

2 Kings Chapter 10 Commentary

2Ki 10:1 ¶ "And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's children, saying, 2 Now as soon as this letter cometh to you, seeing your master's sons are with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, a fenced city also, and armour; 3 Look even out the best and meetest of your master's sons, and set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house. 4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, Behold, two kings stood not before him: how then shall we stand? 5 And he that was over the house, and he that was over the city, the elders also, and the bringers up of the children, sent to Jehu, saying, We are thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any king: do thou that which is good in thine eyes."

In the previous chapter, the heads of the worship of Baal were killed with the death of Ahab, Jezebel, and Ahaziah. Now, Jehu, to fulfill God's prophecy through Elijah, must kill the seed of these heads. To do this; Jehu sends letters to those who raised and kept the children of Ahab and Jezebel, in the city of Samaria, the capital city of Israel. He tells them to appoint a king, of the sons of Ahab, and meet him in battle. They see how king Ahab and king Ahaziah have already fallen before Jehu, and they send Jehu word: we will not make ourselves a king, but rather, we willingly become thy servants. They also tell him to do that which is good in his own sight.

They are not willing to die for Ahab's sons, or for the false god Baal. We feel sure that these people knew of the prophesy of Elijah. They are smart enough to understand God is fulfilling that prophesy, which was put off during Ahab's lifetime, because he humbled himself before God.

6 "Then he wrote a letter the second time to them, saying, If ye be mine, and if ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of the men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by tomorrow this time. Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up. 7 And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel. 8 And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning."

Jehu writes a second letter to them. He tells them if you are mine, take the heads of Ahab's sons, and come to me in Jezreel by tomorrow this time. They slew the seventy sons of Ahab, cut off their heads, and send them to Jehu in a basket. A messenger tells Jehu that they have brought the heads of the sons of Ahab to Jezreel. Jehu tells them to put the heads in two heaps at the gate entering the city of Jezreel until the morning. This would cause all that came and went to see them, which would strike fear in their hearts, making them afraid, at least openly, to follow the teachings of Ahab, Jezebel, and Ahaziah.

9 "And it came to pass in the morning, that he went out, and stood, and said to all the people, Ye be righteous: behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him: but who slew all these? 10 Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spake concerning the house of Ahab: for the LORD hath done that which he spake by his servant Elijah. 11 So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining."

The next morning Jehu goes and stands before the people of Jezreel. Jehu facetiously tells the people: you are righteous. Jehu tells them that he conspired against his own master and slew him. Then he asks: who slew all these? Jehu goes on to explain to the people that all that has been done is in accordance with fulfilling the prophesy of Elijah seen in **1Ki 21:21 "Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,"** He also adds that God will not let any portion of Elijah's prophesy be unfulfilled. Then Jehu kills all that remained of the house of Ahab. All his great men, his kinsfolks, and his priests, until there were none remaining in Jezreel.

This gives us the prophetic picture of the end of time when God shall separate the sheep from the goats, seen in **Mt 25:31-34; 31 ¶ "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his**

right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" and followed up with the judgment pronounced on the goats in *Mt 25:44-46; 44 "Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."* A reminder to us that if we are not serving God, then we are serving the devil, and we shall reap the same reward as the devil.

12 "And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. And as he was at the shearing house in the way, **13** Jehu met with the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, Who are ye? And they answered, We are the brethren of Ahaziah; and we go down to salute the children of the king and the children of the queen. **14** And he said, Take them alive. And they took them alive, and slew them at the pit of the shearing house, even two and forty men; neither left he any of them."

Jehu leaves Jezreel and heads to Samaria and stops at the shearing house. There he meets the men of Ahaziah, who are on their way to pay tribute to king Jehoram, and his mother, queen Jezebel, and her children. Matthew Henry, as well as other commentators, say that these were the grandchildren of Athalia because their parents had been slain by the Arabians seen in *2Ch 22:1 "And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned."* Since Ahaziah's actual brothers were dead, this had to be his nephews. This makes it obvious that the word of what has happened in Jezreel has happened so quickly that word had not reached Jerusalem. Jehu commands to take them alive and then slays them at the pit of the shearing house. Jehu left none of them alive. God's judicial judgments shall surely come to pass.

15 ¶ "And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot. **16** And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So, they made him ride in his chariot. **17** And when he came to Samaria, he slew all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the LORD, which he spake to Elijah."

