

2 Kings 9:11–13:9:

Jehu – Jehoahaz

Lesson 5

Key Verse

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

—Proverbs 4:23

Key Verse Thought: As you read the Key verse for this lesson, use the following definitions to help you understand it a little better.

- **keep:** guard; protect; preserve
- **heart:** the center; the totality of man's inner nature; the place where wisdom and understanding reside

We are to be very careful of what we allow into our hearts. We should protect not only the nature (character, or attributes) but also the wisdom that we allow into our hearts. Why? What we allow into our heart is the source for the kind of life we live; the kind of person we become. That is one reason why when someone becomes saved; we say they have asked Jesus into their heart.

Be encouraged to consider your heart as the place where a special treasure is kept — a place to be well guarded. It would also be good to understand the importance of placing God's Word into your heart (see Psalm 119:11).

Emphasis: We are to learn from the failings of King Jehu. We are to keep our hearts with all diligence — always continuously hiding God's Word in our hearts so we will know what to do (unlike King Jehu).

Lesson Summary: As we begin this lesson, we must remember that Jehoram (also called Joram) reigned in Israel. Elisha had sent one of the prophets to anoint a new king of Israel, Jehu, even while Jehoram was still king. When Jehu was anointed, he was also given a very grave message. He was to kill Ahab's entire household.

We will see the process that Jehu followed being established as the new king of Israel. Jehu went to Jezreel and killed King Jehoram (and Ahaziah, king of Judah, who was visiting King Jehoram). He continued by having Jezebel killed. Ahab had 70 sons living in Samaria, and they

were also killed. Jehu did not stop there, he continued by killing every Baal worshiper in Israel. He then had all of the images burned, and they broke down the house of Baal. When Jehu died, we find his son, Jehoahaz, becomes the twelfth king of Israel. He reigned for 17 years in Israel, and “followed the sins of Jeroboam.” It was a greatly oppressed nation while he was king. When he died, his son, Joash (Jehoash), became the thirteenth king of Israel.

As we read about all of the good that Jehu did, we will find an area in which he miserably failed. This is to be a lesson to us.

Suggested Bible Reading to Prepare for This Lesson

- Monday: 2 Kings 9
- Tuesday: 2 Kings 10
- Wednesday: 2 Kings 11
- Thursday: 2 Kings 12
- Friday: 2 Kings 13
- Saturday: Proverbs 28

2 Kings 9:11–13:9:

Jehu — Jehoahaz

1. Jehu, King of Israel
 - Jehu anointed as king: 2 Kings 9:11-13
 - Jehu kills two kings: 2 Kings 9:14-37
 - Jehu destroyed Ahab’s sons, household, and Baal worship: 2 Kings 10:1-30
2. Jehu’s Failure
 - Departed not from the sins of Jeroboam: 2 Kings 10:31
 - Hazael, king of Syria, smote Israel: 2 Kings 10:32-33
 - Jehu’s death: 2 Kings 10:34-36
3. Jehoahaz, King of Israel
 - Jehoahaz becomes king: 2 Kings 13:1
 - Jehoahaz’s reign: 2 Kings 13:2-9

Note: In our last lesson, we saw many who “patiently” (with perseverance) obeyed God’s Words, sometimes when they did not even understand. As we begin this lesson we remember that when Ahaziah, Ahab’s son, fell through the lattice, he did not recover but died. His brother Jehoram (also called Joram) reigned in his stead because Ahaziah had no son. We ended our last lesson with a new king anointed: Jehu. He was then given a very grave command. “7. *And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.* 8. *For the whole house of Ahab shall perish: and I will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel:* 9. *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:* 10. *And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the portion of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her...*” (2 Kings 9:7–10a).

