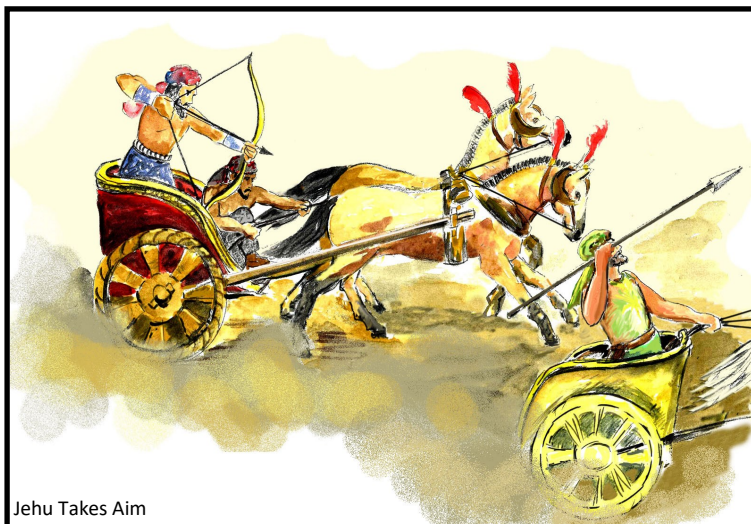
After Jehu killed Joram, he threw his body on the land where Naboth's vineyard had been. He also shot Ahaziah, but allowed him to flee to Megiddo, where he died. Ahaziah's servants took his body Jerusalem so he could be buried with his ancestors.

Jezebel Is Punished for Her Actions

Of all the women mentioned in the Word, Jezebel is the most evil. She worshiped Baal and brought others to worship him. She used deceit to get what she wanted and had no qualms about having people killed. When Jezebel saw Jehu coming, she made herself beautiful. Then she

watched from window and called out as Jehu entered the gate. Imagine how she might have sounded as she tried to persuade him to spare her life. She wanted Jehu to fall for her tricks.

Imagine her surprise when Jehu convinced her servants to throw her out the window to him. Then he trampled her under the feet of his horse. When he ordered his men to



Jehu Takes Aim

bury her, they found nothing but bones. Her flesh had been eaten by dogs as foretold in the prophecy.

Ahab's House Is Wiped Out

After killing Jezebel, Jehu sent letters to the elders of Jezreel who were raising Ahab's remaining sons. He told them to choose a king among those sons, but they were frightened of Jehu and promised their allegiance to him. He immediately tested their loyalty, asking them to kill the seventy sons and send him their heads. It is hard to believe that they did such a cruel thing. But they were also evil people who only thought about themselves, so they did as Jehu commanded.



Then Jehu killed all the sons of Ahaziah. As Jehu continued his journey he met a man named Jehonadab. Jehu tested Jehonadab and when he could see that Jehonadab was an ally, he took him up in his chariot and said,

“Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord.” (2 Kings 10:16)

Then Jehu took Jehonadab to Samaria, where they killed the remainder of Ahab's descendants.

The Temple of Baal Is Destroyed

Jehu was willing to be deceitful to get the outcome he wanted. He faked a desire to make a sacrifice to Baal and called for all worshippers to gather at the temple of Baal. Jehu ordered that the true worshippers of Baal were to enter the temple but any servants of the Lord were to stay outside. After Jehu went in and made a sacrifice, he went out to his soldiers and ordered them to go in and kill all the Baal worshippers. After this, he tore down the temple of Baal.

Was Jehu a Righteous King?

Jehu had fulfilled the prophecies and the Lord's wishes by killing people. He had been a captain of the Israelitish army, so he was used to death and destruction. The Lord may have chosen him because he could carry out Ahab's punishment in a way that a prophet might not have been able to. The Lord promised that Jehu's sons would sit on the throne for four generations because he had done what the Lord required of him. Unfortunately, Jehu continued to worship the golden calves in Bethel and Dan, so parts of the kingdom were slowly taken from him.

What makes a person righteous? Jehu did as what he was told to do as far as he understood his responsibilities. The Lord praised and rewarded him for it. This is what the Lord asks of us—to the extent that we understand what He requires, and do it, we are righteous in His sight. He can see into our hearts and minds and knows why we do what we do, and judges us accordingly.

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord.” (2 Kings 10:16)

Projects and Activities (answers at back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Questions

Use one sentence to answer each question.

The Story of Jezebel

Jezebel acted selfishly and helped her wicked husband, Ahab, act selfishly as well. However, her story is relevant because we, too, struggle with selfishness. Think about the events of Jezebel's life.

Questions

2 Kings 9:1-37; 10:15-36

Use one sentence to answer each question.

1. What did Elisha tell one of the sons of the prophets to do?
2. What was Jehu's mission?
3. How did Jehu's men respond to his announcement that he was to be king?
4. What two problems did Joram, king of Israel, face?
5. Why was Joram in the fortified city of Jezreel?
6. When two different messengers came to see if Jehu was coming to Jezreel in peace, what did Jehu tell them to do?
7. What happened to Joram when he fled from Jehu?
8. What did Jehu do with Joram's body? Why?
9. Why do you think Ahaziah was killed, even though he was the king of Judah?
10. What did Jehu do to Jezebel's body?
11. Did Jehu know the prophecies about Ahab, Jezebel and their family?
12. What did Jehu do in order to destroy the prophets and worshippers of Baal?
13. How did the Lord reward Jehu for his actions?
14. Who became king when Jehu died?

The Story of Jezebel

1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:17-40; 19:1-3; 21:1-16, 22:29-40; 2 Kings 9:21-28; 9:30-37

The story of Jezebel is in three main sections, which are listed below. Write a short paragraph to outline the important events in each section. Look up the verses in the Bible that are listed if you need help remembering the details.

1. **The Conflict between the worshippers of Jehovah and Baal.** (1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:17-40; 19:1-3)

2. **Jezebel helps Ahab steal Naboth's vineyard.** (1 Kings 21:1-16)

3. **The death of Jezebel and her family.** (1 Kings 22:29-40, 2 Kings 9:21-28; 9:30-37)

Questions

1. What has been left out of the story of Jezebel that you would like to know?
2. How is the story of Jezebel relevant in your life?

Answers

Lesson 21

Answer the Questions

1. To pour a flask of oil on Jehu.
2. Jehu was to destroy the house of Ahab.
3. Jehu's men proclaimed him king. 4. Joram was wounded and Jehu wanted to kill him. 5. Joram was recovering from fighting the Syrians. 6. Jehu told Joram's servants to follow him. 7. Jehu shot Joram. 8. Jehu buried Joram in Naboth's field. 9. Ahaziah was Ahab's son. 10. Jehu trampled Jezebel with his horse. 11. Yes. 12. Jehu called the prophets of Baal to a sacrifice. 13. Jehu's sons would reign for four generations. 14. Jehoahaz became king after Jehu.