### 2 Kings

## Chapter 10

1Ahab also had 70 sons who lived in Samaria... So Jehu thereafter wrote a letter and sent it to the governors and elders, and to the women who had raised Ahab’s sons in Samaria.  
  
The letter said:  
  
 2‘I know that the sons of your lord are living among you with their chariots, horses, weapons, and fortified cities.  
  
 ‘So when you receive this letter, 3I want you to do a search among the sons of your lord to find a good upright man and then put him on the throne of his father.  
  
 ‘After that, I’ll go to war against all of his sons.’  
  
4Well, this frightened them, for they said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} The two kings weren’t able to stand against him, so how can we oppose him?’  
  
5As a result, they sent a reply to Jehu from the family heads, the city leaders, its elders, and those who’d raised Ahab’s sons, which said:  
  
 ‘We’re your servants now and we’ll do whatever you say, but we we won’t choose a man to rule over us. Just do whatever you find to be good in your eyes.’  
  
6So thereafter, he sent them a second letter that said:  
  
 ‘If you’re with me and you wish to do whatever I say, you must bring the heads of the sons of your lord to me here in JezReEl at this same time tomorrow…  
  
 ‘All 70 of them!’  
  
Well, [Ahab’s sons] were all big men, because the people of the cities used to provide a lot of food for them. 7But when the people received this letter, they killed all 70 of them, put their heads in baskets, and sent them to Jehu in JezReEl.  
  
8Then when the messenger arrived saying:  
  
 ‘I’ve brought the heads of the sons of the king...’  
  
Jehu told him to place the heads in two piles by the city gate [of JezReEl] and leave them there until the next morning.  
  
  
9Then the next morning, Jehu went out and stood at the city gatehouse and said to the people:  
  
 ‘{Look!} You’ve proven yourselves righteous; for although I plotted against my lord and killed him… Who is it that killed all of them?  
  
 10‘{Look!} Now, everything that Jehovah said through EliJah concerning what would happen to the house of Ahab has come true... For it was Jehovah who did everything that He said He would do through His servant EliJah.’  
  
11And thereafter, Jehu struck down everyone who was left of the house of Ahab in JezReEl, as well as all his mighty men, advisors, and priests… He wiped out every trace of him.  
  
12From there, he went to Samaria.  
  
  
And as he was traveling along the road near BethAkad-of-the-Shepherds, 13Jehu met up with the brothers of King AhaziAh of Judah.  
  
And when he asked:  
  
 ‘Who are you?’  
  
They replied:  
  
 ‘We’re the brothers of AhaziAh, and we’ve come in peace to visit the sons of the king, as well as the sons of the woman who’s in charge.’  
  
14So he shouted:  
  
 ‘Seize them!’  
  
And he had all 42 of them executed at BethAkad… He left none of them alive.  
  
15And from there, he went and found JoNadab (son of ReChab), who was on his way to meet him.  
  
Then Jehu blest him and asked:  
  
 ‘Is your heart with my heart as my heart is with yours?’  
  
And JoNadab replied:  
  
 ‘It is.’  
  
And Jehu said:  
  
 ‘Well if it is, then give me your hand!’  
  
So Jehu stuck out his hand and lifted JoNadab onto his chariot, 16and he said:  
  
 ‘Come with me and see my zeal for Jehovah of Armies!’  
  
Then from there, they rode in the chariot 17to Samaria, where they killed all that were left of the house of Ahab… He wiped them all out, just as Jehovah had prophesied through EliJah.  
  
  
18Then Jehu gathered all the people and said to them [deceptively]:  
  
 ‘Although Ahab served the BaAl a little, Jehu will serve him in a great way!  
  
 19‘So, find all the prophets of the BaAl and all his servants and priests, and send them to me! Don’t overlook a single man, because we’re going to offer a great ‘sacrifice’ to BaAl… Anyone who doesn’t show up will be killed!’  
  
(This was just a trick on Jehu’s part, so that he could destroy all the servants of BaAl.)  
  
20Then Jehu sent messengers out to tell them all to prepare the sacrifices for BaAl... 21For Jehu sent a proclamation throughout IsraEl that said:  
  
 ‘All the servants, priests, and prophets of BaAl must attend this.  
  
 ‘No one may be left behind, for we’re going to offer a great sacrifice to BaAl… And anyone who misses it won’t be allowed to live!’  
  
  
So all the servants of BaAl (all his priests and prophets) came, and everyone was there in the temple of BaAl… It was filled to capacity and people were jammed together head-to-head!  
  
22Then Jehu told the person who was in charge of the temple wardrobe to bring out the official robes for all the servants of BaAl to wear, and he brought them out.  
  
23Then Jehu and JoNadab (son of ReChab) said to the servants of BaAl that had assembled:  
  
 ‘Now, look around and make sure that there are no servants of Jehovah here… We only want the servants of BaAl!’  
  
24And thereafter, the people all went inside to offer the sacrifices and the whole burnt offerings.  
  
Meanwhile, Jehu had ordered 80 men to stand outside, and he told them:  
  
 ‘Don’t leave anyone alive here; for if you do, I’ll demand your lives for theirs.’  
  
25And as the [BaAl worshipers] were presenting the offerings, Jehu told the guards and soldiers:  
  
 ‘Now, kill them all… Don’t let a man get away!’  
  
So they killed them all with swords and threw their bodies outside.  
Then the soldiers and guards traveled throughout this city of the temple of BaAl, 26and they dragged out all the images of BaAl and burned them... 27Then they tore down the temple of BaAl and turned it into a public latrine, which is what it’s still used for today.  
  
28So Jehu removed BaAl from IsraEl.  
  
  
29However, he still followed in the sins of JeroBoam (son of NaBat) who led IsraEl into sin. For he bowed before the golden heifers in BethEl and in Dan.  
  
30Nevertheless, Jehovah said this to Jehu:  
  
 ‘Because of the many good and righteous things that you did before My eyes, and because of the things that you did to the house of Ahab (which was what My heart desired), your sons will sit on the throne of IsraEl through the fourth generation.’  
  
  
31Unfortunately, however, Jehu didn’t follow the Laws of Jehovah (the God of IsraEl) with his whole heart. And because he didn’t remove the sins of JeroBoam (son of NaBat), 32Jehovah once again started cutting IsraEl down... For King HazaEl [of Syria] attacked all the borders of IsraEl 33from the JorDan to the sunrise (all the land of GileAd of the sons of Gad, ReuBen, and of ManasSeh) from AroEr to the Arnon Wadi, and from GileAd to BaShan.  
  
34All the rest of the things that Jehu said and did, and the area of his rulership and alliances, {Look!} have been written about in the scrolls that tell of the days of the kings of IsraEl.  
  
35Then Jehu went to sleep with his ancestors and they buried him in a tomb in Samaria. Thereafter, his son JehoAhaz became king in his place.  
  
36But Jehu had reigned over IsraEl from Samaria for 28 years.