

2 Kings 9:1-37

Jehu Anointed King of Israel

9 The prophet Elisha summoned a man from the company of the prophets and said to him, "Tuck your cloak into your belt, take this flask of olive oil with you and go to Ramoth Gilead. **2** When you get there, look for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi. Go to him, get him away from his companions and take him into an inner room. **3** Then take the flask and pour the oil on his head and declare, 'This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.' Then open the door and run; don't delay!"

4 So the young prophet went to Ramoth Gilead. **5** When he arrived, he found the army officers sitting together. "I have a message for you, commander," he said.

"For which of us?" asked Jehu.

"For you, commander," he replied.

6 Jehu got up and went into the house. Then the prophet poured the oil on Jehu's head and declared, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anoint you king over the LORD's people Israel. **7** You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the LORD's servants shed by Jezebel. **8** The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. **9** I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah. **10** As for Jezebel, dogs will devour her on the plot of ground at Jezreel, and no one will bury her.'" Then he opened the door and ran.

¹¹ When Jehu went out to his fellow officers, one of them asked him, "Is everything all right? Why did this maniac come to you?"

"You know the man and the sort of things he says," Jehu replied.

¹² "That's not true!" they said. "Tell us."

Jehu said, "Here is what he told me: 'This is what the LORD says: I anoint you king over Israel.'"

¹³ They quickly took their cloaks and spread them under him on the bare steps. Then they blew the trumpet and shouted, "Jehu is king!"

Jehu Kills Joram and Ahaziah

¹⁴ So Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram. (Now Joram and all Israel had been defending Ramoth Gilead against Hazael king of Aram, ¹⁵ but King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds the Arameans had inflicted on him in the battle with Hazael king of Aram.) Jehu said, "If you desire to make me king, don't let anyone slip out of the city to go and tell the news in Jezreel." ¹⁶ Then he got into his chariot and rode to Jezreel, because Joram was resting there and Ahaziah king of Judah had gone down to see him.

¹⁷ When the lookout standing on the tower in Jezreel saw Jehu's troops approaching, he called out, "I see some troops coming."

"Get a horseman," Joram ordered. "Send him to meet them and ask, 'Do you come in peace?'"

¹⁸ The horseman rode off to meet Jehu and said, "This is what the king says: 'Do you come in peace?'"

"What do you have to do with peace?" Jehu replied. "Fall in behind me."

The lookout reported, "The messenger has reached them, but he isn't coming back."

¹⁹ So the king sent out a second horseman. When he came to them, he said, "This is what the king says: 'Do you come in peace?'"

Jehu replied, "What do you have to do with peace? Fall in behind me."

²⁰ The lookout reported, "He has reached them, but he isn't coming back either. The driving is like that of Jehu son of Nimshi—he drives like a maniac."

²¹ "Hitch up my chariot," Joram ordered. And when it was hitched up, Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah rode out, each in his own chariot, to meet Jehu. They met him at the plot of ground that had belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite. ²² When Joram saw Jehu he asked, "Have you come in peace, Jehu?"

"How can there be peace," Jehu replied, "as long as all the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?"

²³ Joram turned about and fled, calling out to Ahaziah, "Treachery, Ahaziah!"

²⁴ Then Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders. The arrow pierced his heart and he slumped down in his chariot. ²⁵ Jehu said to Bidkar, his chariot officer, "Pick him up and throw him on the field that belonged to Naboth the Jezreelite. Remember how you and I were riding together in chariots behind Ahab his father when the LORD spoke this prophecy against him: ²⁶ 'Yesterday I saw the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons, declares the LORD, and I will surely make you pay for it on this plot of ground, declares the LORD.' Now then, pick him up and throw him on that plot, in accordance with the word of the LORD."

²⁷ When Ahaziah king of Judah saw what had happened, he fled up the road to Beth Haggan. Jehu chased him, shouting, "Kill him too!" They wounded him in his chariot on the way up to Gur near Ibleam, but he escaped to Megiddo and died there. ²⁸ His servants took him by chariot to Jerusalem and buried him with his ancestors in his tomb in the City of David. ²⁹ (In the eleventh year of Joram son of Ahab, Ahaziah had become king of Judah.)

Jezebel Killed

³⁰ Then Jehu went to Jezreel. When Jezebel heard about it, she put on eye makeup, arranged her hair and looked out of a window. ³¹ As Jehu entered the gate, she asked, "Have you come in peace, you Zimri, you murderer of your master?"

