

**CALVARY PANDAN BIBLE-
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

[Adapted from Bethel Bible-Presbyterian
Church, 10 Downing St. Oakleigh, Vic., 3166]

**DHW BIBLE CLASS
LESSON 5B
THE SECOND BOOK OF KINGS
CHAPTER 9**

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 9 describes God's delayed judgement on the house of Ahab. God had pronounced his judgement upon Ahab through the prophet Elijah (1 Kings 21:20-22). God remembers and fulfils His decree. This time, God chose Jehu to be His instrument of judgement upon the house of Ahab. Elijah, towards the end of his ministry, was also commanded by God to anoint Jehu to be king over Israel. But he did not do it. No reason was given. Once again, the task fell on the shoulders of Elisha. This chapter shows that God is powerful, sovereign and faithful to His Word. God's people are not exempt from God's righteous judgement. Those who submit and obey Him will find comfort and strength to face the trials of life, but those who rebel and disobey Him will eventually be judged and punished.

Be sure your sin will find you out is a biblical truth often ignored even by God's people. It is wrong to think that on account that we are God's children, God might overlook our wrongdoings a little unlike how He would not with an

unbeliever. This is far from the truth. All who claim to bear the Name of God like Israel must live by a higher and not lower standard of righteousness. More have been given so more will be expected of Israel and all her people especially, the king who directs and guides the spiritual heart beat of Israel.

The punishment upon the family of the sinful king and queen was swift and thorough. Not one escaped the judgement of God. It was carried out by God's anointed, Jehu! He did a job thoroughly but perhaps too thoroughly as the facts will reveal. May God help us to realise when we are God's instruments of punishment bringing His justice upon the sinner and when it is personal vengeance which must be categorically avoided.

OUTLINE

1. God Always Keeps His Word (vv.1-10);
2. Judgement upon the House of Ahab (vv.11-29);
3. The Death of Jezebel (vv.30-37).

COMMENTARY

**God Always Keeps His Word
– 9:1-10**

God's timing for judgement upon the dynasty of Omri and his infamous descendants, Ahab, Ahaziah and Jehoram had finally come.¹ God had spoken, through Elijah, to Ahab that He

¹ Observe that Ahaziah ("Yahweh holds") has the same name as the son of Jehoram, King of Judah, who reigned only for 1 year.

would put an end to his dynasty (1 Kings 21:21-24). It is a wonder that this wicked royal family which led the people to practise idolatry and sin against God, was permitted to rule Israel for four generations. Twelve years had passed since Ahab's death. Jezebel was still alive, powerful and influential. The family's influence was expanding even to neighbouring Judah. However, God's delay in executing His judgement does not mean that He is not concerned. God waits for the right time, and His time is never late. God's timing is perfect just as He is perfect. In fact God often provides the opportunity for the sinner to repent and to do the right thing.

One of the things which God had told Elijah to do before he was taken away was to anoint Jehu, the grandson of Nimshi, to be king over Israel. Elijah for some unknown reason did not carry this out. Elisha, who succeeded and continued his ministry, fulfilled this command from the LORD. He called one of his young prophets to go to Ramoth-Gilead to find Jehu, the son of Jehoshaphat (not King Jehoshaphat), the son of Nimshi, to anoint him in private to be king over Israel. After he had done that, he was to return straightaway. He ordered him not to stay any longer.

The obedient young prophet set out for Ramoth-Gilead to find Jehu. When he arrived there, Jehu was sitting in a company of army officers. The young prophet indicated to Jehu that he had an errand to run for him alone, and wanted to carry it out in the privacy of a room. When the young prophet and

Jehu were in the room, the young prophet anointed Jehu by pouring the jar of oil over the latter's head and pronounced, "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel" (9:6). The young prophet continued to say to Jehu that he should smite the house of Ahab his master, that the LORD might avenge the violent deaths of all the servants and the prophets of the LORD at the hand of Jezebel (9:7). The whole house of Ahab and every one of his male descendants would perish. The royal families of Ahab would end up the same way as that of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, and the house of Baasha, the son of Ahijah. And for Jezebel, she would die in Jezreel and the dogs would devour her body which would not be buried. Immediately after the young prophet had declared these things to Jehu, he opened the door of the room and fled.

Jehu came out of the room and rejoined his army officers. One of them asked him if all was well. He further enquired what the purpose of this "mad fellow" was. One can understand why this military officer deemed the young prophet as a madman. It was probably his attire or perhaps, his demeanour or both. Jehu answered flippantly (paraphrasing): "You know the man and his babble" (9:11b). His fellow army officers did not believe him and coaxed him to tell them. He then told them everything the young prophet said to him and that the LORD had anointed him king over Israel.

One wonders why Jehu was reluctant to tell them the truth at first. It was probably not humility but rather being cautious and testing the loyalty of his comrades. One of them could inform the king that Jehu was a traitor. But surprisingly, his army comrades took off their garments and laid them on top of the stairs under him as a gesture of their submission to his authority and blew the “trumpets” (shophar, a horn-pipe) and proclaimed that “Jehu is king.”

