

Jehu Sat Down Short of the Goal



The Kingdom of Israel

- The separation of the Kingdom of Israel under Rehoboam into Israel to the north and Judah to the south - 1Kings 12
- 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
- For this sin, God punished Jeroboam by removing his house from the kingship - 1Kings 15:25-29
- 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
- Zimri, the next king, reigned a week; Omri eventually took over - 1Kings 16:17-22

The Kingdom of Israel

- 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
- It is at this time that Elijah was chosen by God to be a prophet; he defeated the priests of Baal - 1Kings 18
- In 1Kings 19, Elijah laments the continuous idolatry of Israel in spite of the evident power of the LORD

The Kingdom of Israel

- 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
- 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
- Ahab dies in 1Kings 22:33-40, and his son Amaziah reigns in Israel
- The stage is set for Jehu, and the destruction of the Omride house

The Reign of Jehu

- 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
- Later Joram, another son of Ahab, rules Israel in Samaria
- 2Kings 9:1-11 - Elisha fulfills the command of the LORD to Elijah and anoints Jehu king over Israel
- 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
- 2Kings 9:22 - “Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? So he answered, What peace, as long as the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft are so many?”

The Reign of Jehu

- 2Kings 9:29-37 - Jezebel taunted Jehu as “king-murderer” and is executed
- 2Kings 10:1-11 - Jehu arranges for everyone in the Omride house executed
- Kings 10:12-17 - all loyal to Ahab's clan are executed
- 2Kings 10:18-28 - In a clever plan, Jehu assembles all of Baal worshippers in Israel together and executes them

The Reign of Jehu

- 2Kings 10:23 - “Then Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the temple of Baal, and said to the worshipers of Baal, Search and see that no servants of the LORD are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal.”
- 2Kings 10:28 - “Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.”
- 1Kings 19:13ff-14 - “What are you doing here, Elijah? 14 And he said, I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”

Jehu Quit Before He Was Finished

- While Jehu did many good works for the Lord, he still held to the sin of Jeroboam
 - He reformed Israel, but did not reform himself
 - 2Kings 10:29 - “However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.”

Jehu Quit Before He Was Finished

- Why?!
 - It had the appearance of true worship, since Jehovah was the object
 - It had been done for generations
 - It was politically advantageous
 - 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

Jehu Quit Before He Was Finished

- The LORD blessed Jehu for removing Baal by promising four generations on the throne
 - Jehoahaz (2Kings 13:1)
 - Joash (2Kings 13:9)
 - Jeroboam II (2Kings 13:13)
 - Zechariah (2Kings 15:8-9)
- 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).
 - Historically, the dynasty of Jehu was the most stable period of the nation of northern Israel

Jehu Quit Before He Was Finished

- 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
 - 2Kings 10:31-34
- What can be learned from Jehu's example?

Application

- God was pleased that Jehu did reform Israel, but was not pleased that Jehu did not reform himself.
- 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.

Application

- We are still transgressors of law, even if we transgress in only one point
 - James 2:10-12
- We must conduct ourselves honorably in all things
 - Heb. 13:18
- We have all we need in abundance; what do we do with it in regard to giving; do our wants come first?
 - 2Cor. 9:8
- We must constantly exercise self-control in all things
 - 1Cor. 9:25
- We must grow beyond a cursory knowledge of truth
 - 2Tim. 2:15

Application

- We can only be fully pleasing to God when we are thoroughly reformed
 - Are we content with mostly reforming the local church?
 - “The Restoration Movement is over. We have restored the local church to New Testament doctrine.” Really!?
 - “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.

Application

- 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?
 - All of their soundness is voided by their sin of pride
 - All of their visitors are run off tasting the ashes of bitterness from the hyper-negative and abrasive manner of professed “Sound Brethren”
 - All of their young people go elsewhere or depart the faith

Application

- The great irony is that being proud of being sound makes one unsound
- The great tragedy of Jehu's reign is that he reformed everything in Israel except himself
- Let those who think themselves to be sound reformers look inward and start with themselves

Application

- 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.”

Application

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

Application

- It is so easy to get caught up in reforming Israel that we forget to reform ourselves
- It is so easy to think that reforming Israel is just as good as reforming ourselves
- It is so easy to think that reforming Israel excuses us from reforming ourselves
- 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
- How tragic it will be in the Judgment when the Lord reminds us of this