

# NOON BIBLE STUDY: 2 KINGS 9

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FOR OVER A DOZEN CHAPTERS NOW WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE "OTHER SHOE TO DROP" ON THE HOUSE OF AHAB. SINCE THE DAYS OF ELIJAH AND HIS EPIC BATTLE AGAINST THE PROPHETS OF BAAL IN 1 KINGS 18, WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING FOR THE DAY WHEN THE WORSHIP OF BAAL IN ISRAEL, LED BY THE KINGDOM OF AHAB AND HIS SONS WOULD COME TO AN END.

AS WE JUMP INTO THE TEXT, LET'S REVIEW SOME OF THE PAST AND THE PROPHECIES STILL LEFT UNFULFILLED.

(1 KINGS 21:1-16) - THE VINEYARD OF NABOTH TAKEN BY AHAB & JEZEBEL, NABOTH KILLED BY ORDER OF JEZEBEL

1 KINGS 21:17-25 - JUDGMENT AGAINST JEZEBEL & THE HOUSE OF AHAB

WHEN WE LAST LOOKED AT 2 KINGS WE LEFT THE CURRENT KING OF ISRAEL, JORAM IN THE CITY OF JEZREEL, HEALING FROM WOUNDS SUFFERED IN BATTLE. AHAZIAH, THE KING OF JUDAH TRAVELS TO VISIT HIS "COUSIN" KING.

2 KINGS 9:1-10 - JEHU ANOINTED NEXT KING OVER ISRAEL

V. 2 - JEHOSEPHAT - NO RELATION TO THE KING OF JUDAH OF THE SAME NAME

V. 3 - ELISHA INSTRUCTS HIS SERVANT TO NOT STICK AROUND AFTER ANOINTING JEHU

V. 5 - JEHU IS MEETING WITH THE CAPTAINS OF THE ARMY AND IS REFERRED TO AS A "CAPTAIN" HIMSELF (ESV: COMMANDER). JEHU ISN'T JUST A RANDOM ISRAELITE, HE IS APPARENTLY ONE OF THE LEADING SOLDIERS.

V. 7 - "AVENGE THE BLOOD OF MY SERVANTS THE PROPHETS" - REMEMBER JEZEBEL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KILLING THE PROPHETS OF YAHWEH (MENTIONED IN 1 KINGS 18:4)

V. 7-10 - HOUSE OF AHAB (AND JEZEBEL) TO END. THIS WAS PROPHESED BY ELIJAH AFTER THE MURDER OF NABOTH (1 KINGS 21). BECAUSE OF AHAB'S REPENTANCE (1 KINGS 21:27-29), THE JUDGMENT DIDN'T COME IN HIS LIFETIME, BUT UPON HIS SONS. WE ARE IN THAT SEASON NOW.

2 KINGS 9:11-13 - JEHU PROCLAIMED KING

WHEN ASKED BY HIS COMPANIONS "WHAT DID THE PROPHET (EXCEPT HE CALLS HIM A "MADMAN") WANT". JEHU ESSENTIALLY REPLIES, "OH NOTHING..." WHEN PRESSED FURTHER HE REVEALS THE ANOINTING AND THE MEN (LIKELY OTHER SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS) CELEBRATE AND ANNOUNCE HIS ASCENT TO THRONE. REMEMBER, JORAM IS STILL "KING" OF ISRAEL AS FAR HAS HE AND THE NATION KNOWS.

2 KINGS 9:14-16 - JEHORAM RECOVERING IN JEZREEL.

ONCE JEHU ACCEPTS THE NEW ROLE AS KING, HE GATHERS HIS OTHER CONSPIRATORS TOGETHER AND INSTRUCTS THEM TO REMAIN IN THE CITY THEY WERE IN SO THAT JEHORAM (THE CURRENT KING) DOES NOT HEAR THE NEWS AND HAVE TIME TO DEFEND HIMSELF. JEHU THEN HEADS TOWARDS JEZREEL, WHERE JEHORAM IS RECOVERING.

2 KINGS 9:17-20 - JEHU'S APPROACH

WATCHMEN IN JEZREEL SEE JEHU'S CHARIOT AND COMPANY APPROACHING THE CITY. THEY ARE SENT TO INQUIRE AS TO THE PURPOSE FOR THEIR VISIT, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER OR NOT THEY COME IN, OR WITH NEWS OF PEACE. JEHU COMMANDS THE WATCHMAN TO FALL IN LINE WITH HIS COMPANY, RATHER THAN RETURNING TO THE CITY WITH THE NEWS. THIS HAPPENS TWICE. THEN THE FINAL WATCHMAN IN JEZREEL OBSERVES THAT THE DRIVING STYLE OF THE APPROACHING CHARIOT RESEMBLES THE "FURIOUS" DRIVING OF JEHU, SON OF NIMSHI.

