

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Last week we saw the bitter fruit of the apostasy of the N. Kingdom

1. Generally

- a. The apostasy of the N. Kingdom of Israel was her turning away from the true worship of God and her rejecting the promise of salvation from the house of David.
- b. Of all the kings of Israel two things are true: They were all wicked & none of them from D

2. Specifically

- a. The adoption of a new religion with almost no opposition despite God's clear warning.
- b. The murder of several kings of Israel (e.g. Baasha murdered Nadab; Zimri murdered Elah)
- c. Drunkenness (Elah) and suicide (Zimri)

B. Ahab was an especially wicked king

1. It was bad enough that Ahab worshipped the CG but he married Jezebel and she brought Baal worship to Israel.

- a. God sent Elijah the prophet to warn Ahab. God punished Israel with famine.
- b. God showed His power over Baal by sending fire on Mt. Carmel but the people still did not turn to the Lord.
- c. Ahab killed the servants of the Lord and remember Naboth and his vineyard.

2. God said that He would destroy the whole family of Ahab.

- a. Ahab himself died in a battle. He heard the prophecy of God and tried to escape death by disguising himself but an arrow shot him, and the dogs licked his blood in Jezreel.
- b. After Ahab's death, Ahab's son, Ahaziah became king but he was wicked like his father.

3. Ahaziah fell through a window and hurt himself and he sent messengers to ask of the God Beelzebub.

- a. On the way, his messengers were stopped by the prophet Elijah. He told them to go back to his master and tell him, "Is it because there is no God in Israel that you go to Baal."
- b. When Ahaziah heard this, he asked his men, "Who said that to you." They described him and he knew it was Elijah.
- c. He sent fifty men and a captain to capture Elijah ("Thou man of God, the king has said, Come down"). The first two captains and fifties were burned up with fire from heaven. The third captain begged for mercy and Elijah came to the king and told him he would die and he died.

4. After Ahaziah died, his brother Jehoram became king.

- a. Jehoram like his brother was wicked. When he was fighting the Syrians he was injured.
- b. He did not die in battle as his father Ahab had done, but he came back to recover.

II. THE DESTRUCTION OF AHAB'S HOUSE (God was angry with the house of Ahab and he chose a man in Israel to destroy that house just as He had destroyed Jeroboam's and Baasha's houses before)

A. The man chosen by God to destroy Ahab's house was JEHU.

1. Elisha the prophet sent a young prophet to anoint Jehu king of Israel.

- a. Elisha's instructions: go to the battle and look for a man called Jehu; anoint him with oil and as soon as you have done so, run!.
- b. The young prophet went to the battlefield where Jehu the captain of army of the king of Israel was and he said, "I have a message from the LORD."

2. The message of the LORD for Jehu was this: read II Kings 9:6-10

- a. After this the young prophet ran away back to his master, Elisha.
- b. When the people heard that God had made Jehu king they followed him.

B. Jehu did what God said. He killed all the family of Ahab.

1. The King of Israel, Ahab's son (Jehoram) was recovering in the city.

- a. Suddenly the king saw a chariot in the distance coming quickly; when he knew it was the chariot of Jehu, he thought there must be news from the battle
- b. The king sent three messengers and they all got the same answer, the king (Jehoram) came out. He asked the same Q: "Is it peace?" But Jehu answered, "How can there be peace so long as wicked Queen Jezebel's sins are so many" (II K. 9:22).

- c. With that answer Jehoram realized that he was in danger and then Jehoram tried to run but Jehu drew his bow with full strength and smote Jehoram & killed him with arrow thru heart! (II Kings 9:24); and threw him into the field of Naboth.
 - 2. **The King of Judah, Ahab's grandson (Ahaziah) was visiting the King of Israel.**
 - a. When he saw what had happened he tried to run away too, but Jehu killed him.
 - b. The servants of the King of Judah carried him away dead to Jerusalem.
 - 3. **Next Jehu killed wicked Queen Jezebel.**
 - a. Jezebel heard that Jehu had come back; she painted her face and looked out the window.
 - b. Jezebel's servants throw her out the window and her blood spattered on the walls
 - c. When he came out of the house he wanted to bury her but what had happened to her body (the dogs had eaten her except for her skull and feet and hands, nothing was left!).
 - 4. **Ahab's son, grandson & wife were killed but Ahab had other family: 70 sons living in Samaria.**
 - a. Jehu wrote to Samaria and the men of Samaria was afraid b/c of what Jehu had done to the two kings. They agreed to do whatever Jehu asked.
 - b. What did Jehu ask? He asked that the elders of Samaria send him the heads of Ahab's sons: so the 70 sons of Ahab were beheaded and their heads sent in two baskets to Jezreel: Jehu put them in two heaps at the gate of the city.
- C. Jehu even destroyed the worship of Baal in Israel.**
- 1. **What he did**
 - a. Jehu pretended to be a worshipper of Baal: he said, "Ahab served Baal a little, but Jehu shall serve him much" (II K. 10:18) and he called all the worshippers of Baal together for a special sacrifice to Baal.
 - b. When all the priests and worshippers of Baal were there he ordered his men to kill them all and he destroyed the temple of Baal and made it into a toilet (II Kings 10:27).
 - 2. **What this means**
 - a. God promised to Jehu that his family would be on Israel's throne for 4 generations.
 - b. But did Jehu serve God? He destroyed Baal but he still followed the sin of Jeroboam.
 - c. Did Jehu do a good work? But did Jehu really obey God? No, he did what he was told but he was wicked and did not do it because he loved God. Illustrate: Your mother asks you to make your bed and you go and do it but you grumble and complain and don't want to do it. Did you obey?

III. THE END OF THE N. KINGDOM

A. Generally

- 1. As God had promised there were 4 generations of Jehu on Israel's throne: 1) Jehoahaz 2) Joash 3) Jeroboam II and 4) Zechariah. The last of Jehu's line, Zechariah ruled for only 6 months and he was killed in public.
- 2. Shallum murdered Zechariah and he only ruled for one month b/c Menahem killed him.
- 3. The last king was Hoshea who had murdered the king before him. God brought Assyria against Israel and when Hoshea looked for help from Egypt Assyria took Hoshea prisoner and destroyed Israel. What a sad end for Israel.

B. Why did God destroy Israel?

- 1. Apostasy: they left the house of David through which would come salvation
- 2. Idolatry: they worshipped other gods
- 3. Impenitence: they refused to listen to the prophets of God
- 4. Next week we look at Judah and we see that things there were not a lot better.

The Kings of the Northern Kingdom (Israel)

Jeroboam, Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Jehoram (Joram), Jehu, Jehoahaz, Joash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekariah, Pekah, Hoshea