³² He looked up at the window and called out, "Who is on my side? Who?" Two or three eunuchs looked down at him. ³³ "Throw her down!" Jehu said. So, they threw her down, and some of her blood splattered the wall and the horses as they trampled her underfoot.

³⁴ Jehu went in and ate and drank. "Take care of that cursed woman," he said, "and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." ³⁵ But when they went out to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands. ³⁶ They went back and told Jehu, who said, "This is the word of the LORD that he spoke through his servant Elijah the Tishbite: On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs will devour Jezebel's flesh. ³⁷ Jezebel's body will be like dung on the ground in the plot at Jezreel, so that no one will be able to say, 'This is Jezebel.'"

Scripture says it must happen this way

Please have your **Bibles opened** at **2 Kings 9**

You have an **outline** – if you'd like to take notes. Let me **pray**...

Intro

As a parent it doesn't take long before a **child starts to question your authority**

You can **imagine the conversation** going something like this:

[Slide – Parent/Child – Why?]



Parent: "We need to brush our teeth before bedtime."

Child: "Why?"

Parent: "Because brushing your teeth helps keep them clean and healthy."

Child: "Why?"

Parent: "Because there are tiny food particles and bacteria in your mouth that can cause cavities and gum problems if they're not removed."

Child: "Why?"

Parent: "Because these bacteria produce acids that can eat away at your teeth, and brushing helps remove them, keeping your teeth strong and cavity-free."

Child: "Why?"

Parent: "Because we want you to have a bright, beautiful smile and strong teeth so you can enjoy all your favourite foods without any pain."

Child: "Why?"

Parent: "Because taking care of your teeth now will set a good habit for life, ensuring you have a confident and healthy smile as you grow up. And besides, trust me, you don't want to go to the dentist!"

Child: "Why?"

Parent: "Because the dentist will stick a huge needle in your gums and it will hurt like crazy. Then the dentist has this huge drill that drills out the bad parts of your teeth and you're going to be in a world of pain!"

Child: "Oh, okay. I'll brush my teeth then."

Of course, that **whole conversation could be avoided** if the parent simply answered the child's "why?" question with something like "Because I said so!"

As we read the Bible and we **come across bizarre events** like the ones we've read so far - in the books of 1 and 2 Kings – we can be a bit like the child in that conversation – and we can keep asking “Why?” – “Why, did this event have to a happen?”

Of course, the **simple answer is** always **“Because, God said so!”**

(pause)

In chapter 9 of 2 Kings – we're going to ask “Why?” a lot – and yes, the simple answer is “Because, God said so” but praise God – He gives us more than that.

Context (2 Kings 8)

Let's just remind ourselves of the **context**.

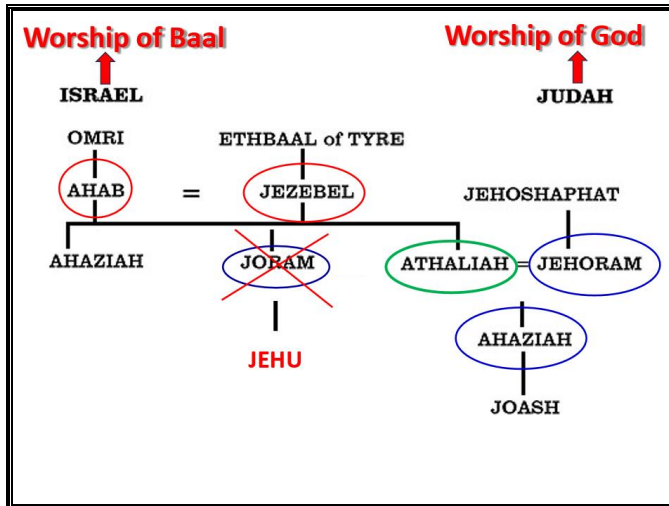
[Slide – Map]



Last week – in chapter 8 – we saw how the **Kings of Judah** (Southern Kingdom of Israel) had **unevenly yoked** themselves to the **Kings of Israel** (Northern Kingdom).

The Northern Kingdom worshipped the false god Baal and golden calves at Dan and Bethel

[Slide – Family Tree]



The **false worship of Baal** in the Northern Kingdom – had been introduced by King Ahab and his wife **Jezebel** [Red circles]– which had **corrupted the people** of the North Kingdom (Israel) **into this false worship too!**

Whereas the Southern Kingdom (Judah) **still worshipped the one true God, YHWH** in Jerusalem.

