II Kings 9

Review…

- **I Kings 8 – Wicked Kings…**
  - Elisha went to the city of Damascus – the capitol of Syria - to appoint Hazael as King…
    - The current king was sick and wanted Elisha to ask the Lord if he would recover…
    - So Hazael his servant came with gifts for the prophet – and the question of the King…
    - Elisha gave Hazael a confusing answer - King that he would recover from his sickness…
    - But he told Hazael the Lord had shown him the king would actually die!
    - The next day Hazael took a blanket soaked in water – and smothered the king…
    - He then replaced the king and became the next leader of Syria!
  - Jehoram became the next king of Judah after Jehoshaphat…
    - He was 32 years old when he became King – and ruled for 8 years…
    - Jehoram married a daughter of King Ahab – who lured him away from the Lord…
    - So he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord – as wicked as King Ahab…
    - As a result he died – his intestines coming out – slowly over two years!
    - His son Ahaziah became King of Judah in his place – but he was also an evil king!
  - God had punished Israel with the siege of Samaria - but they did not repent…
    - God had sent a famine in the land for 7 years – also with little effect…
    - So it was time for God to take out the bad influence – wipe out the evil family of Ahab!

The end of the line of Ahab… (*3 things*)

- **1st – A new King for Israel… vs. 1-13** Read: II Kings 9:1-13
  - 1st – Elisha summoned one of the other prophets… vs. 1-3
    - Jewish tradition says the prophet was Jonah (*as in Jonah and the whale*)…
      - He was to go to the city of Ramoth Gilead – on the eastern border of Israel…
      - The town was a key defensive point against the Syrian army…
      - The commander of the Israeli army there was a man called Jehu!
      - Jonah was to take Jehu into a back room and anoint him as the new King of Israel…
      - Fulfilling the command of God given to Elijah the prophet – **I Kings 19:16**
      - Then the prophet was then to open the door – and run for his life!
    - The question is why did Elisha send Jonah – why not go himself…

- Anointing a new King was a BIG deal – and Elisha was certainly the MOST qualified!
- You might think it was because it was VERY dangerous – 'run for your life'…
- But Elisha was not one to be afraid – he had stood up to whole armies – **II Kings 6**
- I think it was more about preparing a new generation of prophets to serve the Lord!

▪ The best person for the job – is not always the most talented / experienced…

- Jun and Jen recently stepped up to help out with the youth…
- They are both relatively young believers – and have a LOT of doubts…
- But the only way they will grow – learn to teach – is to step out and try!
- The most gifted teacher – the wisest leader – did not start out that way…
- At some point they were shy to get up in front of others – unsure of what to say…
- But someone gave them an opportunity – and they stepped out in faith and learned…
- Great Godly men start as ordinary men – who were given a chance to step out in faith!

○ 2nd – Jonah was obedient – and went and anointed Jehu… vs. 4-10

▪ He took the commander into a house – and poured anointing oil over his head…

- He then told Jehu – the God of Israel had anointed him to lead the nation…
- And his first command was to completely destroy the house of Ahab!
- To revenge the blood of all the prophets put to death by Jezebel!
- Dogs would eat the body of Jezebel – no one would even bother to bury her!

▪ This might seem like a harsh judgment – wipe out an entire family / eaten by dogs…

- But when Elijah warned Ahab God was going to judge his family – **I Kings 21:21**…
- Ahab humbled himself – so God did not bring the destruction in his lifetime…
- Because in spite of all his evil – in the end he repented and turned back to the Lord!
- **I John 1:9** – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins…"
- When we truly repent - turn to Jesus – there is hope for even the greatest sinner!
- If we confess our sin - any sin - Jesus will forgive us and make us clean again!
- Godly repentance brings freedom - we are not longer bound by our past mistakes...
- We are able to move beyond our failures - we begin to grow again in Christ!

▪ God in His Grace had been holding back judgment on the family of Ahab for years...