## 2 KINGS 9:21-26 - JEHU CONFRONTS & ASSASSINATES JEHOAM

IT IS LIKELY THAT JEHU IS ABLE TO GET ACCESS TO KING JEHOAM (AKA JORAM) BECAUSE OF HIS MILITARY POSITION. JEHOAM MAY ASSUME JEHU IS IN JEZREEL TO GIVE NEWS FROM THE BATTLE FRONT. JEHOAM AND AHAZIAH MEET JEHU OUTSIDE OF THE CITY. THE EXACT LOCATION IS "THE PROPERTY OF NABOTH THE JEZREELITE." THAT NAME AND PLACE SHOULD JUMP OFF THE PAGE TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN READING THUS FAR.

JEHU CONFRONTS JEHOAM:

2 KINGS 9:22 (NLT) - KING JORAM DEMANDED, "DO YOU COME IN PEACE, JEHU?" JEHU REPLIED, "HOW CAN THERE BE PEACE AS LONG AS THE IDOLATRY AND WITCHCRAFT OF YOUR MOTHER, JEZEBEL, ARE ALL AROUND US?"

JEHOAM IS SHOCKED, BEGINS TO RUN AWAY AND TRIES TO WARN AHAZIAH THAT THERE HAS BEEN TREASON (V. 23). BUT JEHOAM IS NOT FASTER THAN JEHU'S ARROW. JEHOAM IS KILLED INSTANTLY. RATHER THAN LEAVING JEHOAM DEAD IN HIS CHARIOT, JEHU FIRST ORDERS THAT HIS BODY BE THROWN INTO THE LAND OF NABOTH. WE LEARN THE JEHU WAS THERE WHEN ELIJAH PRONOUNCED THIS WORD TO AHAB, JEHOAM'S FATHER.

2 KINGS 9:25-26 (NLT) - JEHU SAID TO BIDKAR, HIS OFFICER, "THROW HIM INTO THE PLOT OF LAND THAT BELONGED TO NABOTH OF JEZREEL. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU AND I WERE RIDING ALONG BEHIND HIS FATHER, AHAB? THE LORD PRONOUNCED THIS MESSAGE AGAINST HIM: '26 'I SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I WILL REPAY HIM HERE ON THIS PLOT OF LAND, SAYS THE LORD, FOR THE MURDER OF NABOTH AND HIS SONS THAT I SAW YESTERDAY.' SO THROW HIM OUT ON NABOTH'S PROPERTY, JUST AS THE LORD SAID."

WOW.

## 2 KINGS 9:27-29 - AHAZIAH IS ALSO SHOT, BUT FLEES AND LATER DIED IN MEGIDDO

MAKE NO MISTAKE, EVEN AHAZIAH'S DEATH WAS BY GOD'S HAND AND WILL. REMEMBER, AHAZIAH IS DESCRIBED IN 2 KINGS 8:27 IN THIS WAY

"HE WALKED IN THE WAY OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB AND DID EVIL IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD, LIKE THE HOUSE OF AHAB HAD DONE, BECAUSE HE WAS A SON-IN-LAW OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB.

2 CHRONICLES 22:7-9 ADDS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION OF AHAZIAH'S DEATH:

"NOW THE DESTRUCTION OF AHAZIAH WAS FROM GOD, IN THAT HE WENT TO JORAM. FOR WHEN HE CAME, HE WENT OUT WITH JEHOAM AGAINST JEHU THE SON OF NIMSHI, WHOM THE LORD HAD ANOINTED TO CUT OFF THE HOUSE OF AHAB. 8 IT CAME ABOUT WHEN JEHU WAS EXECUTING JUDGMENT ON THE HOUSE OF AHAB, HE FOUND THE PRINCES OF JUDAH AND THE SONS OF AHAZIAH'S BROTHERS MINISTERING TO AHAZIAH, AND SLEW THEM. 9 HE ALSO SOUGHT AHAZIAH, AND THEY CAUGHT HIM WHILE HE WAS HIDING IN SAMARIA; THEY BROUGHT HIM TO JEHU, PUT HIM TO DEATH AND BURIED HIM. FOR THEY SAID, "HE IS THE SON OF JEHOASHAPHAT, WHO SOUGHT THE LORD WITH ALL HIS HEART." SO THERE WAS NO ONE OF THE HOUSE OF AHAZIAH TO RETAIN THE POWER OF THE KINGDOM.

