



table talk

3/8/26

Jehu and the Revival That Didn't Happen

Jehu was a truly unique King in Israel. The tenth king since Jeroboam I, he reigned in the northern kingdom of Israel from 842 B.C. until 815 B.C. His story is told in 2 Kings 9 & 10 and Hosea 1.

Jehu is notable because of his zeal and success in obliterating the house of Omri, specifically Ahab and Jezebel. In fact, he went to great lengths to exterminate those with any tie to Ahab, perhaps even exceeding the command of the Lord. That story is remembered as the Massacre at Jezreel.

He obliterated many pagan shrines and altars throughout the land, but, unfortunately, he did allow some altars to remain in Dan and Bethel. His rule was considered a time of return to Yahweh, but there was a problem.

Jehu may have been a man on the right side of cultural and religious issues, but we aren't sure his heart belonged fully to the Lord. It can be confusing trying to read the mixed signals. He was appointed by God, encountered Godly counsel, and stood for the abolition of sinful and idolatrous practices Israel had fallen into – especially under the leadership of Ahab, Jezebel and their sons. God even allowed his sons to reign for decades because the House of Omri was destroyed.

But this is where it gets foggy. Hosea the Prophet (1:4,5) declared God would judge the House of Jehu for the slaughter at Jezreel.

There are at least four possible explanations:

1. Jehu may have acted for selfish motives. The slaughter may have been primarily to strengthen his own claim to the throne and to eliminate any other contenders.
2. Jehu may not have been concerned about the Holiness of God reaching into his own heart and life. Jehu sided with Yahweh but only as it served his own purposes.
3. Jehu may have failed to complete God's destiny for his kingdom.
4. Jehu understood the political dynamic but misunderstood the

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spiritual one.

He never fully cleansed the land. Chapter 10 reports that for all the good he did, he stopped far short of what God intended. It can be said that Jehu did the will of God, but on his own terms.

Also, the fruit of Jehu was mixed. The House of Omri was judged and removed. Israel was primed for its first revival since the civil war divided her into two Kingdoms. They had experienced demonstrations of Divine power under the ministries of Elisha and Elijah. Justice was reintroduced by vengeance for the sin of Ahab and Jezebel against Naboth.

But there is absolutely no indication that the people ever truly turned to the Lord. There was a brief moment at Mt. Carmel, but there was no significant follow through. Perhaps they felt their “vote for God” against Baal had put everything right. Hadn’t they shouted loud and long? “The Lord He is God! The Lord He is God!” But it appears there was no real substantive change to life in Israel.

This may be a good time for Americans to ask this difficult question:

Am I, and my House, truly following the Lord fully and faithfully? Am I trusting in a prophet to win a vote at Carmel? Am I putting my trust the House of Jehu or of Omri, instead of the House of the Lord?

Hear me, Brothers and Sisters. Are you trusting politics, economics or corrupt systems to save the day and bring true change? Any “House” other than the Lord’s will fall as surely as did Omri’s and even Jehu’s.

Today, it’s time for every one of us to decide:

“Now, if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the river or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

I love you,
Pastor Stephen