

2 Kings 10 - Annals of Israel: Jehu's Evil Reign in Israel

II. The divided kingdom from the North-South division until the Assyrian invasion (1 Kings 12:1—2 Kings 17:41)

(16) Jehu's reign in the North (9:1—10:36)

(D) In fulfillment of God's prophetic program Jehu kills Ahab's 70 sons and Ahaziah's 42 relatives (10:1-14)

(E) Jehu aligned with Jehonadab of the Rechabites as he completed the eradication of Ahab's house (10:15-17)

(F) Jehu eradicates Baal worshipers (10:18-28)

(G) Jehu's retention of false religion (10:29-31)

(H) Transjordan eroded by the neighboring nations (10:32-36)

2 Kings 10

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1 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters and sent *them* to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, the elders, and to the guardians of *the children of Ahab*, saying,

1 Meanwhile, Ahab had 70 sons who lived in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria—to the rulers of Jezreel, the elders, and the guardians of Ahab's children. He told them,

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,

- Seventy sons (i.e., descendants) of Ahab and his ancestors lived in Samaria, the capital of Israel

— Jehu, planning to execute every relative who could possibly succeed Ahab, wrote letters to the chief administrators of Israel who were not Ahab's relatives. These included the officials of Jezreel (possibly those responsible for the winter palace in Jezreel; Cf. 1 Kings

12:1; 2 Kings 8:29), elders of Samaria, and others who had been assigned by Ahab to guard the young male members of the royal family and to rear them properly (Cf. 10:6).

2 "And now, when this letter comes to you, since your master's sons are with you, as well as the chariots and horses, and a fortified city and the weapons,

2 "Now, when this letter comes to you, since your master's sons are with you, as well as the chariots and horses and a fortified city and the weapons,

2 "As soon as you receive this letter (since your master's children are with you, you have chariots and horses there with you, and you are protected by a walled city and weaponry),

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 select the best and most capable of your master's sons and seat *him* on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house."

3 select the best and fittest of your master's sons, and set *him* on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house."

3 select the best and most qualified of your master's sons, set him in place on his father's throne, and fight for your master's dynasty!"

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.

- Jehu proposed that these leaders, whom he assumed would remain loyal to Ahab's dynasty and oppose himself, select a new king from Ahab's sons. Jehu challenged them to have this new king and his city fight him.

- Rather than fielding large armies, ancient Near Eastern leaders proposed that only two individuals join battle and so decide which family would rule (Cf. 1 Sam 17:8-9; 2 Sam 2:9). This may have been what Jehu was suggesting, or he may have intended to go to war against the whole house of Ahab and the city of Samaria.

4 But they feared greatly and said, "Behold, the two kings did not stand *firm* before him; how then can we stand?"

4 But they feared greatly and said, "Behold, the two kings did not stand before him; how then can we stand?"

4 But they were too terrified, and so they told one another, "Look! Two previous kings couldn't stand up to Jehu, so how can we?"

4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, Behold, two kings stood not before him: how then shall we stand?

5 And the one who *was* in charge of the household, and the one who *was* in charge of the city, and the elders, and the guardians of *the children*, sent *word* to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, and everything that you tell us we will do. We will not appoint any man king; do what is good in your sight."

5 And the one who *was* over the household, and he who *was* over the city, the elders, and the guardians of *the children*, sent *word* to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, all that you say to us we will do, we will not make any man king; do what is good in your sight."

5 So the household overseer and the city supervisor, along with the elders and the children's guardians, sent word to Jehu, telling him, "We will serve you and do everything you ask. We won't set up a king, so do what you want to do."

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 either case the officials, elders, and guardians were terrified. Rather than fighting a battle they knew they would lose, they capitulated and joined Jehu.

— Jehu was a powerful and successful army commander who had already killed two kings, Jehoram (9:24-26) and Ahaziah (9:27)

— Being state officials with no personal connections to the Omri dynasty, they decided to transfer their allegiance to Jehu. They said they would do anything he told them to do.

6 Then he wrote them a letter a second time, saying, "If you are on my side, and will listen to my voice, take the heads of the men, your master's sons, and come to me at Jezreel about this time tomorrow." Now the king's sons, seventy men, *were* with the great people of the city, *who* were raising them.

6 Then he wrote a letter to them a second time saying, "If you are on my side, and you will listen to my voice, take the heads of the men, your master's sons, and come to me at Jezreel tomorrow about this time." Now the king's sons, seventy persons, *were* with the great men of the city, *who* were rearing them.