## 2 KINGS 9:30-37 - JEZEBEL'S DEATH

JEZEBEL GETS DOLLED UP FOR HER DEMISE, BUT IF SHE HAD A THOUGHT THAT SHE WOULD BE ABLE TO SWAY JEHU'S MISSION, SHE FAILS MISERABLY. IN FACT, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT HER PRIDE IS SO THICK, SHE DRESSES HERSELF AS QUEEN ONE LAST TIME BEFORE HER DEATH. BY THE TIME JEHU REACHES JEZREEL, JEZEBEL HAS HEARD OF HER SON'S ASSASSINATION AND PREPARES HERSELF TO FACE THE ASSASIN HERSELF.

V. 31 - "IS IT WELL, ZIMRI" - THIS IS JEZEBEL MOCKING JEHU. IF YOU REMEMBER, ZIMRI WAS KING OF ISRAEL FOR 7 DAYS (1 KINGS 16:9-20).

THE NATURE AND SCENE OF JEZEBEL'S DEATH IS GRUESOME. SHE IS THROWN FROM HER WINDOW. SHE IS LITERALLY SPLATTERED ON THE WALL. BY THE TIME SOMEONE GOES TO BURY HER, AND IMPORTANT CUSTOM IN THAT REGION, ALL THAT IS LEFT IS HER SKULL AND HER HANDS AND FEET. WILD DOGS ATE HER BODY AND SCATTERED HER BONES.

THIS IS NOT A WILD AND CRAZY "BIBLE STORY". THIS IS NOT A GRAPHIC FABLE. THIS IS NOT A SECTION OF SCRIPTURE COMPARABLE TO THE "HORROR MOVIE" GENRE OF OUR DAY. THIS IS JUDGMENT.

THIS IS A REAL AND TRUE ILLUSTRATION OF THE RIGHT AND JUST JUDGMENT ON IDOLATERS AND ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO INFLUENCE AND DECEIVE OTHERS TO FOLLOW THE PATHS OF WICKEDNESS. GOD DOES NOT ALWAYS BRING ABOUT HIS JUDGMENT IN SUCH A KNOWN WAY. BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN HE IS NOT JUDGE OF THE UNIVERSE. THE HOUSE OF AHAB WAS UNDER JUDGMENT, AND WHILE LACK OF REPENTANCE REMAINED THEIR COURSE, THEIR DEATH SENTENCE WAS SURE.

THERE ARE MANY LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN FROM THIS STORY, NOT JUST FROM CHAPTER 9, BUT FROM THE LAST MANY CHAPTERS WHICH HAVE LED TO THIS POINT. MANY WE DO NOT HAVE TIME TO CONSIDER NOW. BUT HERE ARE TWO THAT WE WOULD DO WELL TO EMBRACE.

**1 - "GOD SEES, EVEN WHEN HE WAITS TO ACT"** GOD WAS NOT IGNORANT OF AHAB'S HOUSE OR JEZEBEL'S EVIL. JUST BECAUSE HE DID NOT ACT INSTANTLY WHEN THE FIRST SINNED, DIDN'T MEAN HE DID NOT KNOW AND SEE AND RECORD. HE IS MERCIFUL AND ALLOWS FOR OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL PEOPLE TO REPENT. BUT JUST BECAUSE HE DOES NOT ACT INSTANTLY, SHOULD NOT FOOL US TO THINK HE WILL NOT ACT. IT TOOK YEARS FOR THE FINAL JUDGMENT ON AHAB'S HOUSE TO COME. THERE WERE MANY DAYS OF EVIL THAT PASSED DURING THAT TIME. BUT NOT ONE MOMENT WAS UNSEEN BY THE ONE WHO KNOWS ALL.

**2 - 'VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY.'** JEZEBEL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF GOD'S PROPHETS, INNOCENT PEOPLE LIKE NABOTH, AND COUNTLESS UNNAMED OTHERS. AHAB AND JEZEBEL WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR IDOLATRY AND EVIL BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION. GOD DID NOT LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS. HIS PEOPLE'S BLOOD WAS AVENGED AND THE WICKED WERE DESTROYED. WHETHER THROUGH METED OUT JUDGEMENT IN THIS AGE OR CERTAINLY BEFORE THE GREAT THRONE ON THE LAST DAY, GOD WILL BRING HIS JUSTICE AND JUDGMENT UPON EVERY PERSON.

LET US BE SOBER. LET US TAKE SIN IN OUR LIVES SERIOUSLY. LET US MOURN FOR SIN IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. AND MAY WE CLING TO THE CROSS OF CHRIST, WHICH IS OUR, AND THE ONLY WAY TO FIND FORGIVENESS, THROUGH SUBSTITUTIONARY ATONEMENT ON THAT GREAT JUDGMENT DAY.

JEZEBEL IS DEAD. BUT WILL THE HEARTS OF ISRAEL RETURN TO YAHWEH NOW THAT SHE IS GONE? WE WILL READ ON AND SEE.