When Jehu departs from the shearing house, and "he lighted on Jehonadab," (lighted on simply means *he met him*) the son of Rechab comes to meet him. To give some light on Jehonadab we go to *Jer 35:6-10; 6 "But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons forever: 7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers. 8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters; 9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed: 10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us."* Thus, we understand: Jehonadab was a man greatly revered for his faith in the word of God. We see that he raised his children right, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Thus, his joining Jehu, the king of Israel, would give Jehu credibility in places that he would otherwise not have been received or respected. (Jonadab and Jehonadab are the same person)

Jehu asks him is his heart is right, as Jehu's heart is right, to which Jehonadab answers that it is. Since Jehonadab was coming to meet Jehu, it is apparent that he had heard that God was fulfilling His prophesy, Jehonadab was coming to encourage Jehu in the commission given to him by God. We would expect that Jehonadab believed that Jehu was setting in motion the return of Israel to the worship of God, which is why he agreed with Jehu. Jehu takes him into his chariot and says to him: come and see my zeal for the LORD, (***LORD in all caps means the self-Existent or Eternal, Jehovah, or the essential nature of God***) thus constraining him to go with him. Certainly, we can see that Jehonadab did not believe that Jehu was going to turn to idolatry, and forward the worship of the golden calves, which would cause Israel to continue the sin of idolatry.

When Jehu gets to Samaria, he kills all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, until he had destroyed Ahab's house in accordance with the word of the Lord, prophesied by Elijah.

In our previous study, we saw how God had commissioned Jehu to be king over Israel, and to wipe out the male bloodline of Ahab and Jezebel in Israel. Jehu has successfully done that, by God's empowerment. Now that the house of Ahab is extinguished in Israel as prophesied by God. This does not include those in Judah, as we shall see in the next chapter. We see Jehu is going to extinguish the worship of Baal, in what he called in **2Ki 10:16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD.**" However, we are going to see that Jehu's "**zeal for the LORD**" is Jehu's zeal to be king over Israel, and to put idolatry right back into Israel. Jehu is as we are told in **Ho 7:8 "Ephraim is a cake not turned."** What is a cake not turned? It is one that was put in the pan and set near the fire, and it baked only on the sides touching to pan. The topside never baked at all. You could burn the bottom and never get the top done. To bake completely it had to be turned over in the pan. As we go through the remaining scripture in the chapter, we shall see this picture unfold. Jehu has a knowledge of the LORD, but Jehu does not have a relationship with God. This picture of "**a cake not turned**," is a picture of one who may join the church, who has a knowledge of God, but not a relationship with Jesus Christ. In other words, if you have not been born again, you have no claim to the fellowship of church membership.

18 "And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them, Ahab served Baal a little; but Jehu shall serve him much. 19 Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be wanting: for I have a great sacrifice to do to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live. But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal. 20 And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it. 21 And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to another. 22 And he said unto him that was over the vestry, Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth vestments. 23 And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal, and said unto the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but the worshippers of Baal only. 24 And when they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, Jehu appointed fourscore men without, and said, If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, he that letteth him go, his life shall be for the life of him. 25 And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, and slay them; let none come forth. And they smote them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains cast them out, and went to the city of the house of Baal. 26 And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them. 27 And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house (means a sewer or a toilet) unto this day. 28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel."

Jehu gathers all the people and proclaims a great sacrifice to Baal. He instructs the people to get word, to every worshipper of Baal to be present for this sacrifice. Notice that it is upon the pain of death if they do not come. They all come and enter the house of Baal. Notice also, that this is done with subtilty. Who uses subtilty as a weapon to deceive? Satan as we are told in Genesis in the garden when he tempted Eve. Jehu and Jehonadab go in and question to verify that there are no worshippers of God present. Since they are seeking that no worshipers of God are present, certifies to us that Jehonadab was expecting to see Israel returning to worshipping God. They have them put on vestments to identify them as worshippers of Baal.

2Ki 10:25 "And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering," We have another indicator here that Jehu was not a worshipper of God. Had he been a worshipper of God, Jehu would not have made the sacrifice to Baal and then killed the worshippers of Baal. Jehu would have killed them without making a sacrifice to Baal if he truly intended to worship God. After the sacrifice is made, Jehu has the guard and captains to slay them all, even requiring the life of any that let one escape.

"and went to the city of the house of Baal" Nowhere do we find in scripture that there was a separate city by the name of Baal. What all commentators say is the place called the city of Baal was in Samaria, but was fenced off within the city, and called the city of Baal. This was an attempt to make the temple of Baal after the pattern of the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. The temple of the Lord was built with many chambers and rooms

for the priests to dwell, and it too was fenced around completely. We point out that the courtyard of the congregation, where they made the sacrifices in the temple of God, was separated from the most holy place by the holy place. The most holy place was where we find the mercy seat, which is a picture of Jesus Christ.