1. Jehu, King of Israel: 2 Kings 9:11 – 10:30

Remember that in our last lesson, Elisha called one of the prophets and sent him to anoint a new king of Israel, Jehu. That prophet obeyed Elisha. He took Jehu into an inner chamber (away from everyone), and he poured the box of oil on Jehu’s head. He then said, “*Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel*” (2 Kings 9:3). After Jehu was anointed, he was given the rest of the message (2 Kings 9:7–10). It was more than just a message; it was a command. He was to utterly destroy the house of Ahab (the king’s family). He was also told that Jezebel (who had been Ahab’s wife), would be eaten by the dogs — no one would bury her. After the prophet finished his message, he ran out of the door.

Jehu went back to where his servants were together, and everyone asked about the mad man who appeared and what did he say. Jehu told them that he had just been anointed the new king of Israel, they all took off their coats putting them under him on the top of the stairs, and blew the trumpets — announcing Jehu as king.

Therefore, Jehu conspired against Joram (also called Jehoram). King Joram had gone to Jezreel to heal of the wounds he had received in battle with the Syrians. Jehu warned that no one was to go and warn King Joram, and he went to Jezreel. Ahaziah, king of Judah, was visiting King Joram. The watchman of the city saw a company coming, and he thought it must be Jehu. He sent word to King Joram. There were two different messengers sent to meet the company —

but neither returned. The kings prepared to flee. As they fled, they ran into Jehu "... and met him in the portion of Naboth ..." (2 Kings 9:21). King Joram asked, "*Is it peace, Jehu?*" (2 Kings 9:22). Jehu responded, "*What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?*" (2 Kings 9:22b). [Remember back to a verse we learned about in the book of Exodus. "*Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live*" (Exodus 22:18).]

King Joram turned and fled, warning King Ahaziah. "*And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and smote Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot*" (2 Kings 9:24). Jehu told his captain to take King Jehoram's body and cast him into Naboth's vineyard; remembering that God had said he would requite for that piece of land (remember it was stolen by Jezebel for King Ahab). When Ahaziah, king of Judah, fled, Jehu followed him and told his men to kill him also. He died in Megiddo, and he was taken to Jerusalem to be buried in the sepulcher with his fathers.

When Jehu went to Jezreel, Jezebel heard. She painted her face, looked out of the window, and said, "*Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?*" (2 Kings 9:31b). Remember back for a minute. When Zimri became king, the Lord commanded him to kill the entire house of Baasha (a former king). But also remember that Zimri was only king for 7 days. When the people heard that he killed Elah to become king, they made Omri king instead. They then besieged Tirzah, and Zimri set fire to the king's house and died. However, Jehu was not afraid to obey God. He called up to the window and asked, "*Who is on my side? who?*" (2 Kings 9:32). Two or three eunuchs looked out of the window. When they did, he said, "*Throw her down*" (2 Kings 9:33). So they threw her down "*and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot*" (2 Kings 9:33). He then went in, ate, and drank and said, "*Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter*" (2 Kings 9:34). 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 9:35). Jehu remembered the word of the Lord by His prophet Elijah, "... *In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37. And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel*" (2 Kings 9:36-37). There was nothing left to bury.

Ahab had 70 sons in Samaria. Jehu wrote letters to the rulers of Samaria.

2. Now as soon as this letter cometh to you, seeing your master's sons *are* with you, and *there are* with you chariots and horses, a fenced city also, and armour; 3. Look even out the best and meetest of your master's sons, and set *him* on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house. (2 Kings 10:2–3)

They were to choose one of Ahab's sons to become their king and fight for his throne. However, they knew that Jehu had already killed two kings, and they were afraid. All of the rulers agreed, "*We are thy servants, and will do all that thou shalt bid us; we will not make any king: do thou that which is good in thine eyes*" (2 Kings 10:5). Jehu wrote another letter — he wanted the heads of all 70 of Ahab's sons brought to Jezreel by the next day at that time (2 Kings 10:6). As soon as they received the letter from Jehu, "... *they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel*" (2 Kings 10:7). Jehu had the men put the heads of the king's sons into two heaps by the entrance of the gate until the morning. The next morning, he went and stood before the people and said, "... *Ye be righteous: behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him: but who slew all these? 10. Know now that there shall fall unto the earth nothing of the word of the LORD, which the LORD spake concerning the house of Ahab: for the LORD hath done that which he spake by his servant Elijah*" (2 Kings 10:9b-10). For that reason, Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab and all of his friends and priests — until none were left alive.

