

Lesson 17- 2 Kings 8:16-10:26 The Beginning of the End of Israel.

In our last lesson we saw how strong Elisha's powers of prophecy were. He was able to warn the king of Israel about where and when the Arameans/Syrians would attack so Israel could avoid an encounter with them. Also in our last lesson, a severe famine plagued Israel and the armies of Aram/Syria blockaded the city of Samaria, in an attempt to starve the Israelites into surrender. This plan was thwarted when the LORD put fear in the hearts of Aram, and the army abandoned their camp, leaving all their provisions behind for Israel to enjoy. At the end of our last lesson, Elisha is called to anoint a new king for Aram. A vision told Elisha that Hazael, the man he was to anoint, would be king but he would also be responsible for burning down fortresses and killing women and children of Israel with great brutality. Hazael, after hearing he would be king, smothered the ill King Ben-Hadad to quicken his own ascension to the throne.

1. Read 2 Kings 8:16-24 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes.

- a. Who is king of Israel in these verses?**
- b. Who is king of Judah?**
- c. What do we know about the king of Judah in the following verses?**
 - 2 Kings 8:18-**
 - 2 Kings 8:21-**
 - 2 Kings 8:24-**
- d. What is the relationship of Judah and Edom in these verses?**

2. Read 2 Kings 8:25-29 and footnotes. Share any footnotes that are helpful.

- a. How are the king of Judah and the king of Israel related?**
- b. What do we know about the reign of Ahaziah?**
- c. In 1 Corinthians 15:33, St. Paul says "Do not be led astray: Bad company corrupts good morals." Do you think that the relationship between the house of Ahab and the kings of Judah could have been a negative influence on Judah's fidelity to the LORD and the LAW?**

3. Read 2 Kings 9: 1-13 and footnotes. Share any enlightening footnotes.

Read also 1 Kings 19:15-18 here-

The Lord said to him (Elijah), "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. **When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram.** ¹⁶Also, **anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.** ¹⁷Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

- a. Who is it in this chapter that now has the task of anointing Jehu as king of Israel?**
- b. What does the prophet say Jehu is called to do in 2 Kings 9:7 and why?**
- c. What is the prophecy about the fate of Jezebel?**
- d. How do the men react to the message of the prophet as it was relayed to them by Jehu?**

4. Read 2 Kings 9:14-26 and footnotes

a. The newly anointed King Jehu is going to Jezreel.

What does he intend to do there?

b. What instructions does he give his men before he leaves? (2 Kings 9:15)

c. Jehu arrives at Jezreel. How does he respond when Joram asks Jehu if he comes in peace? See 2 Kings 9:22 and compare translations of this verse.

d. Who was Naboth? See 1 Kings 21 to refresh your memory..

5. Read 2 Kings 9:27-29.

a. Where did King Ahaziah of Judah die? Where was he buried?

6. Read 2 Kings 9:30-37 and footnotes.

a. What is the first thing that Jezebel does when she learns that Jehu is near?

b. How does she address Jehu? Compare translations of 2 Kings 9:31.

c. Why do you think Jezebel's servants turned against her?

d. How had Elijah's prophecy come true regarding Jezebel? See 1 Kings 21:23-1 Kings 21:23- And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: 'Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'

7. Read 2 Kings 10:1-12 and footnotes.

In 1 Kings 21:20b-21 Elijah prophesied "Because you have given yourself up to doing evil in the Lord's sight, ²¹I am bringing evil upon you: I will consume you and will cut off every male belonging to Ahab, whether bond or free, in Israel." How did this prophecy come true?

8. Read 2 Kings 10:13-16 and footnotes. Share any footnotes.

This time Jehu is in Judah. How is the kingdom of *Judah* "cleansed" in these verses?

9. Read 2 Kings 10:17-28 and footnotes.

a. How did Jehu gather all the Baal worshipers together? (2 Kings 10:19-21, 23)

b. What did Jehu do to make sure only Baal worshipers and servants of were present?

c. Who slaughtered the Baal worshipers?

d. What happened to the temple of Baal?

10. Read 2 Kings 10: 29-36 and footnotes.

a. How was Jehu rewarded or blessed by the Lord? see (2 Kings 10:30)

b. What were Jehu's shortcomings? See 2 Kings 10:29 and 31.

c. Israel was punished for its lack of loyalty to the LORD and the LAW. How was Israel punished at this time? See 2 Kings 10:32-33?