

The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #41 | Jehu Kills Ahab's Seventy Sons and Their Servants

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

2 Kings 10:1-5

1 And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, unto the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to them that brought up Ahab's children, saying,

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.

4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, Behold, two kings stood not before him: how then shall we stand?

5 And he that was over the house, and he that was over the city, the elders also, and the bringers up of the children, sent to Jehu, saying, 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.

1. It is most probable that the word, "sons", in this passage refers to both sons and g ____ s. Scripture tells us that Ahab had _____ sons in _____. These were the ones whom God wanted to be cut off. All these sons were taken care of by rulers and elders. They acted as g _____ of Ahab's children and grandchildren. 2 Kings 10:5 uses the phrase, "the bringers up of the children", which tells us that these seventy sons were still young children who were dependent on care-takers for livelihood, food, and shelter. They were y ____ children, not grown-ups!

2. So Ahab sent out letters to all the guardians and challenged them. What was the challenge?

☐ Choose the best of all the seventy sons, anoint him as king, and fight Jehu!

☐ Choose the best of all the seventy sons, anoint him as captain of the army, and fight Jehu

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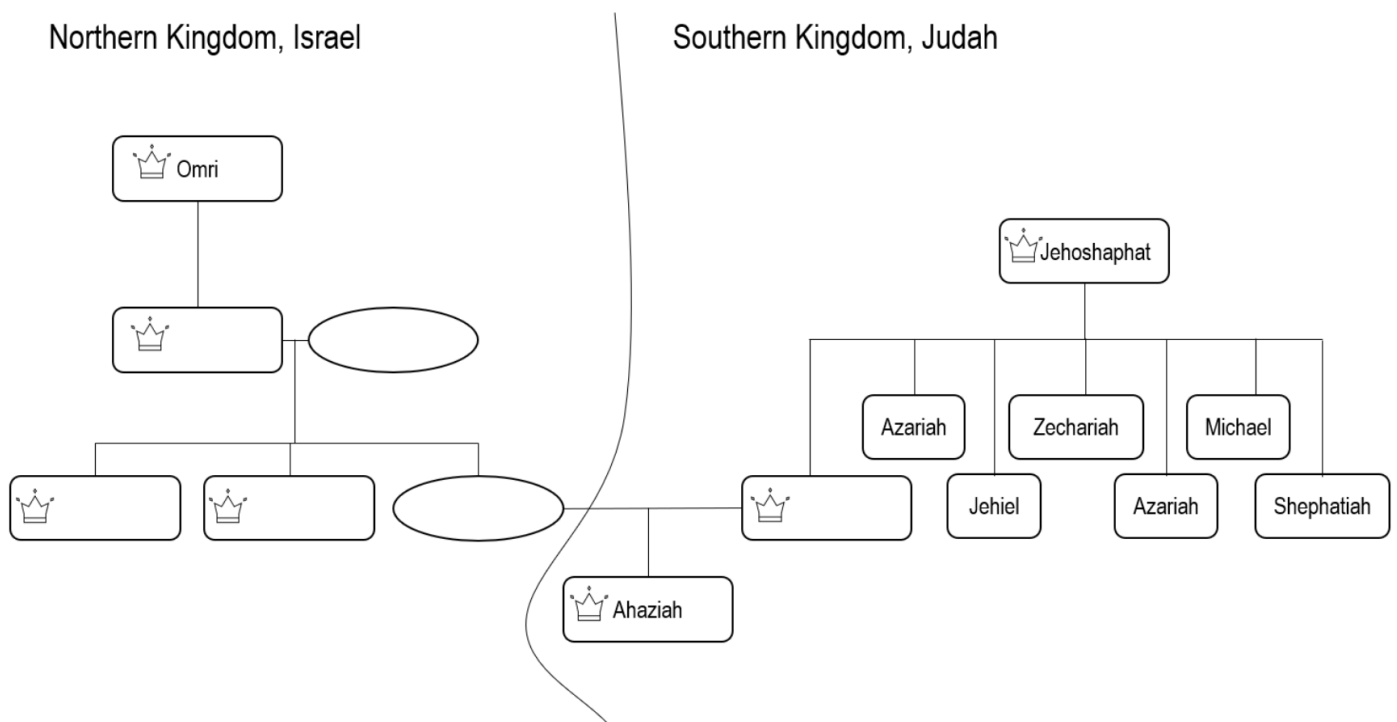
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3. The rulers of Jezreel and elders of Samaria who acted as guardians of Ahab's seventy sons, were exceedingly _____ of Jehu and the challenge he posed. They reasoned, "Behold, two kings stood not before him: how then shall we stand?". Who were these two kings that did not stand a chance with Jehu?

4. If Joram (9th king of _____) and Ahaziah (6th king of _____), the best of Ahab's sons, were defeated and killed by Jehu, none of Ahab's seventy sons would be able to defend the throne of Ahab! Thus they replied Jehu that they would not dare to defend the throne, but would rather serve Jehu as his s_____s.

