

Lesson 10 – 2 Kings 8-10

Text: 2 Kings 8-10; 2 Chronicles 22

Main Characters: God, Elisha, Hazael, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Jehu, Jezebel

Key Passages:

- 2 Kings 8:27 – Ahaziah was a very wicked king because he was part of Ahab's wicked house.
- 2 Kings 10:31-32 – Despite all Jehu's good acts, his incomplete obedience brought punishment.

Main Storyline:

At some point, Elisha once again met with the woman whose son he had resurrected (2 Kings 4) and told her to leave the land, as a famine would come for 7 years. The woman listened to Elisha, and she and her household ran to Philistia to live for the duration of the famine. After the famine was over, she decided to appeal to the king in order to have her land restored to her (it apparently had been taken by someone else while she and her family had run away). While the king was talking with Elisha's servant, Gehazi, she came to him, who then restored all her land and its proceeds from her absence.

Elisha went to Damascus, Syria's capital, where the king, Ben-Hadad, was sick. Ben-Hadad sent his servant, Hazael, to meet with Elisha about his sickness. Elisha told Hazael to tell Ben-Hadad that he would recover but to know that, in fact, Ben-Hadad was going to die. During their talk, Elisha became upset because he knew that Hazael would become king of Syria and commit many atrocities. Hazael obeyed Elisha's words, but the next day, Hazael killed Ben-Hadad. Hazael then became king of Syria.

After Jehoram's death (Judah, 2 Chronicles 21), Ahaziah, his son (with Athaliah, Ahab's daughter), became king of Judah. As part of the house of Ahab, he, too, was very evil and committed sins like Ahab and his family had committed. He continued the alliance with Israel's Jehoram, his uncle.

Jehoram and Ahaziah had gone up to Ramoth Gilead to fight against Hazael (Syria). During the battle, Jehoram was wounded, so the two of them retreated to the city of Jezreel to allow Jehoram to recover (the army remained in Ramoth Gilead). Elisha sent one of the prophets to Ramoth Gilead to anoint Jehu, a commander, with oil. He was to inform him that God had chosen him to be the king over Israel and that God wanted him to destroy the house of Ahab. The servant obeyed, and Jehu listened to the word of the Lord. When he told the army, they were glad and immediately made Jehu king of Israel.

Jehu and a company of men then rode to Jezreel to confront Jehoram and Ahaziah. After some posturing, Jehu and his men killed Jehoram and Ahaziah. Jezebel was also at Jezreel, and when she heard Jehu had arrived, she put makeup on and styled her hair. Jehu came to Jezebel's home, and Jezebel looked down at him through a window. Jehu commanded her eunuch servants to throw her out the window. The servants obeyed, and she fell to her death. Dogs came and ate her body, leaving only her skull, her feet, and the palms of her hands; thus the word of the Lord was fulfilled (1 Kings 21:23).

Jehu continued to execute justice against the house of Ahab as God commanded. He had Ahab's house killed in Israel. He also killed the brothers of Ahaziah (Judah), also part of the house of Ahab. Finally, through trickery, he also destroyed Baal from Israel. God was pleased with many of Jehu's actions, so He promised Jehu that his sons would remain on the throne through four generations.

Unfortunately, Jehu did not do everything right, however, as he maintained the worship to the golden calves which Jeroboam had instituted. He failed to completely turn to God. God began to punish Israel, allowing Syria to take its land. Eventually, Jehu died, and his son, Jehoahaz, reigned in his place.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) Evil decisions can negatively influence people and events far beyond what we can imagine.
- 2.) God appreciates partial obedience, but ultimately demands full obedience from His servants.