

## Jehu continues his bloodbath, final demise and forgiveness

2 Kings 10

I found the English Standard Version to be very readable for this story.

Whenever I do courses, professional development or learn a new hobby I try to take something I can use immediately and something I can mull over. During this discussion try to pick one of each and share it with us at the end.

Q1 What was your initial and superficial first impressions when reading this chapter?

We were introduced to Jehu last week. These two chapters cover 28 yrs around 890BC, he ruled the northern kingdom.

Q2 What were his strengths and weaknesses? They may even overlap. (my thoughts are Dramatic, bold, intense zeal, politically ruthless, proud), any more?

Ahab had been warned but he didn't listen.

Q3 Do you think Jehu would have acted if Ahab's family had changed their behaviour and learned their lessons?

Even with all the evidence of God's goodness and power they did not ask for help or guidance. They went their own way v 4-5. Why do you think they did?

Q4 Did they (and do we) just accept our fate or could God's forgiveness be sought and, in their case, could mercy be sought from Jehu? Is Jesus' death a reminder and a reset for us to ask for help and mercy?

## Forgiveness Tangent

Q5 What does forgiveness look like, does God forgive? When you have forgiven you can no longer hold it against them. Is this the best summary? Would forgiveness have changed the outcome for Ahab's family?

We see history repeating itself over centuries including Israel now and it's pretty negative and hopeless. But from a glass half full person, the good stuff of history repeats too.

Q6 Is this part of the story good or bad or a bit of both?

Even though God commissioned Jehu to destroy Ahab's family and probably Azariah's too he did punish Jehu by cutting off parts of the kingdom. Do you think they noticed? Is this important?

### Jehu and the temple of Baal verses 18-29

Q7 Do you think it is ever fair to trick people the way Jehu did by pretending to be the "best ever" worshipper of Baal (sound like someone else we know who uses superlatives freely)? Is this God's way?

God sticks to His promises and His consequences. In this story he let Jehu's family rule for 4 generations, Jehu for 28yrs and what a lot of killing he did in that time.

When reflecting on this story my powerful moment came when I read comments about Jehu's "divided heart" v31. By following God's instructions, he was rewarded with 4 generations of kingship, but he refused to fully obey God by not turning from Jeroboam's influence. I realised times when my "divided heart" allowed me to make poor decisions. This was my takeaway and it hit me as I was falling asleep after reading the chapter, it was a real jolt I AM a Jehu too. Would anyone else like to comment?

Q8 What was your immediate take away and what was your mull over take away?

I am thankful for all of you and your support in the prep and the unfolding of this discussion.