5. Let's remind ourselves: how was Ahaziah, a king of Judah, connected to Ahab, a king of Israel? Fill in the names in the family tree below, and fill in the blanks below to explain their relationship:



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6. Ahaziah was the _____ of Ahab through _____. In other words, Ahab was Ahaziah's _____ grandfather.

2 Kings 10:6-7

6 Then he wrote a letter the second time to them, saying, If ye be mine, and if ye will hearken unto my voice, take ye the heads of the men your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by to morrow this time. Now the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, which brought them up.

7 And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel.

7. Jehu left the killing of Ahab's seventy sons to the elders and rulers. To prove their loyalty to Jehu, they themselves would have to kill all that were in the bloodline of Ahab and bring their _____ in _____. What a shocking and sad day, for in a short span of time, seventy children were be _____! What a gruesome and bloody mess, for seventy baskets containing seventy heads, dripping with blood, were brought to Jehu!

2 Kings 10:8-10

8 And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning.

9 And it came to pass in the morning, that he went out, and stood, and said to all the people, 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.

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8. The next day, Jehu turns against the elders and rulers of the city and accuses them of beheading the seventy sons of Ahab, making Jehu's murder of A _____, J _____ and J _____ less grievous because 70 beheadings certainly are more gruesome than 3 deaths. Jehu feigns ignorance, and tells the people, "Ye be righteous: behold, I conspired against my master, and slew him: but who slew all these?" (2 Kings 10:9)

Jehu uses the description, "righteous", in a s _____ c way. Rephrasing Jehu's words, Jehu want the people to see the two heaps of heads for themselves and make a f _____ judgement on who was more guilty: the elders and rules who killed seventy, or Jehu who killed three? It seems that Jehu was more righteous, but in fact, Jehu was guilty of killing them all! Jehu pushes the blame on the servants of Ahab to show the people that even the servants of Ahab were willing to betray their master, Ahab, by killing his seventy sons and grandsons. The servants of Ahab were no longer l _____ to Ahab, but now their loyalties were shifted to Jehu. Jehu thus proclaims to everyone that all this was in fulfilment of God's prophecy through _____ the prophet.

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2 Kings 10:11-14

11 So Jehu slew all that remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinsfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

12 And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. And as he was at the shearing house in the way,

13 Jehu met with the brethren of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, Who are ye? And they answered, We are the brethren of Ahaziah; and we go down to salute the children of the king and the children of the queen.

14 And he said, Take them alive. And they took them alive, and slew them at the pit of the shearing house, even two and forty men; neither left he any of them.

9. After Jehu ordered the killing of Ahab's seventy sons, who else did he kill? Tick the correct category of people and describe them in the lines beside.

☐ Ahab's great men.

☐ Ahab's servants.

☐ Ahab's kinsfolks.

☐ Ahab's army.

☐ Ahab's priests.

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10. When Ahab was at the shearing house on the way to Samaria, he met with _____ brethren of Ahaziah, king of Judah. In 2 Chronicles 22:8, we read that this group of brethren included _____ of Judah and the _____ of the _____ of Ahaziah. What happened to the brothers of Ahaziah? In 1 Chronicles 22:1, a group of _____ attackers had killed all the brothers of Ahaziah! So this group of 42 brethren comprised princes and the sons of the brothers of Ahaziah.

These brethren did not know that Ahaziah was dead. So swiftly had Jehu killed the house of Ahab, the queen, and all his descendants, that none knew about their deaths and the _____ in which Jehu started in the kingdom! They thought they were all still alive! Jehu thus ordered that all of them were to be killed, and they were all slain at the _____ of the shearing house.

2 Kings 10:15-17

15 And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.

16 And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot.

17 And when he came to Samaria, he slew all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the LORD, which he spake to Elijah.

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11. Who is Jehonadab the son of Rechab?

- Descended from _____, Moses' _____ - in-law
- Became p _____ in Israel - they were not descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but they believed in the God of Israel and obeyed God's commandments.
- Lived in Israel, but a _____ people from them
- They had their name from a man called Rechab, also the same as the K _____ . (Judges 1:16).
- They are called the R _____ . (Jeremiah 35:2)
- Jehonadab was respected as a wise man in their family, and he insisted that they family would drink no _____. (Jeremiah 35:6)
- They were a unique people who did not build houses for themselves, but lived in _____. (Jeremiah 35:7)
- Jehonadab means "God is _____".

12. By God's divine appointment, the paths of Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab crossed, and after they saluted each other, Jehonadab asked, "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?" (2 Kings 10:15). This means:

13. Jehu invited Jehonadab into his chariot, and said, "Come with me and see my ____ for the LORD". And when he came to _____, he slew all that remained unto Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the LORD, which he spake to Elijah.