- **II Peter 3:9** – "No, [the Lord] is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent."
- But because of their hardened hearts – the sons had refused to repent…
- God knew that if they were left alone - they would corrupt all of Israel...
- It does not take much cancer to be dangerous - just a little can quickly spread...
- The only solution is to cut it out - destroy the threat in order to save the body!
- When sin goes unchecked it encourages others to sin...
- A little sin in the church - can quickly grow to be a HUGE problem...
- The longer the sin goes 'untreated' - the more dangerous it becomes...
- A little sin can quickly spread out infect and destroy a whole family or church!

○ 3rd – Jonah ran away – and Jehu came back to his soldiers… vs. 11-13

▪ The soldiers wanted to know what the 'crazy man' wanted…

- They thought men like Johan were crazy because they dedicated their lives to God…

- In their mind it was better to trust in yourself – then to trust in the Lord!

- Jehu at first agreed with them – prophets just tend to babble…
  - But they must have seen the excitement in his eyes – he was lying!
  - So Jehu told them what Jonah had said – and they all cried out – 'Jehu is King!'
  - Ironically – no matter how hard the soldiers tried they would never become King…
  - It was only the Lord who could bring that kind of blessing!

- The world tend to look at believers in Jesus – and think we are crazy…
  - We waste our time going to church and Bibles studies…
  - They look at us and think – we are wasting our time – better to work and make money!
  - The irony is they will work their whole lives – with very little reward…
  - It is those who dedicate their lives to the Lord – who receive the greatest blessings!
  - The best things in life do not come to those who strive to get them…
  - They are freely given to those who seek after the Lord with their whole heart!
  - **Psalms 34:8** – "Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good; Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!"

- **2ND – THE DEATH OF TWO KINGS… VS. 14-29** READ: II KINGS 9:16-26
  - 1st – King Joram of Israel had been in Ramoth Gilead… vs. 14-20

    - But he was wounded in a battle with Syria – and went home to recover…
      - So he was not there when Jehu was anointed as the new king over Israel…
      - But Jehu did not waste any time – he immediately rode for Jezreel to kill Joram!
      - A watchman on the tower of the city saw Jehu riding towards the city…
      - Twice King Joram sent out a messenger to meet Jehu – asking 'is it peace'…
      - But both times Jehu just ordered the messenger to fall in behind him!

    - The judgment of God was coming – and the watchman had warned the King…
      - We know that the judgment of God is coming – time is running out…
      - But if we are not willing to stand up and warn people – who will…
      - In fact God holds us accountable if we do not tell them about the danger of sin!
      - **Ezekiel 33:8** – "If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to warn them about changing their ways, then they will die in their sins, but I will hold you responsible for their deaths."
  - 2nd – Joram had no idea Jehu was coming to kill him – he thought he had news… vs. 21-26

    - Perhaps there had been victory over the Syrians – and Jehu brought good news…
      - Or perhaps his army may have been defeated – and Jehu had bad news!
      - So King Joram – even though he was wounded – rode out to meet Jehu himself…
      - King Ahaziah of Judah happened to be there – so he went out as well…

    - King Joram demanded to know from Jehu if there was peace…
      - He wanted to know if his army had defeated Syria – or if Syria had defeated them…
      - Jehu said there can be no peace – because of the witchcraft and idolatry of Jezebel!
      - Then Joram understood – Jehu was there to kill him – and he tried to run away…
      - But Jehu drew his bow – and shot King Joram right through the heart!

- The body of Joram was thrown onto the field of Naboth…
  - The field King Ahab had killed for – because Naboth refused to sell it – **I Kings 21**
  - The field God had promised Ahab would pay for with the blood of his sons!
  - It had been years – but God did not forget the debt – and the payment was due!
  - I know a lot of people who borrow – hoping they will never have to pay the debt…
  - They lend money – and figure if enough time passes the lender with forget!
  - We might fool ourselves into thinking we get away with sin in our lives…
  - Since God has not made us pay for it yet – maybe He never will…
  - But the only way God forgets the sin debt we owe – is through Jesus – **Psalms 103:12**
  - Without the cross – we can be SURE one day we will have to pay!