6 But Jehu wrote them another letter: "If you're loyal to me, and if you intend to obey my commands, then bring the heads of your master's sons and meet me in Jezreel about this time tomorrow."

Now the king's sons, totaling 70 men, were living with the leading men of the city, who were their guardians.

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 to morrow this time. Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up.

7 When the letter came to them, they took the king's sons and slaughtered *them*, seventy men, and put their heads in baskets, and sent *them* to him at Jezreel.

7 When the letter came to them, they took the king's sons and slaughtered *them*, seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent *them* to him at Jezreel.

7 When the letter from Jehu arrived, the city leaders arrested the king's sons, slaughtered all 70 of them, put their heads in baskets, and sent them to Jehu at Jezreel.

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 When the messenger came and informed him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," he said, "Put them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning."

8 When the messenger came and told him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," he said, "Put them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning."

8 When the messenger arrived to report to the king, he said, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons."

Jehu replied, "Put them in two piles at the entrance of the city gate until morning."

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.

- When the heads of the royal princes had been collected, Jehu had them put in two piles at the entrance of the gate of Jezreel where they remained overnight

— The practice of piling the heads of conquered subjects at the city gate was an effective way of demonstrating subjugation

9 Now in the morning he went out and stood and said to all the people, "You are innocent; behold, I conspired against my master and killed him, but who killed all these?"

9 Now in the morning he went out and stood and said to all the people, "You are innocent; behold, I conspired against my master and killed him, but who killed all these?"

9 The next morning, Jehu went out, stood still, and announced to all the people: "Are you righteous? I conspired against my master and killed him, but who slaughtered all of these?"

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?

- In the morning Jehu assembled the people of Jezreel at the city gate. He relieved them of any responsibility for the death of King Jehoram (my master) by admitting that he alone was responsible.

— This statement would have given Jehu a psychological advantage with the people; he was confessing to them and was not implicating them in his act

— This was all a part of Jehu's strategy which then became clear. He claimed innocence of and implied ignorance of the execution of Ahab's sons.

- This had been done by Ahab's chief officials but Jehu did not tell the people it had been done at his command

10 Know then that nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab, shall fall to the earth, for the LORD has done what He spoke through His servant Elijah."

10 Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spoke concerning the house of Ahab, for the LORD has done what He spoke through His servant Elijah."

10 Keep this in mind—not a single statement by the LORD will fail to come about that he spoke concerning Ahab's dynasty, because the LORD has accomplished what he predicted by his servant Elijah."

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.

- Since he had been honest with the people about his own responsibility in killing Jehoram, the people assumed he was being honest with them about his innocence in this mass murder

— Jehu further ingratiated himself with the people by identifying himself with God and His prophet, claiming (rightly so) to be the fulfiller of Elijah's prophecy that Ahab's house (dynasty) would be destroyed

— In this way Jehu gained popular support for his plot to massacre the officials of Samaria who had murdered Ahab's sons (Cf. 2 Sam 1:14-15)

11 So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, his acquaintances, and his priests, until he left him without a survivor.

11 So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his acquaintances and his priests, until he left him without a survivor.

11 So Jehu executed all those who remained from Ahab's dynasty in Jezreel, including all of Ahab's men, his friends, and his priests, until there remained not even one survivor.

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.

- Jehu wiped out Ahab's heirs in Samaria and Jezreel, which God approved

— But he also executed all Ahab's chief men (officials, v1), close friends, and priests, which God did not approve and for which God judged Jehu's own dynasty later (Cf. Hosea 1:4)

— Jehu's killings exceeded reform and became atrocities, a fact Hosea 1:4-5 makes clear. Eventually, Jehu became very much like those he replaces, which makes him more of a political opportunist than a catalyst for change.

— Jehu got carried away in his zeal and killed many innocent people who could have helped him be a more effective king than he proved to be

12 Then he set out and went to Samaria. On the way while he was at Beth-eked of the shepherds,

12 Then he arose and departed and went to Samaria. On the way while he was at Beth-eked of the shepherds,

12 Then Jehu got up, left the city, and went to Samaria. When he arrived at the shearing house that was located on the way,

12 And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. And as he was at the shearing house in the way,

13 Jehu encountered the relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah, and he said, "Who are you?" And they answered, "We are the relatives of Ahaziah; and we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother."

13 Jehu met the relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah and said, "Who are you?" And they answered, "We are the relatives of Ahaziah; and we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother."

