

Introduction:

We take great comfort in knowing that God faithfully keeps His word concerning the deliverance of His people.

We rejoice in the Lord's committedness to keeping His promises.

It should be very sobering to think that God not only keeps His word concerning the promises of all the good things to come, but God also keeps His word concerning all coming judgment.

We are going to look at a large section of the word of God that details the fulfillment of the judgment on Ahab and his male descendants that was foretold by the prophet Elijah.

If you will remember, in 1 Kings Elijah was confronting the people of Israel concerning their worship of Baal.

He said that they should no longer vacillate between two opinions. If God was the true God they should serve him. If Baal is the true God they should serve Baal.

Then God proved Himself to be the true God by sending fire from heaven and consuming a water drenched sacrifice.,

However, Ahab and his wife Jezebel still opposed God and God's prophet Elijah and were seeking to take Elijah's life.

Elijah flees to Mt Horeb where God speaks to Elijah. Among other things, God conveys the future judgment that is going to come upon Ahab and Jezebel that will be carried out through Hazael and Jehu.

1 Kings 19:15 (ESV) And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. **And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.**

1 Kings 19:16 (ESV) **And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel**, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

1 Kings 19:17 (ESV) **And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.**

Last week we saw God at work through Hazael. Today we see God at work through Jehu.

Throughout the narrative is the constant refrain that the deaths that are taking place at the hands of Jehu are the fulfillment of the judgment that God had declared through Elijah and Elisha.

Key Verse: 2 Kings 10:10 (ESV) Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the Lord, which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab, for the Lord has done what he said by his servant Elijah.

We are to learn two important lessons from this narrative.

First, the judgment of God will be completely fulfilled.

2 Kings 10:10 (ESV) **Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the Lord, which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab,** for the Lord has done what he said by his servant Elijah.

Second, all that God says will come to pass.

2 Kings 10:10 (ESV) Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the Lord, which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab, **for the Lord has done what he said by his servant Elijah.**

Theme: God fulfills His word not only regarding blessing but also judgment.

I. Jehu is anointed to be king over Israel according to the word of the Lord.

A. God establishes Jehu as king over Israel.

2 Kings 9:1 (ESV) Then Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets and said to him, "Tie up your garments, and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead.

2 Kings 9:2 (ESV) **And when you arrive, look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat, son of Nimshi.** And go in and have him rise from among his fellows, and lead him to an inner chamber.

2 Kings 9:3 (ESV) Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head and say, '**Thus says the LORD, I anoint you king over Israel.**' Then open the door and flee; do not linger."

2 Kings 9:6 (ESV) So he arose and went into the house. And the young man poured the oil on his head, saying to him, "**Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, I anoint you king over the people of the Lord, over Israel.**

- B. The anointing of Jehu is in keeping with the word spoken to Elijah on Mt. Horeb.

1 Kings 19:16 (ESV) **And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel**, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

- C. Thus, God's plan is being carried out.

II. Jehu is to carry out God's judgment on the descendants of Ahab.

- A. Jehu is to kill all those belonging to the household of Ahab.

2 Kings 9:7 (ESV) **And you shall strike down the house of Ahab your master**, so that I may avenge on Jezebel the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord.

- B. In so doing, Jehu is the instrument of God's judgment.

2 Kings 9:7 (ESV) And **you shall strike down** the house of Ahab your master, **so that I may avenge** on Jezebel the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord.

2 Kings 9:8 (ESV) For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and **I will cut off from Ahab every male**, bond or free, in Israel.

2 Kings 9:9 (ESV) And **I will make** the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.

- C. All of the male descendants of Ahab are to be killed

2 Kings 9:8 (ESV) For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, **and I will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel.**

- D. Jezebel will have a disgraceful end.

2 Kings 9:9 (ESV) And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.

2 Kings 9:10 (ESV) **And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and none shall bury her."** Then he opened the door and fled.

III. Jehu kills Joram in keeping with God's judgment.

A. King Joram was a son of Ahab

2 Kings 8:16 (ESV) **In the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab, king of Israel**, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, began to reign.