- 3rd – King Ahaziah saw what was happening – and ran away… vs. 27-29
  - According to **II Chronicles 22:9** – he tried to hide out in the capitol of Samaria…
    - Apparently he thought he might be safe in a city full of the relatives of Ahab…
    - But Jehu hunted him down – and had him executed as well!
    - He body was taken back to Jerusalem – he had only ruled in Judah for one year!
  - When it comes time to pay the penalty for our sin – there is no place to hide…
    - **Revelation 6:16** – "They cried to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne…"
    - It is a terrifying thought to think we will one day have to stand before God…
    - There is no way to hide from the eyes of the Lord – He sees everything we have done…
    - And if we wait till we see the King - it is too late – today is the day of forgiveness!

- **3rd – The death of Jezebel… vs. 30-37** Read: II Kings 9:30-37
  - 1st – When Jezebel heard Jehu was in Samaria – she put on her makeup… vs. 30
    - We do not know how old Jezebel was at this point – but she was a grandmother…
      - Yet it would seem she thought perhaps she could 'seduce' the new King…
      - She made herself look as 'beautiful' as she could – to greet Jehu!
    - There is nothing wrong with a woman getting dressed up…
      - There is no reason for women to make themselves look ugly…
      - There is no problem with makeup – women should 'decorate' themselves!
      - If the house needs painting to make it look good – paint that house!
    - But those who only live for outward beauty – are in for a VERY painful surprise…
      - It does not last – not matter how much you try – you GET OLD…
      - Women spend LOTS of money trying to hold on to the beauty of their youth…
      - They buy 'beauty products' / spend HOURS in front of the mirror / surgery…
      - But no matter how hard they try – age ALWAYS wins out in the end!
    - Do not wear fancy expensive clothing – do not draw attention to outward looks...
      - **I Peter 3:3-4** - "Do not be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. You should be known for the beauty that comes from within…"
      - Not that there is anything wrong with a woman being 'pretty'…
      - But women should not focus on ONLY making the outside pretty…
      - Instead they are to 'put on' good works - beauty coming from their heart!

- Seeking the inner beauty that comes from knowing Jesus Christ!

- 2nd – Jezebel called out to Jehu from her window… vs. 31-
  - She reminded Jehu he was just like Zimri – **I Kings 16:1** – who killed King Elah of Israel…
    - The comment may have been a veiled threat towards Jehu…
    - Because after killing the king – Zimri locked himself in the palace and burned it down…
    - Because Omri – the father of Ahab – had surrounded the city…
    - Perhaps Jezebel was saying – you are like Zimri – go and kill yourself for your treason!
  - Jehu ignored her – and called up to her room – who is on my side…
    - There were two or three men who looked down – showing their allegiance…
    - Jehu told them to throw Jezebel out of the window – and they did…
    - Her body burst on the ground – with blood spattering on the wall and horses!
    - Jehu then trampled her body under the hooves of his horse – just to make sure!
  - Jehu went into the palace to enjoy his first meal as the new King…
    - When he was done he sent his men to go and clean up the body of Jezebel…
    - But when they got outside – all that was left was her skull / hands / and feet!
    - Dogs had come and eaten the rest of her - fulfilling the words of Elijah - **I Kings 21:23**!
  - Jezebel had been great in life – a queen – mother and grandmother to Kings…
    - But as a result of her wicked life – she would be forgotten in her death…
    - There would not even be a tomb stone to make her grave…
    - Her remains would be the dung of dogs – scattered over the fields of Jezreel!
    - All men share the same fate - the one guarantee in life - we will all die one day...
    - Life is not about how much stuff we can buy - or how many people like us...
    - If that is all we live for – at best we end up with a nice stone marking our rotting body…
    - Life is meant to be a gift with one purpose - it gives us the opportunity to make a choice...
    - Where will we go when our time here on earth is up - where will we spend eternity!