13 Jehu met up with the relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah. He asked them, "Who are you?"

They answered, "We're Ahaziah's relatives, and we've come down to greet the king's sons and the sons of the queen mother."

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.

- Traveling south from Jezreel toward Samaria, Jehu and his men met a party of 42 men on the road. He learned that they were relatives of Ahaziah, king of Judah who were going from Jerusalem to visit other relatives of the king including the queen mother, Jezebel. Obviously they had not heard of Jehu's coup.

14 Then he said, "Take them alive." So they took them alive, and slaughtered them at the pit of Beth-eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them.

14 He said, "Take them alive." So they took them alive and killed them at the pit of Beth-eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them.

14 Jehu ordered, "Take them alive!" So Jehu's soldiers captured them and executed all 42 of them near the pit at the shearing house. He left none of them alive.

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 seized them at once since they were part of the house of Ahab and executed them near a well, leaving no survivor

— Not all 42 travelers were necessarily blood relatives of Ahab; some may have been related by marriage, but that would not have mattered to Jehu (Cf. v11)

— In 2 Chr 22:8 they are called "princes of Judah" and "the sons of Ahaziah's relatives, who had been attending Ahaziah"

(E) Jehu aligned with Jehonadab of the Rechabites as he completed the eradication of Ahab's house (10:15-17)

15 Now when he had gone from there, he encountered **Jehonadab** the son of Rechab *coming* to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, just as my heart *is* with your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." *Jehu said*, "If it is, give *me* your hand." And he gave *him* his hand, and he pulled him up to him into the chariot.

15 Now when he had departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab *coming* to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is with your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." *Jehu said*, "If it is, give *me* your hand." And he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.

15 After he left there, he encountered Rechab's son Jehonadab. After he greeted him, Jehu asked him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is with yours?" "It is," Jehonadab answered. "If it is," Jehu replied, "Put out your hand." So Jehonadab stuck out his hand, and Jehu took him up to stand in his chariot.

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.

- "...Jehonadab" - "Yahweh is noble"

- Continuing his journey, Jehu met Jehonadab son of Recab. This man was a faithful follower of the Lord and a strict observer of the Mosaic Law (Cf. Jer 35:6-7, where his name is spelled Jonadab). He was on his way to meet Jehu.

— Meeting Jehonadab, Jehu learned that he was a supporter of his policy to purge the land of Ahab's apostate influence. Joining hands and sharing a chariot were signs of agreement and mutual commitment.

16 Then he said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD." So he had him ride in his chariot.

16 He said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the LORD." So he made him ride in his chariot.

16 He told him, "Come with me and see my enthusiasm for the LORD!" So Jehu had Jehonadab ride in his chariot.

16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot.

17 When he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, until he had eliminated them, in accordance with the word of the LORD which He spoke to Elijah.

17 When he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, until he had destroyed him, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke to Elijah.

17 When Jehu arrived in Samaria, he executed everyone who remained of Ahab's household in Samaria, until he had utterly destroyed Ahab in accordance with the message from the LORD that he spoke to Elijah.

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.

(F) Jehu eradicates Baal worshipers (10:18-28)

18 Then Jehu gathered all the people and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu will serve him much.

18 Then Jehu gathered all the people and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu will serve him much.

18 Then Jehu assembled all the people and announced to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him a lot!

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, summon to me all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests; let no one go missing, because I have a great sacrifice for Baal; whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu did it in deception, in order to eliminate the worshipers of Baal.

19 Now, summon all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests; let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal; whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu did it in cunning, so that he might destroy the worshipers of Baal.

19 Therefore summon all of Baal's prophets to me, including all his worshipers and all his priests. Don't leave even one out, because I've prepared a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever

doesn't show up doesn't live!" But Jehu did this deceptively, intending to destroy Baal's worshippers.

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 holy assembly for Baal." And they proclaimed *it*.

20 And Jehu said, "Sanctify a solemn assembly for Baal." And they proclaimed *it*.

20 Jehu ordered, "Set aside a solemn assembly for Baal!"

And so they proclaimed it.

20 And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it.

21 Then Jehu sent *word* throughout Israel, and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a person left who did not come. And when they entered the house of Baal, the house of Baal was filled from one end to the other.

21 Then Jehu sent throughout Israel and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. And when they went into the house of Baal, the house of Baal was filled from one end to the other.