B. Joram fought against Hazael the king of Syria.

2 Kings 9:14 (ESV) Thus Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. **(Now Joram with all Israel had been on guard at Ramoth-gilead against Hazael king of Syria,**

C. Joram, though wounded, had escaped the hand of Hazael

2 Kings 9:15 (ESV) **but King Joram had returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that the Syrians had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria.)** So Jehu said, "If this is your decision, then let no one slip out of the city to go and tell the news in Jezreel."

1. Remember God had said to Elijah that the person who escapes from Hazael Jehu shall kill.

1 Kings 19:17 (ESV) **And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death**, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death.

2. Jehu kills Joram.

2 Kings 9:16 (ESV) Then Jehu mounted his chariot and went to Jezreel, for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah had come down to visit Joram.

2 Kings 9:21 (ESV) Joram said, "Make ready." And they made ready his chariot. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah set out, each in his chariot, and went to meet Jehu, and met him at the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.

2 Kings 9:22 (ESV) And when Joram saw Jehu, he said, "Is it peace, Jehu?" He answered, "What peace can there be, so long as the whorings and the sorceries of your mother Jezebel are so many?"

2 Kings 9:23 (ESV) Then Joram reined about and fled, saying to Ahaziah, "Treachery, O Ahaziah!"

2 Kings 9:24 (ESV) **And Jehu drew his bow with his full strength, and shot Joram between the shoulders, so that the arrow pierced his heart, and he sank in his chariot.**

- a. Jehu fulfills an additional prophecy of Elisha by depositing the body of Joram in the vineyard previously belonging to Naboth which Ahab had stolen.

2 Kings 9:25 (ESV) Jehu said to Bidkar his aide, **“Take him up and throw him on the plot of ground belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite.** For remember, when you and I rode side by side behind Ahab his father, how **the LORD made this pronouncement against him:**

2 Kings 9:26 (ESV) **‘As surely as I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons— declares the Lord—I will repay you on this plot of ground.’** Now therefore take him up and throw him on the plot of ground, in accordance with the word of the Lord.”

- b. Then the text draws our attention once again that all of this is just as God had said.

2 Kings 9:26 (ESV) **‘As surely as I saw yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons— declares the Lord—I will repay you on this plot of ground.’** Now therefore take him up and throw him on the plot of ground, **in accordance with the word of the Lord.”**

- 3. Therefore, two prophecies of God’s judgment is fulfilled in the death of Joram.

- a. The first being, that the descendants that escape Hazael Jehu shall kill.
- b. The second is that Naboth’s death, and the death of Naboth’s sons, at the hands of Ahab will be avenged on the land that was taken from them.

IV. Jehu brings God’s judgement against the wife of Ahab by killing Jezebel in fulfilment of God’s word.

- A. Jehu has Jezebel killed.

2 Kings 9:30 (ESV) When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it. And she painted her eyes and adorned her head and looked out of the window.

2 Kings 9:31 (ESV) And as Jehu entered the gate, she said, "Is it peace, you Zimri, murderer of your master?"

2 Kings 9:32 (ESV) And he lifted up his face to the window and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked out at him.

2 Kings 9:33 (ESV) **He said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down. And some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, and they trampled on her.**

B. Jezebel is eaten by dogs in fulfillment of God's word.

2 Kings 9:34 (ESV) Then he went in and ate and drank. And he said, **"See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter."**

2 Kings 9:35 (ESV) **But when they went to bury her, they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.**

1. Once again the text draws our attention that this is a fulfillment of what God had said previously through Elijah.

2 Kings 9:36 (ESV) When they came back and told him, he said, **"This is the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite: 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel,**

2. The dogs ate Jezebel in the land of Jezreel as Elijah had pronounced in 1 Kings 21:23.

1 Kings 21:23 (ESV) And of Jezebel the LORD also said, **'The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel.'**

- a. This same prophecy is repeated 2 Kings 9:10

2 Kings 9:10 (ESV) **And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel,** and none shall bury her." Then he opened the door and fled.

