

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to 2 Kings 9

We are going to continue our study through 2 Kings –

For the past couple of weeks we have been looking at the ministry of the prophet Elisha – the prophet of grace.

And the ministry that God called Elisha to do was to remind the people of Israel of who God is.

And we see that through the miracles that God performed through Elisha.

And the reason was that Israel had turned its back on God.

They worshipped Baal –

They worship Asherah –

The worshipped Moloch

And as we will study over the next couple of chapters – not only did they worship Moloch – they also sacrificed their children to it – as they would heat up these large statues of Moloch until it was red hot and then they would place their infant children on the outstretched arms of the statue.

Israel had become a wicked place –

And much of the blame could be attributed to the leadership.

To the King – who, not only allowed the worship of the false gods – they themselves encouraged it.

These leaders disregarded all the warnings that God gave them through Elijah and Elisha and they refused to repent.

Here in chapter 9 – God is going to judge them.

Chapter 9 – is a bloody and violent chapter.

There are churches today that would shy away from teaching it because it is not a feel good chapter – it doesn't portray God as a God of love but as a moral monster.

However, when read in context – we see that the events in this chapter reveal to us that God is not a moral monster but a God of grace, mercy and justice.

Let's pray...

At the end of our study last week, we saw that the king of Judah (Ahaziah) and the King Israel (Joram) had come together to fight against the newly anointed King of Syria (Hazeal)

Now, both Ahaziah (grandson) and Joram (son) are also descendants of King Ahab – the most wicked king of Israel.

Joram gets injured in battle – so as he recovers from his wounds, Ahaziah comes over to keep him company as he recovers.

[2Ki 9:1-37 NKJV] 1 And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, "Get yourself ready, take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead. 2 "Now when you arrive at that place, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, and go in and make him rise up from among his associates, and take him to an inner room. 3 "Then take the flask of oil, and pour [it] on his head, and say, 'Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel." ' Then open the door and flee, and do not delay."

Our chapter begins with God, through the prophet Elisha instigating a coup d'état because of the wickedness that the house of Ahab had brought to Israel (Northern Kingdom) and it has now spilled over into Judah (Southern Kingdom) as well.

So, Elisha sends an anonymous messenger to go to Ramoth Gilead (fighting between the two kingdoms and Syria) and he was to anoint not only the next king – but the next God appointed king – in Jehu.

Jehu is the instrument that God is going to use to bring judgment to the house of Ahab.

So Elisha gave him clear instructions - anoint Jehu, give him God's message– then split.

Elisha didn't want him sticking around – because Jehu would have most certainly started to ask questions

“What do you mean I am the new king?”

“What about King Joram?”

and the son of the prophet would then feel obligated to say something - offering up his own wisdom and council instead of speaking on behalf of God.

All the emphasis was to remain on the message – not the messenger.

Church – as a pastor, my instruction is simply to expound God's message.

Not to provide my own wisdom – or my own council.

The emphasis is always on the message – the word of God.

4 So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth Gilead. 5 And when he arrived, there [were] the captains of the army sitting; and he said, "I have a message for you, Commander." Jehu said, "For which [one] of us?" And he said, "For you, Commander." 6 Then he arose and went into the house. And he poured the oil on his head, and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'I have anointed you king over the people of the LORD, over Israel. 7 '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 the LORD, at the

hand of Jezebel. 8 'For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab all the males in Israel, both bond and free. 9 'So 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 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel on the plot [of ground] at Jezreel, and [there shall be] none to bury [her].' " And he opened the door and fled.

So the messenger does exactly what Elisha told him to

He anointed Jehu

Gave him the message from God

The message of two things

1. Warning to Jehu - Jehu is reminded how each previous dynasty of Israel has gone down in flames because it failed to worship Yahweh & turned to idols. The implication was clear; if Jehu allows idolatry to flourish, his dynasty too would pass. God is giving Jehu the opportunity to get it right.
2. The judgment upon Ahab and his descendants -

In 1 Kings 21 –

King Ahab really wanted a vegetable garden – so he goes to this godly man Naboth and tries to see if he would sell his vineyard to him or maybe they can swap some land.

Naboth tells him no because the Lord had told him not to do it.

King Ahab goes back to the palace and Jezebel asks him why the long face?

And he said because Naboth doesn't want to sell his land and therefore no vegetable garden.

Jezebel writes a letter – signs King Ahab's name on it, addressed to the leaders of the city to give Naboth a prominent position – bring up a false testimony against him - then accuse him of blasphemy and then stone him.

And that is exactly what happened.

Naboth is killed

Ahab and Jezebel take over Naboth's vineyard – they now have a vegetable garden and then God says – not so fast and pronounces His judgment on Ahab and Jezebel.

(what we just read here)

Ahab humbles himself before the Lord and God delays the judgment until the days of his children.

Joram is Ahab's son.

So again, we see God mercy here.