21 Jehu sent the proclamation throughout Israel, and all the Baal worshipers came. There wasn't a single man left who failed to come. When they entered Baal's temple, it was filled from one end to the other.

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.

- It was to take place at the central temple of Baal that Ahab had built in Samaria (1 Kings 16:32)

— Every leader of the Baal cult was required to attend

— Obviously Jehu's true religious preferences had not yet become known in Israel

22 And he said to the one who was in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out garments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out the garments for them.

22 He said to the one who was in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out garments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out garments for them.

22 Then Jehu ordered the one in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out garments for all of the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out garments for them.

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 Then Jehu entered the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab; and he said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search carefully and see to it that there is here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but only the worshipers of Baal."

23 Jehu went into the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab; and he said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search and see that there is here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but only the worshipers of Baal."

23 Jehu and Rechab's son Jehonadab entered Baal's temple, and Jehu told the Baal worshipers, "Look around and be sure that no servant of the LORD is here among you, but only worshipers of Baal."

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 Then they entered to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings.

Now Jehu had stationed for himself eighty men outside, and he had said, "The one who allows any of the men whom I bring into your hands to escape shall give up his life in exchange."

24 Then they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings.

Now Jehu had stationed for himself eighty men outside, and he had said, "The one who permits any of the men whom I bring into your hands to escape shall give up his life in exchange."

24 Then they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Meanwhile, Jehu had stationed 80 men outside, ordering them, "If any of these men whom I've brought into your control escape, the one who allows it will forfeit his life."

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.

- Presumably Jehu did not personally participate in the sacrifices and burnt offerings of the priests of Baal; to have done so would have undermined his attempts to win the support of the faithful in Israel

25 Then it came about, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the royal officers, "Go in, kill them; let none come out." So they killed them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the royal officers threw *them* out, and went to the sanctuary of the house of Baal.

25 Then it came about, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the royal officers, "Go in, kill them; let none come out." And they

killed them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the royal officers threw *them* out, and went to the inner room of the house of Baal.

25 As soon as he had completed the burnt offering, Jehu ordered the guards and the officers, "Go in and execute them. Don't let even one man escape." So they executed them with swords, and the guards and the officers threw the bodies out and proceeded into the inner room of Baal's temple,

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.

- However, he did offer a burnt offering, perhaps to set a trap for the priests of Baal. Jehu then ordered his guards and officers (80 of them) to enter the temple and slaughter all Baal ministers.

26 They brought out the memorial stones of the house of Baal and burned them.

26 They brought out the *sacred* pillars of the house of Baal and burned them.

26 from which they brought out the sacred pillars and burned them.

26 And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them.

27 They also tore down the memorial stone of Baal and tore down the house of Baal, and made it a latrine *as it is* to this day.

27 They also broke down the *sacred* pillar of Baal and broke down the house of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day.

27 They also cut down the pillar to Baal, tore apart Baal's temple, and turned it into a latrine—and it remains that way today.

27 And they brake down the image of Baal, and brake down the house of Baal, and made it a draught house unto this day.

- Then they brought out the sacred stone burned it, probably to dishonor it, and then demolished it

— Probably two stones were involved, because two different Hebrew words are used for the stones in v26-27

— If the first "stone" was actually a wooden idol, then the second "stone" was the main image of Baal, probably a conical stone dedicated to Baal

- Jehu also converted the temple of Baal into a public latrine, the greatest possible insult to Baal, the god of fertility

— His act made the site of Baal's temple an unclean place

— Jehu thus effectively eradicated the Baal worship that Ahab and Jezebel had officially established as Israel's religion

28 So Jehu eradicated Baal from Israel.

28 Thus Jehu eradicated Baal out of Israel.

28 That's how Jehu eradicated Baal from Israel.

28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel.

(G) Jehu's retention of false religion (10:29-31)

29 However, *as for* the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel, from these Jehu did not desist, *including* the golden calves that *were* at Bethel and at Dan.

29 However, *as for* the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin, from these Jehu did not depart, *even* the golden calves that *were* at Bethel and that *were* at Dan.

29 Even so, Jehu never abandoned the sins of Nebat's son Jeroboam, who caused Israel to sin, regarding the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.

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.

- God blessed Jehu for eliminating the line of Ahab and Baalism (v30). However, he went too far by killing the nobles, and he did not go far enough in that he allowed the cult of Jeroboam to continue.

