

Judgment on the House of Ahab

A play based on 2 Kings 9

Characters: Narrator
1st Servant (servant of the prophet)
Jehu
2nd Servant (Jehu's servant)
King Joram of Israel
King Ahaziah of Judah (non-speaking role)
Queen Jezebel

Optional: use robes or large T-shirts as costumes with crowns for the two kings. Props could include a flask (of oil) for the Prophet's Servant and bows and arrows for Jehu and his Servant. If you do not have bows and arrows, the actors can mime the action of drawing bows. The 2nd Servant should have a cape or scarf. Other props could be a plate and cup of food for Jehu.

There are three scenes in this play. The first one takes place at the military barracks in the city of Ramoth-Gilead. The second takes place just outside the city walls of Jezreel. The third happens at Queen Jezebel's Palace in Jezreel.

Scene 1 – Ramoth-Gilead

If possible, have a staircase or low platform in the center of the stage with a door behind it. Jehu and his servant (2nd servant) sit on the steps. The narrator stands to one side of the stage. As the narrator gives his opening speech, the servant of the prophet enters holding a flask of oil and slowly crosses to stand before Jehu.

Narrator: Ahab and his wife, Jezebel were wicked, and their sons, Ahaziah and Joram, were also wicked. After Ahab died first Ahaziah and then Joram became king of Israel. They both worshiped the false god, Baal, and did not follow the commandments of the Lord. Elijah, the prophet of the Lord, told one of his servants to take a flask of oil in his hand and go to the town of Ramoth Gilead. There, he was to look for Jehu, a captain of the army, and take him to an inner room. The servant was to anoint Jehu as king over Israel and then flee immediately.

1st Servant: I have a message for you, O commander.

Jehu rises and he and the 1st servant walk into an inner room. The servant pours oil on Jehu's head.

1st Servant: Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "I have anointed you king over the people of Yehowah, over Israel. You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of Yehowah, at the hand of Jezebel."

The 1st servant runs down the stairs and away off stage. Jehu comes out of the door. The 2nd servant stands up.

2nd Servant: Is all well? Why did this madman come to you?

Jehu: You know the man and his babble.

2nd Servant: A lie! Tell us now.

Jehu: Thus and thus he spoke to me, saying, "Thus says Yehowah: I have anointed you king over Israel."

The 2nd servant takes off his outer garment and lays it over the steps for Jehu to walk on.

2nd Servant: Jehu is king!

Scene 2 – Near Jezreel’s City Walls

This scene takes place in the open air near the city walls, so no set is needed. The narrator again stands to one side of the stage.

Narrator: Jehu instructed his servants that no one was to go to Jezreel, where King Ahaziah of Judah was visiting King Joram of Israel. So no one in Jezreel knew that Jehu had been anointed king. Jehu and his servant rode in a chariot toward Jezreel. As they approached, Joram sent out first one and then a second messenger to see who was coming to the city and to ask if he was coming in peace. In both cases, Jehu answered, “What have you to do with peace? Turn around and follow me.” And both messengers did so. Then Joram, king of Israel, and Ahaziah, king of Judah, went out to meet Jehu. They met him on the property which Joram’s father Ahab had stolen from Naboth.

Jehu and his servant (2nd Servant) enter from one side of the stage and Joram and Ahaziah enter from the other side.

King Joram: Is it peace Jehu?

Jehu: What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and the witchcraft are so many?

King Joram: Treachery, Ahaziah!

Joram turns and begins to run off stage. As the narrator speaks, Jehu mimes shooting an arrow and Jehu mimes being hit and falls to the ground.

Narrator: Now Jehu drew his bow with full strength and shot Joram between his arms; and the arrow came out at his heart, and he sank down in his chariot.

Jehu: *(to his servant)* Pick him up, and throw him into the tract of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I were together behind Ahab his father, that Yehowah laid this burden upon him: “Surely I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,” says Yehowah, “and I will repay you in this plot,” says Yehowah. Now therefore, take and throw him on the plot of ground, according to the word of Yehowah.

Narrator: But when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth Haggan.

Ahaziah turns and begins to run off stage.

Jehu: Shoot him also in the chariot.

The 2nd Servant mimes shooting Ahaziah, who is also hit and falls to the ground.

Scene 3 – Queen Jezebel’s Palace in Jezreel

This scene takes place right by Jezebel’s palace in Jezreel. In the center of the stage, Jezebel stands, perhaps on a stairs or platform, looking out a window. Jezebel should look as if she has dressed up for this occasion. The narrator stands to one side of the stage.

Narrator: Jezebel heard about Jehu’s arrival in Jezreel. So she painted her eyes and adorned her head, and looked out through a window.

Jehu and his servant (2nd Servant) enter and cross to stand beneath the window.

Jezebel: Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?

Jehu: Who is on my side? Who? Throw her down!

Jezebel: *(Resisting unseen attackers)* “No! No! Traitors!”

Jezebel screams and disappears from the window. Offstage, we hear another scream and then a thud, as she is thrown to the ground.

Narrator: So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, and she was trampled under foot.

2nd servant exits briefly and then brings food and drink to Jehu. Jehu eats and drinks for a minute, then speaks to his servant.

Jehu: Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king’s daughter.

2nd Servant exits.

Narrator: 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.

2nd Servant reenters and speaks to Jehu.

2nd Servant: Sir, there was nothing left of Queen Jezebel.

Jehu: This is the word of Yehowah, 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.’”

Jehu and his servant exit.

Narrator: Then 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 none remaining. And he killed all the followers of Baal, and tore down the temple of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day. So the judgment on the house of Ahab was completed.

The End