

Jehu Sat Down Short of the Goal

Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Bible Matters Sources

Introduction:

- A. Jehu, a king of Israel, was anointed and commissioned to reform Israel
 1. He reformed many things, but did not complete his task, and God was not pleased with him

I. BACKGROUND

- A. The Kingdom of Israel
 1. 1Kings 12 and the separation of the Kingdom of Israel under Rehoboam into Israel to the north and Judah to the south
 2. Jeroboam, the first king of Northern Israel, in order to hold authority over his people, erected altars and idols of God in Dan and Bethel
 3. For this sin, God punished Jeroboam by removing his house from the kingship - 1Kings 15:25-29
 4. Baasha, the successor of Nadab, Jeroboam's son, did the same, and his line suffered the same fate, ending with his son Elah - 1Kings 16:1-8
 5. Zimri, the next king, reigned a week; Omri eventually took over 1Kings 16:17-22
 6. The Omride house, with Omri and his son Ahab, represented the peak of idolatry, provoking the LORD, with the Ahab marrying the daughter of the king of Sidon, and bringing Israel to worship Baal - 1Kings 16:31-33
 7. It is at this time that Elijah was chosen by God to be a prophet; he defeated the priests of Baal - 1Kings 18
- B. Jehu enters history
 1. In 1Kings 19, Elijah laments the continuous idolatry of Israel in spite of the evident power of the LORD
 2. The LORD gives Elijah the task of anointing Hazael over the Syrians, Elisha as Elijah's successor, and Jehu son of Nimshi over Israel - 1Kings 19:15-16
 3. The LORD declares that those who escape Hazael will be destroyed by Jehu, and anyone who escapes Jehu will be destroyed by Elisha - 1Kings 19:17
- C. Ahab dies in 1Kings 22:33-40, and his son Amaziah reigns in Israel
 1. The stage is set for Jehu, and the destruction of the Omride house

II. THE REIGN OF JEHU

- A. The lack of faith of Amaziah leads to his death in 2Kings 1, and Jehoram, a son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, reigns in his place
- B. Later Joram, another son of Ahab, rules in Samaria
- C. 2Kings 9:1-11 - Elisha fulfills the command of the LORD to Elijah and anoints Jehu king over Israel
- D. 2Kings 9:12-28 - Jehu is declared king over Israel, goes to meet Joram (king of Israel) and Ahaziah (king of Judah), and kills them both
- E. 2Kings 9:29-37 - Jezebel taunted Jehu as "king-murderer" and is executed

- F. 2Kings 10:1-11 - Jehu arranges for everyone in the Omride house executed
- G. 2Kings 10:12-17 - all loyal to Ahab's clan are executed
- H. 2Kings 10:18-28 - In a clever plan, Jehu assembles all of Baal worshippers in Israel together and executes them
- I. 2Kings 10:28 - Jehu removed Baal from Israel; long way from 1Kings 19:13-14

III. JEHU QUIT BEFORE HE WAS FINISHED

- A. While Jehu did many good works for the Lord, 2Kings 10:29 informs us that he still held to the sin of Jeroboam the son of Nebat
 - 1. He reformed Israel, but did not reform himself
- B. Why?!
 - 1. It had the appearance of true worship, since Jehovah was the object
 - 2. It had been done for generations by that point
 - 3. It was politically advantageous
 - 4. It could be that he should have started with himself, but instead allowed his focus on reforming others to divert his attention away from his own shortcomings
- C. The LORD blessed Jehu for removing Baals promising four generations of his descendants on the throne
 - 1. Jehu, Jehoahaz (2Kings 13:1), Joash (2Kings 13:9), Jeroboam II (2Kings 13:13), and Zechariah (2Kings 15:8-9)
 - 2. Zechariah is killed by Shallum, who is killed by Menahem, whose son Pekahiah is killed by Pekah, who himself is replaced by Hoshea, who ends up the last king of Israel (2Kings 17-18).
 - 3. Historically, the dynasty of Jehu was the most stable period of the Northern Israel nation
- D. Jehu only gets four generations and lost all of the lands east of the Jordan (Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh) to the Syrians, because of his idolatry
 - 1. 2Kings 10:31-34
 - 2. What can be learned from Jehu's example?

IV. APPLICATION

- A. God was pleased that Jehu did reform Israel, but was not pleased that Jehu did not reform himself.
- B. God is pleased when we repent of our sins and walk in Him, but He is not pleased if we do not thoroughly reform ourselves
 - 1. James 2:10-12 - We are still transgressors of law, even if we transgress in only one point
 - 2. Heb. 13:18 - We must be conducting ourselves honorably in all things
 - 3. 2Cor. 9:8 - We have all we need in abundance; what do we do with it in regard to giving; do our wants come first?
 - 4. 1Cor. 9:25 - We must constantly exercise self-control in all things
 - 5. 2Tim. 2:15 - We must grow beyond a cursory knowledge of truth
- C. We can only be fully pleasing to God when we are thoroughly reformed
- D. Are we content with mostly reforming the local church?

1. "The Restoration Movement is over. We have restored the local church to New Testament doctrine." Really!?
2. "We don't support institutions; we don't have a fellowship hall; we are not a liberal church." That's nice; what do you do? You cannot identify yourself by a negative.
3. How many professed Christians are so proud of not having an instrument or creed book or sprinkling laver or denominational practices, and their pride in their soundness becomes their sinful downfall?
 - a. All of their soundness is voided by the sin of pride
 - b. All of their visitors are run off with the ashes of bitterness in their minds over the hyper-negative and abrasive manner of "Sound Brethren"
 - c. All of their young people go elsewhere or depart the faith
4. The great irony is that being proud of being sound makes one unsound
5. The great tragedy of Jehu's reign is that he reformed everything in Israel except himself
6. Let those who think themselves to be sound reformers look inward and start with themselves
7. If we don't, it won't be long before our prayers include the following:

Luke 18:10-14 - "Two men went up to Tomlinson Run to pray, one a self-proclaimed Sound Brother and the other an erring Christian. The self-proclaimed Sound Brother stood and prayed thus with himself, 'Lord, I thank You that I am not like other men--liberals, denominationalists, homosexuals, abortionists, or even as this weak Christian who doesn't control himself as well as me. I attend three times a week; I give as I prosper; I fill out all of the questions in my class book.' And the weak Christian, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

8. Do not reason foolishly
 - a. The pride of the self-proclaimed Sound Brother does not justify the erring Christian
 - b. The pride of the self-proclaimed Sound Brother is not worse than the sin of the erring Christian
 - c. Both are lost until they repent sincerely and humbly

Conclusion:

- A. It is so easy to get caught up in reforming Israel that we forget to reform ourselves
- B. It is so easy to think that reforming Israel is just as good as reforming ourselves
- C. It is so easy to think that reforming Israel excuses us from reforming ourselves
- D. How sad will be the story of our lives when after our passing others remember the good we did for others and shake their heads sadly over what we left undone for ourselves

E. How tragic it will be in the Judgment when the Lord reminds us of this

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