Judgement upon the House of Ahab
– 9:11-29

Jehu straightaway carried out what the young prophet told him to do. Jehu imposed a ban on all the inhabitants of Ramoth-Gilead from leaving the city so that none could escape to warn Jehoram, King of Israel, of his conspiracy. King Jehoram was recuperating in Jezreel because of a wound which he sustained in the war against Hazael of Syria. When Jehu rode his chariot to Jezreel, Ahaziah, the King of Judah, was there too to visit King Jehoram, his uncle. When Jehu and his company of soldiers were approaching Jezreel, the watchtowers reported an approaching company of soldiers but could not identify the people. King Jehoram then asked one of his horsemen to find out who they were. When the horseman met Jehu, the horseman said: “Thus saith the king; is it peace (shalom)?” (v.18). Jehu responded by telling the horseman that it was none of his business and told him to ride together with his company behind him. Since the horseman did not return to report to King Jehoram, he

sent another horseman. He too met with the same result. Then the watchman commented that Jehu was riding furiously. King Jehoram decided to ride his chariot and meet Jehu personally. King Ahaziah, who just ascended the throne of Judah, accompanied him in his own chariot. They met at the piece of land which previously belonged to Naboth, the Jezreelite. The moment King Jehoram saw Jehu, he cried out to Jehu: “Is it peace, Jehu (literally, “Shalom, Jehu)?” Jehu replied, “What peace, as long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?” (v.22). Jehu’s remarks were an affront and condemnation of Jezebel’s spiritual prostitution and wicked deeds which she was greatly responsible for. King Jehoram realized then that he was in danger. He quickly turned around to escape, and warned Ahaziah by shouting, “Treachery, O Ahaziah.” Jehu drew a bow with his full strength and hit King Jehoram. The arrow went through his heart and he died in his chariot. Jehu then told his captain, Bidkar, to cast Jehoram’s body in the field which belonged to Naboth. This happened according to the word of the LORD.

King Ahaziah of Judah witnessed the killing of King Jehoram. He fled in his chariot, but Jehu went after him and commanded his men to strike King Ahaziah. King Ahaziah managed to flee to Megiddo in the valley of Jezreel. He died there. His servants carried his body to Jerusalem where he was buried in the burial grounds of his forefathers in the city of David.

The Death of Jezebel – 9:30-37

Jehu returned to Jezreel after chasing King Ahaziah of Judah. Jezebel knew that her turn to die had come. She did her facial make-up, tied her hair up, and looked out of the window of her palace. She wanted to die as a dignified queen. When Jehu entered at the gate, Jezebel said to him (literally): “Zimri peace, who slew his master?” (v.31). She was saying in effect to Jehu that he was like Zimri who killed his master Elah. Jehu killed his master and king, Jehoram. Jehu looked up to the window and asked whether there was anyone who was on his side. There were two or three eunuchs who looked out of the window. Jehu told them to throw Jezebel down from the window. They threw her down. Jezebel died in a violent way. Her body was dashed against the ground and her blood was splashed against the wall. Moreover, the horses of the men trampled on her body.

Jehu went into the palace to eat and drink. After a while, he asked his men to find “this cursed woman” and bury her for she was a king’s daughter. The men could find only the remains of her skull, the feet and palms of her hands. The men reported to Jehu, who then said that it was according to the word of the LORD. Someone commented on this: “God Almighty saw to it that the hungry dogs despised the brains that conceived the plot that took Naboth’s life. God Almighty saw to it that the many lean dogs of the back alleys despised the hands that wrote the plot that took Naboth’s life. God Almighty saw to it that the dogs which

ate carrion despised the feet that walked in Baal’s courts and then in Naboth’s vineyard.”

PRACTICAL VALUE

This chapter reveals to us that no man is above God or His law. Ahab and Jezebel and their children were all wicked. They received their just desserts.

Although God might delay His punishment on those who had rebelled against Him, judgement on them would be a certainty. This we saw concerning the judgement on the house of Ahab. For several years he and his descendants controlled Israel and did many wicked things to the ordinary people and to the prophets of God. But when the “fullness of time” came, they could not escape the judgement.

We also learn that whatever God has said and promised to do, He would surely accomplish it. It was God’s plan and purpose to raise Jehu as king of Israel. Again when His timing had come, they were made kings. Another aspect of God which we should always remember is that while God puts up men according to His counsel and foreknowledge to accomplish His plan and purposes, He is not the author nor is He responsible for the wicked deeds of these men. All rulers must obey and submit to God Almighty or else they will perish from the face of the earth. Amen.

**DAILY READINGS &
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Daily Readings

MONDAY: 2 Kings 9:1-13; Hebrews 10:30-39.

TUESDAY: 2 Kings 9:14-37; Matthew 5:17-19.

WEDNESDAY: 2 Kings 9:1-37.

THURSDAY: 2 Kings 9:1-37.

FRIDAY: 2 Kings 9:1-37.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did God not punish the house of Ahab sooner? Why did God delay such that sin and idolatry could continue for so many years the way it did?

2. How do you understand the when such a king like Jehu could significance of being "anointed" by God also be anointed by God? The word for "anointed" is the word "messiah."

3. Why did Jezebel paint her face and make herself look beautiful when she knew that she was about to die? Is this what men would do too?

4. What is revealed about the Word of God in chapter 9?

5. Although God appointed Jehu as the new King of Israel, were his ways and methods in disposing King Joram and others justifiable?

6. What have you learned in this chapter that have helped you in your relationship with God and with men?