Jehu went to Samaria and met with the brethren of Ahaziah, king of Judah. They were on their way to visit the family of Ahab and Jezebel. Jehu commanded his men to take them and kill all 42 of them.

Jehu gathered all of the people and said, "*Ahab served Baal a little; but Jehu shall serve him much*" (2 Kings 10:18b). He called all of the prophets of Baal, all of the servants, and all of the priests together. He told them he had a great sacrifice to do to Baal. "*But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal*" (2 Kings 10:19b). When all of the Baal worshipers gathered, and not one was missing, Jehu went and had the men check to be sure that there were no servants of the Lord present — only Baal worshipers. Jehu appointed 80 men outside of the building and said, "*If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, he that letteth him go, his life shall be for the life of him*" (2 Kings 10:24b). As soon as

the offering was made Jehu said to the guards and captains, “Go in, *and slay them; let none come forth*” (2 Kings 10:25). Every Baal worshiper was killed. Then the men brought out the images, burned them, and broke down the house of Baal.

“Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel” (2 Kings 10:28).

2. Jehu’s Failure: 2 Kings 10:31-36

Because Jehu obeyed God’s words in destroying the house of Ahab, his children would sit upon the throne of Israel until the fourth generation.

“Howbeit *from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, Jehu departed not from after them, to wit, the golden calves that were in Bethel, and that were in Dan*” (2 Kings 10:29). Nevertheless, Jehu did not walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all of his heart. With all of the good Jehu did for the nation, he did not remove the worship of idols (the golden calves in Bethel and Dan). “But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin” (2 Kings 10:31). The words *took no heed* are quite important. They mean: “to not observe God’s commands; to not keep or guard or protect.”

“In those days the LORD began to cut Israel short....” We notice that the kingdom was not at peace from the enemies around. “... [A]nd Hazael smote them in all the coasts of Israel ...” (2 Kings 10:32).

Jehu reigned over Israel for 28 years. “And Jehu slept with his fathers: and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his stead” (2 Kings 10:35).

A Deeper Path: The words **took no heed** are the same words as **kept not** we see in 1 Kings 11:10: “And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.” His sin was the same as King Solomon’s, not keeping that which the Lord commanded — the sin that caused the divided kingdom. Remember today’s Key verse: “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are the issues of life*” (Proverbs 4:23). Jehu did not have in his heart all he needed to complete what he started. Remember back to King David. He wanted to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the city of Jerusalem. Nevertheless, he did it wrong the first time, and Uzzah died. Instead of staying angry with God, he sought God to find out what he had done wrong (1 Chronicles 15:13). When

he obeyed God's Word, they brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, rejoicing (2 Samuel 6). David sought to please God with all of his heart — and the kings were compared back to him.

We should learn something very important from Jehu's life. In spite of all of the good he did for God in the removing of Baal worship in the land of Israel, he did not “guard” his heart. Instead of putting away all idol worship, he kept the form that had previously been established as the worship of God (the golden calves in Dan and Bethel). If he had sought God's Word, he would have found the truth. Just look at the first two of the Ten Commandments (“3. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.* 4. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing...*” Exodus 20:3-4a). Notice that Jehu was compared back to King Jeroboam, “which led Israel to sin.”

When we give our hearts and lives to God (ask Jesus in our hearts), we must do it completely — not keeping any part back for ourselves. We must do it as God commands, not the way we “think” or the way someone tells us. We must look into God's Word to see what is required.