The devil, to make the worship of Baal look like the true religion of worshipping God, patterned their buildings thus, to create a familiarity for the people when they entered to make sacrifice. After these were all slain, Jehu has them go to the city of the house of Baal and break down the image of Baal, brake down the house Baal, and from that time forward it was made into a toilet house. This brought an end to Baal in Israel.

Thus, we see the work of satanic evil in the world of religion today. Places that call themselves churches but are not true churches where people claim to worship God. They are patterned after the true church and its way of worship. Consider this thought; how many people in Israel, and Judah, were worshipping God? Almost none is the answer. There were some in Jerusalem, especially of the priests of the Lord, which were trying to follow the commandments of God. I am sure there were some of the common people in Israel and Judah that were also trying to worship God in Spirit and Truth. But the vast majority were enslaved in idolatry, by their own choice.

As we consider this imagery from the scene set before us in this chapter, we see a great warning to us today. We see that if we follow our inherited sin nature, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, we are choosing to be idolatrous worshipers of satanic evil. What are we to do as children of God? We are to tear down daily the idols of our inherited sin nature, and we are to replace them with the fruit of the Spirit, as seen in **2Ti 2:21; 20** *"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."* This is why we are told in **Lu 9:23** *"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."* Deny himself means to deny the inherited sin nature of the flesh. Every day, all day and night, we must choose if we are going to serve the LORD, or if we are going to serve the devil.

In summation of these chapters of scripture up to here: we see that the most, of all Israel, have chosen to serve idolatry, and tried their best to forget God. Now, God is reminding them that though He is a God of love, mercy, compassion, and salvation: He is also a God of wrath and judgement. This should humble the hearts of all Israel and get them back on track, but we shall see that Jehu is going to turn them away from God, just as the kings before him did.

29 ¶ *"Howbeit from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan. 30 And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."*

We see that Jezebel, and her false god Baal, have been exterminated, naturally in Israel. However, now we are going to see that Jezebel, in spirit, has not suffered complete defeat. What do you mean? Think about this: the realm of religiosity is filled with Jehu's and Jezebels. Understand, there is a vast difference in religion and having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Jezebel has been naturally eliminated, and her god Baal has been destroyed, however, idolatry, which is of its father the devil, did not depart from Israel, because Jehu is going to restart the worship of the two golden calves. There is an additional picture of the unregenerated who have infiltrated the New Testament Church. We understand that Jezebel, a picture of spiritual idolatry, will continue to exist until the eternal judgment.

Jesus, in His death upon the cross and in His burial, did bruise the head of Satan as prophesied. However, Satan continues to bruise His heel as Satan continues to exist in the world. We know that Jesus has power over Satan, because of His death on the cross, and in His resurrection from the dead, Jesus overcame sin and Satan, and Satan can do no more than Jesus allows. This reminds us why we are told that the New Testament Church will remain pure, in the hearts of true believers, who have been born again. We are told plainly that the Jesus in us cannot sin, therefore, in our Spiritual life, as a part of the New Testament Church, we cannot turn to idolatry, though we fail in the flesh.

Now, with these thoughts in mind we see, for all the good that Jehu has done in executing the prophecy of God, he does not turn away from the idolatrous worship of the two golden calves set up by Jeroboam: One in

Bethel and one in Dan. You would think that Jehu, knowing how God had used him to execute his judicial wrath against idolatry, and those who were the promoters of it, would be able to see a warning, and take it to heart, which would keep him from doing the same things which he was used to destroy.

God tells Jehu: since you have fulfilled my prophesy, and judicial judgment, against the house of Ahab, you shall have an heir on the throne of Israel for four generations. These four descendants of Jehu are Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam the second, and Zechariah: seen in 2 Kings 14 and 15.

31 "But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin. 32 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel; 33 From Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan. 34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, and all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 35 And Jehu slept with his fathers: and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead. 36 And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty and eight years."