30 Yet the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in performing what is right in My eyes, *and* have done to the house of Ahab in accordance with everything that *was* in My heart, your sons to the fourth *generation* shall sit on the throne of Israel."

30 The LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in executing what is right in My eyes, *and* have done to the house of Ahab according to all that *was* in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."

30 Nevertheless, the LORD told Jehu, "Because you have done well in carrying out what I saw as the right thing to do by completing everything I had in mind regarding Ahab's dynasty, your sons will sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation."

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.

- Because he obeyed the Lord in the matter of judging Ahab's dynasty, God promised Jehu that four generations of his descendants would reign as kings over Israel. These were Jehoahaz, Jehoash (Joash), Jeroboam II, and Zechariah.

31 But Jehu was not careful to walk in the Law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart; he did not desist from the sins of Jeroboam, into which he misled Israel.

31 But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, which he made Israel sin.

31 But Jehu did not remain careful to walk in the instruction of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart. He never abandoned the sins of Jeroboam that had caused Israel to sin.

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.

- No doubt God's blessing would have been greater if Jehu's heart had been more completely devoted to Him

(H) Transjordan eroded by the neighboring nations (10:32-36)

32 In those days the LORD began to cut off *pieces* from Israel; and Hazael defeated *them* throughout the territory of Israel:

32 In those days the LORD began to cut off *portions* from Israel; and Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel:

32 In those days, the LORD began to reduce Israel in size: Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel,

32 In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short: and Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel;

33 from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, the Reubenites, and the Manassites; from Aroer, which is by the Valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan.

33 from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites and the Reubenites and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the valley of the Arnon, even Gilead and Bashan.

33 from the Jordan River eastward, all the territory of Gilead, the descendants of Gad, the descendants of Reuben, and the descendants of Manasseh, from Aroer by the Valley of the Arnon, including Gilead and Bashan.

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.

- Because of his lack of wholehearted devotion to the Mosaic Law, Jehu's reign was characterized by turmoil and unrest. He was not a strong ruler. Social and economic abuses marked his administration.

— Both the Arameans and the Assyrians humiliated Israel during his leadership:

— Hazael, king of Aram, seized all of Transjordan from Israel and later even made inroads into Israel's territory west of the Jordan (Cf. 12:17-18; 13:7)

— Before Hazael's attacks, Assyria under Shalmaneser III had forced Jehu to bow before him and pay tribute

— A bas relief on Shalmaneser's so-called "Black Obelisk" shows Jehu doing this. This is the only picture of an Israelite king that has been found so far.

Despite his attacks against Baalism, Jehu does not lead the nation back to the LORD. He allowed the worship instituted by Jeroboam to continue. In effect he expelled the foreign religion (Baalism) in favor of the long-standing Israelite state religion begun by Jeroboam. Apparently he believed reform beyond the elimination of Ahab's children, Ahab's wife, and Ahab's religion, that is, what secures his power, does not concern him. Indeed he acted as the instrument of punishment against the corrupt Omri dynasty, but he did not operate with Elijah-like motives. Rather, he was, like Syria, Assyria, and Babylon, an instrument that punished but exhibited few personal moral strengths. Israel is now back to where it was before Ahab and Jezebel assumed leadership, but it has certainly not come back to the Lord.

Jehu's zeal to rid the land of Omri's house was not matched by his capacity to rule. His 28 years as king were marked by unrest and turmoil, with serious social and economic abuses rife among the people. This fact is evidenced especially by the writings of Amos and Hosea, both prophets to Israel who wrote about one-half century after Jehu's rule. The abuses of which they speak had existed during his time.

34 Now as *for* the rest of the acts of Jehu and everything that he did and all his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

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?

34 Now as to the rest of Jehu's activities, including his valiant deeds, they are recorded in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel, are they not?

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 lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. And his son Jehoahaz became king in his place.

35 And Jehu slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son became king in his place.

35 Then Jehu died, as did his ancestors, and they buried him in Samaria. His son Jehoahaz reigned in his place.

35 And Jehu slept with his fathers: and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead.

36 So the time which Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria *was* twenty-eight years.

36 Now the time which Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

36 Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria for 28 years.

36 And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty and eight years.

- The alliance that had united and provided some strength for both Judah and Israel was broken when Jehu killed Judah's king Ahaziah

- Israel's treaty with Phoenicia also ended when Jehu killed Jehoram, Jezebel, and the prophets of Baal. This is how God began to reduce the size of Israel in Jehu's reign. In all Jehu reigned 28 years (841-814 BC).