3. Jehoahaz, King of Israel: 2 Kings 13:1-9

“1b...Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned seventeen years.* 2. *And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel to sin; he departed not therefrom*” (2 Kings 13:1–2). He, like his father, did not depart from the sin that Jeroboam established when he made the golden calves and set up worship in Dan and Bethel. “*And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel...*” (2 Kings 13:3a). God allowed them to be delivered into the hands of their enemies; Hazael, king of Syria, and Benhadad, Hazael's son. Jehoahaz prayed to the Lord — and the Lord listened to him because of the oppression of Israel. God sent one to deliver them from their enemies “... *and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime*” 2 Kings 13:5b). However, the people still did not return from their sin (the sins of the house of Jeroboam).

We find that God only left 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 footmen (soldiers); “... *for the king of Syria had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust by threshing*” (2 Kings 13:7b).

“*And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria: and Joash his son reigned in his stead*” (2 Kings 13:9).

2 Kings 9:11 – 13:9 at a Glance:

Chapter 9:11–37: Jehu made king while Joram (Jehoram – king of Israel) was still in Jezreel recovering; Jehu went to Jehoram as he recovered; Jehu shot Jehoram with an arrow, killing him and throwing him upon the land of Naboth and Ahaziah fled, but was killed, too; Jehu proceeded to Jezreel, stopped at the foot of Jezebel's window and told the eunuchs to throw her down – they did; he sent word to bury her, but the dogs had already eaten all but her skull, feet, and the palms of her hands — fulfilling Elijah's prophecy

Chapter 10: Jehu sent letters demanding the heads of all 70 of Ahab's sons – and the people sent all 70 heads in baskets to Jezreel – also fulfilling Elijah's prophecy; Jehu killed all that remained of Ahab's household; Jehu called all of the Baal worshippers together, and had them all killed, burned the images of Baal – thus destroying Baal out of Israel (for this, God promised 4 generations would reign); but he continued in the sin of Jeroboam by worshiping the golden calves at Bethel and Dan; Jehu reigned 28 years, died, and his son, Jehoahaz reigned in his stead

Chapter 11: Joash (Jehoash) spared (in Judah) then made king; Baal removed from Judah; Athaliah killed

Chapter 12: Jehoash's reforms in Judah; Amaziah, his son reigned afterward (in Judah)

Chapter 13:1–9: Jehoahaz, son of Jehu, reigned over Israel for 17 years; did evil in the sight of the Lord as Jeroboam had and “the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel”; God delivered them into the hand of Hazael, king of Syria; Jehoahaz besought the Lord, God delivered them but allowed a great destruction, yet they departed not from the sins of Jeroboam; Jehoahaz died & his son, Joash (Jehoash), became king

Reinforcement: Just as we saw King Jehu's great works (the removing of Baal worship), we also saw his great failure ("But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the LORD God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin" 2 Kings 10:31). For that, he was *not* considered a good king.

Remember in the New Testament when Paul was preaching Jesus to those in Ephesus. For two years they won many to Jesus and many miracles were done (many people were healed & evil spirits were cast out). But along with that came some who were not Christians yet tried to do the works Paul had done (cast out evil spirits). When they tried, they were worse off than before because the evil spirits they had tried to cast out, instead came upon them (Acts 19:13–16). See what happened next: "17. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. 18. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. 19. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all *men*: and they counted the price of them, and found *it* fifty thousand *pieces* of silver. 20. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed" (Acts 19:17–20). The people recognized the difference between true salvation and a false practice. Notice something very important. These people did not add Jesus to their other things (practices); they took their old things (*curious arts* means "black arts; or magic") and burned them before all — it didn't matter the financial loss. They destroyed them so that those things would not be a part of their lives anymore. We are to put the old things of our old life to death (Colossians 3:5).

Just think what kind of a king Jehu would have been if he had sought God's commands and fully changed his heart, and then led the nation to do the same.

Closing: It would be good to close with a short prayer reinforcing today's lesson. Always include any prayer requests you may have. *Today, pray we will not put bad things inside our hearts, only things that are good and right: "... whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things"* (Philippians 4:8).