

2 Kings Chapter 10 Verses 1-17; Bible Study

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.