But last week we saw **two kings of Judah – Jehoram and Ahaziah** [Blue circles-click] had been influenced to also follow this false worship of Baal – because Jehoram had married Athaliah [green – click] the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.

And we finished up last week where we said – **God wasn't going to stand for this false worship of Baal** – in either Kingdom!

So, we left the story where King Ahaziah of Judah had helped King Joram [[Blue circle - click](#)] of Israel in a battle against King Hazael of Aram – and King Joram had been wounded – so King Ahaziah went to Jezreel to see how King Joram was going!

So, as we hit chapter 9 – let's ask those “**why?**” questions

First up – “**Why is King Jehu anointed King of Israel?**” – that's verses 1 to 13

[Why is King Jehu anointed King of Israel \(2 Kings 9:1-13\)](#)

We pick up the story in verse 1 where the **prophet Elisha** sends one of his offiders to Ramoth Gilead **to anoint Jehu**, a commander of the army **to be the next King of Israel** – who will replace King Joram [**red cross and add Jehu**] (the wounded guy from last week)

But why is Jehu to be King?

[Slide – Jehu]

Why is Jehu anointed King of Judah? (2 Kings 9:1-13)

Because:

- *God said so in 1 Kings 19:16-17*
- *Jehu is to wipe out all of Ahab's family*
- *God doesn't want the false worship of Baal to continue*
- *Jehu is not a member of Ahab's family*
- *Jehu is God's instrument of judgment*

The simple answer is because - **God said so!**

Back in 1 Kings 19:16-17 – **God had commanded the prophet Elijah** (Elisha's mentor) to do the following:

Anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael...

Here in 2 Kings chapter 9 – verses 7-8 – we are **given more detail** – Jehu is told:

You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the LORD's servants shed by Jezebel. The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free.

So, **Jehu is to wipe out the whole family of Ahab** – so there are no descendants to continue this false worship!

Why?

Because **God doesn't want the corrupted false worship of Baal to continue.**

Why does God use Jehu to do this?

Because **Jehu is not a member of Ahab's family** – he's a commander of the army – so Jehu will be God's instrument of judgment!

We can learn from this that **when God says something will happen – it WILL happen!**

We can also learn that **God won't stand for blatant wicked idolatry and false worship – there are always consequences for sin!**

The next “**why?**” question – ***why are King Joram and King Ahaziah killed*** – that's in verses 14 to 29...

[Slide – why Joram/Ahaziah heading]

Why are King Joram and King Ahaziah killed? (2 Kings 9:14-29)

See v15 – **King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah** are **together** in Jezreel
where Joram is nursing his wounds

Jehu makes sure no one in Jezreel finds out he's been anointed King

Then v16 – Jehu rode his chariot from Ramoth Gilead to Jezreel

When King Joram is told that Jehu's troops are approaching – v17 – he sends a
 horseman to ask Jehu if he comes in peace

Jehu's reply in v18 is ominous – “*what do you have to do with peace? Fall in
 behind me*”

A second horseman is sent out by Joram (v19) – and receives the same response.

So, **King Joram himself rides out (v21) – and he too asks “*have you come in peace,
 Jehu?*” (v22)**

Jehu's reply in v22b – is even more ominous – “*How can there be peace, as long
 as all the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?*”

And so, both King Joram and King Ahaziah are killed?

But why?

[Slide – why Joram/Ahaziah]

Why are Joram and Ahaziah killed? (2 Kings 9:14-29)

Because:

- *Joram is Ahab's son and has continued worshipping the false god Baal!*
- *God said Ahab's family would be wiped out in 1 Kings 21:20-22!*
- *God said this disaster would be in the time of Ahab's son in 1 Kings 21:29!*
- *Ahaziah is killed because he is Ahab's grandson and because he worships Baal!*

King Joram is killed because **he is Ahab's son** – and because - **he continued to follow his father, Ahab's false worship of Baal.**

God had said all of Ahab's family will be wiped out

In turns out - Joram is killed – v25 – **in a field that belonged to a man called Naboth!**

This is ironic – in that back in 1 Kings 21 - Joram's father and mother – **Ahab and Jezebel** – had ripped off this man Naboth and taken his vineyard.