- b. Fulfilled in 2 Kings 9:36.

Kings 9:36 (ESV) When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite: **'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel,**

3. The body of Jezebel was not buried as was stated by Elisha through his messenger.

2 Kings 9:10 (ESV) And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, **and none shall bury her.**" Then he opened the door and fled.

4. Jehu had intended to bury her, but there was nothing left to bury.

2 Kings 9:35 (ESV) But when they went to bury her, they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands.

2 Kings 9:36 (ESV) When they came back and told him, he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite: 'In the territory of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel,

2 Kings 9:37 (ESV) **and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as dung on the face of the field in the territory of Jezreel, so that no one can say, This is Jezebel.'** "

- V. Jehu kills all 70 sons of Ahab in Jezreel in fulfilling God's judgment.

2 Kings 10:1 (ESV) **Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria.** So Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria, to the rulers of the city, to the elders, and to the guardians of the sons of Ahab, saying,

2 Kings 10:2 (ESV) "Now then, as soon as this letter comes to you, seeing your master's sons are with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, fortified cities also, and weapons,

2 Kings 10:3 (ESV) select the best and fittest of your master's sons and set him on his father's throne and fight for your master's house."

2 Kings 10:4 (ESV) But they were exceedingly afraid and said, "Behold, the two kings could not stand before him. How then can we stand?"

2 Kings 10:5 (ESV) So he who was over the palace, and he who was over the city, together with the elders and the guardians, sent to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, and we will do all that you tell us. We will not make anyone king. Do whatever is good in your eyes."

2 Kings 10:6 (ESV) Then he wrote to them a second letter, saying, "If you are on my side, and if you are ready to obey me, take the heads of your master's sons and come to me at Jezreel tomorrow at this time." **Now the king's sons, seventy persons,** were with the great men of the city, who were bringing them up.

2 Kings 10:7 (ESV) And as soon as the letter came to them, they took the king's sons **and slaughtered them, seventy persons,** and put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel.

2 Kings 10:8 (ESV) When the messenger came and told him, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," he said, "Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until the morning."

2 Kings 10:9 (ESV) Then in the morning, when he went out, he stood and said to all the people, "You are innocent. It was I who conspired against my master and killed him, but who struck down all these?"

- A. The lesson that is to be learned according to the text is that all of God's word will be fulfilled.

2 Kings 10:10 (ESV) **Know then that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the Lord,** which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab, **for the Lord has done what he said by his servant Elijah."**

- B. All that was stated was fulfilled. God's judgment was complete.

2 Kings 10:11 (ESV) So Jehu struck down all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, all his great men and his close friends and his priests, **until he left him none remaining.**

- VI. Jehu kills the relatives of Ahaziah, who was a son of Ahab, on Jehu's way to Samaria.

2 Kings 10:12 (ESV) **Then he set out and went to Samaria.** On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the Shepherds,

2 Kings 10:13 (ESV) **Jehu met the relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah,** and he said, "Who are you?" And they answered, **"We are the relatives of Ahaziah, and we came down to visit the royal princes and the sons of the queen mother."**

1 Kings 22:51 (ESV) **Ahaziah the son of Ahab began to reign over Israel** in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned two years over Israel.

1 Kings 22:52 (ESV) **He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.**

1 Kings 22:53 (ESV) **He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger in every way that his father had done.**

- A. All were killed.

2 Kings 10:14 (ESV) He said, "Take them alive." And they took them alive **and slaughtered them at the pit of Beth-eked, forty-two persons**, and he spared none of them

- B. The emphasis is that no one escaped God's judgment.

2 Kings 10:14 (ESV) He said, "Take them alive." And they took them alive and slaughtered them at the pit of Beth-eked, forty-two persons, **and he spared none of them**

- VII. Jehu kills all those who were descendants of Ahab in Samaria.