Because Jehu did not walk in the law of God, God began to cut Israel short, by loss of their inherited possession of property to Hazael, king of Syria, as God prophesied in **2Ki 8:10 "And Elisha said unto him, Go, say unto him, Thou mayest certainly recover: howbeit the LORD hath shewed me that he shall surely die. 11 And he settled his countenance steadfastly, until he was ashamed: and the man of God wept. 12 And Hazael said, Why weepeth my lord? And he answered, Because I know the evil that thou wilt do unto the children of Israel: their strong holds wilt thou set on fire, and their young men wilt thou slay with the sword, and wilt dash their children, and rip up their women with child. 13 And Hazael said, But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing? And Elisha answered, The LORD hath shewed me that thou shalt be king over Syria."**

Hazael invades Israel and takes possession of all the property that was across the river Jordan: which is the inheritance of the half tribe of Manasseh, of Gad, and of Reuben. We would remind ourselves here: if Israel had not let the lust of the eyes overcome them, and all went into the land of promise as described by God, they would have had to drive out the inhabitants completely as God had instructed them to do. Had they done this they would not be in the mess they are in today because they left alive idolatry in the land of promise. Because Jehu was an idolator, Jehu does not have a prosperous kingdom. Jehu dies and they bury him in Samaria. Jehu reigned over Israel for twenty-eight years. Jehoahaz his son reigns in his stead.

In summation of this chapter: we see that God providentially used Jehu to fulfill the prophesy of Elijah, the prophet of God. In our chart of the kings they assign to Jehu a mixed review, saying he did good and bad. However, we see that Jehu was bad to the very intent of his heart. He was always an idolater who worshipped the golden calves of Jeroboam. We are not told in scripture that Jehu ever had a relationship with God, other than to carry out the providential works of God to fulfill God's prophesy. **2Ki 10:16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD."** We can see now that this zeal for God was a false zeal in Jehu's life. Jehu's zeal was a zeal that he would be king over Israel to his own personal gain and glory.

We see this picture also in the New Testament in **Ro 10:1-3; 1 ¶ "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."** We see in this text that we can be like Jehu and Israel, in having a zeal for God, when we are serving our own lust and desires of the flesh, and seeking our own glory, not God's.

This reminds us of what we are told in scripture in **Mt 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."** Every choice and decision we make, we are choosing to serve God or the devil. One way to know, if we are doing the will of God, is to ask yourself the question: Is this for my glory, or for God's glory.

But you say: surely Jehu was a man of God, because he did what God told him to do. I ask you this question: why was Jehu successful in fulfilling the prophesy of God, and the destruction of Ahab's house and Baal in Israel. Because God empowered him to do so. Because Jehu was an idolator himself, he did not follow God when he had finished the work God commissioned him to do. Jehu returned to his idolatry, when God's will was

accomplished through him, and we shall see that Israel will still be idolatrous, because their king is not a man after God's own heart as King David was. Likewise, we have the example of Judas the traitor. What do you mean? Jesus called Judas to be a disciple, just as Jehu was called to serve the LORD in carrying out His prophetic judgment: however, Judas put on a good show until the end, where he betrayed Jesus and showed the blackness of his heart. Further, Jesus tells us that Judas was a devil, seen in **Joh 6:70 "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"** We know this was Judas because of what we are told in **Joh 13:2 "And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;"** We believe that when this happened, the devil took full possession of the body of Judas. Up until this time Judas was acting as an angel of light, which power he received from his father the devil, who had this ability as seen in **2Co 11:14-15; 14 "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."** What a great warning to us today. This is why we are told to judge a tree by the fruit it bears. We do not judge by one action, but by the continual actions. A tree cannot bear good and bad fruit. A wild root may bring forth good fruit by being grafted with a good fruit tree, and the wild root limbs being continually purged from the stump.

We are reminded that God will do what He says He will do. Thus, when we read the King James Bible, we can believe the words of God, and we can be assured that they will come to pass. Those that pronounce evil upon us, and those that promise the blessing of God upon us.

We see the picture of the destruction of the worshippers of Baal being destroyed out of the New Testament Church by the hand of God. This then is when Christ will present the New Testament Church to God the Father as his bride, whose wedding garments have been made white by the blood of the Lamb.

We glean the prophetic picture of Jehu destroying the worship of Baal through his own zeal for his own glory, and we learn that God will providentially use bad people to destroy worse people. The rooting out, and extinguishing of the worship of Baal in Israel, is setting the scene for the second return of Christ, which will result in the devil and those who worship him being cast into the eternal lake of fire, and those who believe God being taken to the immortal heaven, the place Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Thus, we say with the seraphims seen in **Isa 6:1 ¶ "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke."** And further we proclaim with the four beasts seen in **Re 4:8 ¶ "And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."** To which we say: Hallelujah! Amen!