11 Then Jehu came out to the servants of his master (these are the other commanders), **and [one] said to him, "[Is] all well? Why did this madman come to**

you?" And he said to them, "You know the man and his babble." 12 And they said, "A lie! Tell us now." So he said, "Thus and thus he spoke to me, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I have anointed you king over Israel." ' " 13 Then each man hastened to take his garment and put [it] under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!"

The other commanders had little regard for the messenger (the son of the prophet) that was bringing the message to Jehu – notice that they refer to him as a madman.

But the moment that they hear the words, "Thus says the Lord, I have anointed you king over Israel" – all of that changed.

Why? Because they were serving under a weak king – Joram

Israel was losing territory to the Moabites & others.

They longed for someone who could return Israel to its glory days under Omri & Ahab.

Jehu, they thought, was just the one to do it.

And with the entire military at their back, the success of the coup was assured.

14 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. 15 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." 16 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.

Jehu wants to keep the element of surprise – so he wants to make sure that anyone loyal to king Joram – doesn't get out to warn Joram.

17 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?' " 18 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."

As Jehu approaches, King Joram is notified that Israel's army approaches –

You see, seeing the army returning from Gilead would mean either defeat at the hands of the Syrians or that a truce had been worked out.

Joram wanted to know which it was – or was Jehu bringing the army for some other purpose?

And when the messenger shows up, Jehu tells him to shut up and tag along.

19 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." 20 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!"

Jehu must have been known for his driving

21 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.**

Remember – Naboth was the guy who was ordered killed by Jezebel in order to take away his property.

Notice that it is still referred to as the property of Naboth the Jezreelite – not the vegetable garden of Ahab and Jezebel.

Here we see God's hand in executing His judgment on the sons of Ahab.

All the pieces are coming together just like He said.

22 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?"**

Turn your bibles to Isaiah 57 -

[Isa 57:19-21 NKJV] 19 "I create the fruit of the lips: Peace, peace to [him who is] far off and to [him who is] near," Says the LORD, "And I will heal him." 20 But the wicked [are] like the troubled sea, When it cannot rest, Whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 21 "[There is] no peace," Says my God, "for the wicked."

This is the third time that King Joram wanted to know if Jehu was coming in peace – was he bringing news of peace to the kingdom of Israel.

And here, Jehu acknowledges that there could be no peace in Israel as long as the kingdom continued to practice the idolatry that Jezebel had pushed unto the kingdom.

Church, there are times when a believer will wonder why their soul is continually troubled???

There is something wrong in our spiritual life if we find ourselves in this condition – why? For the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace... – (Gal 5:22)

So sometimes, that troubling is an indication that we need to confess our sins in order to obtain peace –

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.

King Joram kept looking for peace – but in order to experience the peace of God, he needed to experience the peace with God.

23 Then Joram turned around and fled, and said to Ahaziah, "Treachery, Ahaziah!" 24 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. 25 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: 26 '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."

Church, God's Word will accomplish what it sets out to do.

When God condemns Ahab and Jezebel for doing what they did to Naboth –

Elijah told Ahab -

'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours." ' "

Ahab is killed and dies in Samaria, however, the prophesy is fulfilled as Ahab's blood, through the wounds of his son Joram spill unto the soil he had stolen from Naboth.

27 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. 28 And his servants carried him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the City of David. 29 In the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king over Judah.

Jehu also went after Ahaziah because he was a descendant of Ahab & Jezebel, who he was under orders to wipe out.

So we see Jehu's obedience to God's word.

30 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. 31 Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "[Is it] peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

So after killing both kings, Jehu goes after Jezebel –

And as Jehu is approaching the city, Jezebel knows what's coming next – so she proceeds to make herself up.

She wants to make sure that she has the appearance of a queen – and hopefully Jehu would spare her life.

And as Jehu approaches, she tries to intimidate him by applying the name Zimri to him.

Zimri was a commander in the army of Israel back in 1 Kings 16 –

He kills the king and pronounces himself king and then he is promptly killed by Omri – who was the father of Ahab.

So by calling him Zimri – Jezebel is accusing Jehu of being a traitor who will suffer the same fate that Zimri did.

32 And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who [is] on my side? Who?" So two [or] three eunuchs looked out at him. 33 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.

Jehu tells the servants of Jezebel to join him – and they throw Jezebel out the window and then Jehu runs her over with his chariot – remember, he was a notorious driver.

34 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." 35 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.

After running over Jezebel, Jehu feels bad about how he treated the queen – and tells his men to give a decent burial and her body is gone.

What happened to her body?

36 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; 37 '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." ' "

What happened to Jezebel's body? The dogs ate her.

It seems that for her whole life Jezebel thought she knew better than God.

In the end, she couldn't avoid the consequences of her actions.

There are some people who know what God wants of their life, and they still choose to go the opposite direction.

[Gal 6:7-8 NKJV] 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

For 14 years, Jezebel lived the life of luxury –

She probably thought that she had gotten away with murder – that the word of God was not applicable to her.

But her time came.

The Lord is patient, and the wheels of His judgment turn slowly, but they grind thoroughly.

She lived a life of sin and rebellion and faced God's judgment just like He said she would.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

CALVARY
Santa Cruz

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

