

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Dec 31

MONDAY

After Jehu is privately anointed and hears the explanation offered by the prophet-in-training, he meets fellow officers who ask him what happened. He tells them and they immediately support him publicly - declaring him to be king of Israel.

READ: II Kings 9:11-13

Did you notice what the officers call the prophet-in-training? *This madman*. That's not a very complimentary term. And it reminds us that one who speaks for God is not likely to win too many popularity awards. Jesus told us that. "If they reject me, they will reject you." We who love the Lord gladly bear any rejection that comes, for our passion is to please God, not man. Our greatest desire is to know him and to share in the fellowship of His suffering.

TUESDAY

King Joram is still in Jezreel recovering from his wounds when Jehu makes his move to become king. So Jehu jumps into his chariot and heads there himself, along with some troops loyal to his cause. Joram learns that they are approaching Jezreel, and he sends a messenger out to meet him, to ask why he is coming. But the messenger simply joins the forces of Jehu and never reports back to the king.

READ: II Kings 9:14-18

When the messenger asks Jehu whether he comes in peace or not, Jehu responds by asking, "What do you have to do with peace?" In other words, what are doing serving Joram? His rule is characterized by idolatry and bloodshed. So, as long as you continue to serve him, don't talk about peace.

Similar words were spoken by Jesus. As long as you continue to disobey me, don't call me Lord. Similar truths apply to us: as long as we continue to worry about this or that, don't speak of God's provision. Instead, let our speech match our actions. Speak of His care and then trust Him for it.

WEDNESDAY

The king sends a second messenger and his story is the same as the first. But then, one of the guards recognizes him by the way he wildly drives his chariot. Then both King Joram and King Ahaziah (remember, he was visiting Joram to check on his recovery) ride out to confront Jehu personally.

READ: II Kings 9:19-22

Jehu was recognized by how he drove his chariot - *like a madman*, the text says. It's a fact of life, that our behavior identifies us. "He's the guy whose always criticizing the pastor. She's the one who always volunteers to do all sorts of things and then never does. That's the man who always goes out of his way to help others. That's the girl who visited me everyday when I was sick." And so on. We are known by our deeds. David was known as a man after God's own heart. What are you known for? My name is _____ and

when people think of me, they most likely think of my _____.
(go ahead and fill in the blanks)

THURSDAY

Hearing Jehu's rebuke, King Joram turns and flees, but Jehu is quick: he draws his bow and shoots him in the back with an arrow. Then he commands that his body be dumped in the field of Naboth. He explains that command by saying that it fulfills a prophecy which Elijah had spoken several years before.

READ: II Kings 9:23-26

So Elijah's prophecy is fulfilled. God sees to that. And the fact is that God uses Jehu to fulfill it. That's interesting because we would have preferred God's work to be carried out by a godly king or a faithful priest. But Jehu? The Bible makes it clear that God uses as He pleases, but (and get this) most of the time, His pleasure seems to be that He uses His people to accomplish His purposes. That would be you. Be useful to God today and serve Him well.

FRIDAY

When Judah's King Ahaziah sees all this, he also turns and races away. He is mortally wounded in, and his chariot captain drives on to Megiddo where he's pronounced DOA. His servants take his body back to Jerusalem.

READ: II Kings 9:27-29

It seems as if Jehu acted on his own in killing Ahaziah. Ahab's family was in the northern kingdom of Israel. Ahaziah is king of the southern kingdom of Judah. It's human nature to keep going when we get on a roll. That's why people will feed a slot machine for hours on end. It's the new nature within us which targets obedience. I want to do what you, God, tell me to do. There's no room for freelancing in God's kingdom. We are to be His servants.

SATURDAY

Having killed both the king of Israel and the king of Judah, Jehu returns to Jezreel. Jezebel is there, and from a window up in a tower, greets Jehu sarcastically as he rides into the city. Jehu commands her servants to throw her down and they do so, and horses trample over her lifeless body.

READ: II Kings 9:30-33

The sarcasm which Jezebel uses is to call Jehu by another name: she calls him Zimri. Zimri, 45 years earlier, had marched into the city and had seized the throne from Omri. He had killed the whole family line of King Baasha. And he thought he was home free. But, in fact, he only ruled for 7 days before Omri took power from him. Jezebel is suggesting the same for Jehu. #114