

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Jan. 7

### MONDAY

After eating a meal, Jehu commands that Queen Jezebel's body to be burned. His soldiers went to do that but reported back that there was nothing left of her to burn. Jehu declares that this too was the fulfillment of a prophecy of Elijah.

**READ: II Kings 9:34-37**

Jehu seems very familiar with Elijah's prophecies. He immediately summarizes one of Elijah's prophecies and declares this to be the fulfillment. What is neat about this, I think, is that Jehu sees God actively bringing to pass those things which He spoke thru the prophets. We do well to have a sense that God is at work in this way and that. For us, it will not be so much prophecies coming to pass, but rather, God accomplishing His purposes and advancing His kingdom.

### TUESDAY

Back in Samaria, the capital city of Israel, Ahab has 70 sons. So Jehu writes a letter to the guardians of the 70, and tells them to pick out the most worthy son and set him on the now vacant throne. The city leaders seem to think this is all a trap of some sort, and they refuse to do that.

**READ: II Kings 10:1-5**

Remember, the Hebrew word translated *sons* can also mean grandsons or even great grandsons. Jehu intends to destroy them all, but he's going to try to take over the city, not by fighting, but by manipulating. That's often Satan's strategy, you know. Instead of an all out front attack, he slips in behind the lines and begins to work in little ways here or there. "Don't bother with Bible study. Go back to Church in the summer, when you're not so busy. No TV shows are free of bad language." Those kinds of things. And Satan manipulates them more and more into a kind of strange partnership with himself. Those who are friends of the world are enemies of God.

### WEDNESDAY

Then Jehu writes a second letter to the guardians of the 70 telling them that they should bring to Jehu the heads of the 70 sons in order to demonstrate their loyalty. They do so - they put the 70 heads into a basket, and send it to Jehu. Jehu has them piled up by the city gates until the next day.

**READ: II Kings 10:6-8**

Jehu told the city leaders to "come and bring their heads to me" but they sent the heads to him instead. Undoubtedly, they were afraid of losing their own heads in the process. That was the nature of Jehu's early days in power. Heads rolled. He ruled by might and terror. Are you not thankful that God has for us a better way! He loves us with a perfect love which casts aside fear. We do not fear the future for His love with never fail us. What a great love!

### THURSDAY

The next day, Jehu announces to the people of Jezreel what he had done, and, in a sense, what he had not done. He assures them that, regardless, it was all done in

fulfillment of prophecy, and that, in the end, it is the Lord's doing. Then Jehu kills every relative, friends, advisors, and priest of Ahab, leaving no one with any claim to the throne.

**READ: II Kings 10:9-11**

God had told Jehu to destroy the whole house of Ahab, but Jehu went way beyond that and killed many others. Nevertheless, he claims that it was all being done according to God's word. His heart is not right with God and he is using God's word (with a tweak here and a twist there) to justify his own actions. That's an identifying mark of the cults: take something good and true, tweak it, and use it for personal gain. We do well to cling to the old Book and the old Faith! No tweaking allowed.

### FRIDAY

Heading towards Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, Jehu meets 42 relatives of Ahaziah, the king of Judah whom Jehu had killed. They were on their way to Samaria to bury the dead king. He captures and slaughters all 42 of them. Further along, he meets Jehonadab who pledges allegiance to Jehu. Jehu invites him to ride along with him in chariot and see for himself Jehu's zeal for God. Once in Samaria, Jehu kills all of Ahab's relatives who are somehow, still alive to that point.

**READ: II Kings 10:12-17**

Jehonadab had a good reputation among the people of that region, and Jehu associated with him to gain credibility with the people. He wanted them to think: "Anyone whom Jehonadab approves of is good enough for me!" That's because a person is known by the company he keeps. We are wise indeed to keep company with those who know the Lord and pursue Him with passion. Surely, we will all have other relationships - perhaps many of them, but it is by our relationships that we become known. Keep that in mind.

### SATURDAY

In Samaria, Jehu makes a speech telling the citizens that he is going to restore Baal worship in a big way to Israel, and that in order to get started, he needs all the prophets of Baal assembled before him. Quite excited, we suppose, at the thought of their power and prestige being restored., every prophet shows up. They are all given nice new robes (a good sign!) and all crowd into the temple of Baal for the big ceremony. Jehu first makes certain that no prophets of the Lord have somehow slipped into the temple, and then he instructs 80 of his own troops to surround the temple and make sure that none of the prophets of Baal escape.

**READ: II Kings 10:18-24**

Frank Sinatra, in his later years, recorded a hit single "I Did It My Way", but Jehu was singing that song 2500 years ago! Or at least he was doing it his own way. On his own, he cooks up a plan to kill off all the prophets. In these verses, he is putting his plan into action. It's a sad story because God is left out of it, and no plan is truly great if God is not at the center of it. Remember that as you plan your day! #115