2 Kings 10:15 (ESV) And when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him. And he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart true to my heart as mine is to yours?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand. And Jehu took him up with him into the chariot.

- A. Jehu sees all that he is doing as carrying out God's judgment.

2 Kings 10:16 (ESV) And he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord." So he had him ride in his chariot.

- B. Again the stress is that the destruction of the judgment was total or complete.

2 Kings 10:17 (ESV) **And when he came to Samaria, he struck down all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had wiped them out**, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke to Elijah.

- C. Again we are reminded that all of this is in keeping with God's word to Elijah.

2 Kings 10:17 (ESV) And when he came to Samaria, he struck down all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had wiped them out, **according to the word of the Lord that he spoke to Elijah.**

VIII. Jehu slays all those who were followers of Baal.

2 Kings 10:18 (ESV) Then Jehu assembled all the people and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu will serve him much.

2 Kings 10:19 (ESV) Now therefore call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests. Let none be missing, for I have a great sacrifice to offer to Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu did it with cunning in order to destroy the worshipers of Baal.

2 Kings 10:20 (ESV) And Jehu ordered, "Sanctify a solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it.

2 Kings 10:21 (ESV) And Jehu sent throughout all Israel, and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. And they entered the house of Baal, and the house of Baal was filled from one end to the other.

2 Kings 10:22 (ESV) He said to him who was in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out the vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out the vestments for them.

2 Kings 10:23 (ESV) Then Jehu went into the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab, and he said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search, and see that there is no servant of the LORD here among you, but only the worshipers of Baal."

2 Kings 10:24 (ESV) Then they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had stationed eighty men outside and said, "The man who allows any of those whom I give into your hands to escape shall forfeit his life."

2 Kings 10:25 (ESV) **So as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guard and to the officers, "Go in and strike them down; let not a man escape." So when they put them to the sword, the guard and the officers cast them out and went into the inner room of the house of Baal,**

2 Kings 10:26 (ESV) **and they brought out the pillar that was in the house of Baal and burned it.**

2 Kings 10:27 (ESV) **And they demolished the pillar of Baal, and demolished the house of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day.**

2 Kings 10:28 (ESV) **Thus Jehu wiped out Baal from Israel.**

A. In all of this there were lessons that Jehu failed to learn.

2 Kings 10:29 (ESV) **But Jehu did not turn aside from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat**, which he made Israel to sin—that is, the golden calves that were in Bethel and in Dan.

- B. Once again we are reminded that God's judgment on the house of Ahab was fulfilled in accordance with God's will.

2 Kings 10:30 (ESV) And the LORD said to Jehu, "**Because you have done well in carrying out what is right in my eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart**, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel."

- C. But as God was patient in dealing with Ahab, so too God is patient in dealing with Jehu.

2 Kings 10:30 (ESV) And the LORD said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in carrying out what is right in my eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in my heart, **your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.**"

- D. Still, Jehu is unrepentant concerning his own sinfulness.

2 Kings 10:31 (ESV) **But Jehu was not careful to walk in the law of the LORD, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn from the sins of Jeroboam, which he made Israel to sin.**

- E. God continues to discipline Jehu and the inhabitants of Israel for their false worship.

2 Kings 10:32 (ESV) **In those days the LORD began to cut off parts of Israel. Hazael defeated them throughout the territory of Israel:**

2 Kings 10:33 (ESV) from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the Valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan.

This should have led them to repentance.

- F. God's word continues to be fulfilled. Jehu's son takes over after Jehu's death.

2 Kings 10:34 (ESV) Now the rest of the acts of Jehu and all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?

2 Kings 10:35 (ESV) So Jehu slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. **And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place.**

2 Kings 10:36 (ESV) The time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

IX. Conclusion:

- A. God will completely fulfill all future judgment just as He has past judgments.
- B. We are to learn from passages such as this the reality of God's judgment.
- C. We are not to be like those who believe that God will fulfill all His promises but God will not really carry out what He says concerning judgment.