Because of this wicked act by Ahab and Jezebel and because they had caused Israel to sin by worshipping Baal – God vowed in 1 Kings 21:20-22 – **He would wipe out Ahab's family**

But because Ahab humbled himself – in 1 Kings 21:29 – **God said this disaster would be delayed until the time of Ahab's son**

Which is precisely what is happening here in 2 Kings 9 – **Ahab's son Joram is killed** and this is the fulfilment **of God's promise of judgment.**

(pause)

King Ahaziah of Judah doesn't **escape** either!

Remember Ahaziah's father Jehoram married Ahab's daughter Athaliah – so **Ahab is Ahaziah's grandfather** – and Ahaziah is worshipping Baal instead of the one true God – so that's why Ahaziah is killed!

Again, we can learn from this that **when God says something will happen – it WILL happen!**

Again, we can also learn that **God won't stand for blatant wicked idolatry and false worship - there are always consequences for sin!**

The next “why?” question – ***why is Jezebel killed?*** – that's in verses 30 to 37...

[Slide – Jezebel heading]

Why is Jezebel killed? (2 Kings 9:30-37)

Because:

- *Jezebel and her husband systematically set up false worship of Baal in the Northern Kingdom of Israel!*
- *Jezebel was killed in the manner she was to fulfil a prophecy God made in 1 Kings 21:23 - 25!*
- *Jehu is God's instrument of judgment!*

Why is Jezebel killed? (2 Kings 9:30-37)

We pick up the story in v30 where Jehu continues on to Jezreel

Bad news travels fast - and **Jezebel** – Ahab's wife – and Joram's mother – **has heard about the death of her son**

She knows Jehu is coming for her

And in v31 Jezebel calls Jehu a **Zimri** – because Zimri was a character back in 1 Kings 16 who killed the King of the day – and now Jehu has killed his King! She’s basically calling Jehu a traitor.

That doesn’t deter Jehu – Jezebel meets an unsavoury end!

Why is Jezebel killed?

[Slide – Jezebel]

Because **Jezebel** and her husband **Ahab** had **systematically set up the false worship of Baal** in the Northern Kingdom and **led the people astray**

So, Jezebel is thrown off a balcony – v33 – and trampled by horses

Whilst Jehu was taking a lunch break – vv34-37, he told his men to bury Jezebel because she was a King’s daughter; but when they went to bury her, they found nothing except her skull, feet and hands.

Why was she killed this way?

To fulfil a **prophecy** that God made in 1 Kings 21:23-25 where God said:

²³ “And also concerning Jezebel the LORD says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.’ ²⁴ “Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those who die in the country.” ²⁵ (There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD, urged on by Jezebel his wife)

Jehu is God’s **instrument of judgment!**

As God’s people – are we happy that God judges such blatant wickedness and idolatry like that of the Ahab family?

(pause)

We should be!

Even in chaotic and seemingly unjust situations, faith in God's ultimate justice can give us hope and encouragement. We can take heart in knowing the wicked dictators of this world will not go unpunished forever!

(pause)

You see, we need to talk about - **another King!**

Another King – King Jesus!

[Slide – Another King]

Another King – King Jesus!

- *Jesus is God's anointed*
- *Jesus is the Messiah – the Christ*
- *Jesus is God's chosen one to save people*
- *Unlike Israel's Kings – Jesus is perfect and sinless!*
- *Unlike Jehu – Jesus comes to bring peace between God and humankind – by fixing the problem of sin – leading to death!*

He was **anointed King** by God too.

His name is **King Jesus** – **God's Son** – **the King of Kings!**

He's known as the **Messiah** (Hebrew) or the **Christ** (Greek) – and His title means **God's anointed one** – **God's chosen one** – sent to **save people**

Unlike all the Kings we've mentioned in 1 and 2 Kings – **Jesus is perfect** – He is **sinless** –

Unlike Jehu – Jesus came to this Earth – 2000 or so years ago – **to bring peace** – **not military peace** – **but peace between God and humankind**

Why?

Because – **we have the same condition** as the people of Israel – **we can't stop sinning** – we might not worship a false god like Baal – **but we still sin** – our false gods might be – **pleasure, sport, materialism, possessions** – even ourselves!

And just like the kings and people of Israel – **we will face God's judgment for our sin and rebellion** – **and the punishment is death!**

So, **God sent Jesus to fix the problem we can't fix** – the problem of our sin – leading to death

But to fix the problem – **Jesus had to die!**

Which brings us to our last "why?" question – ***why did Jesus have to die?***

[Slide – Why did Jesus have to die]

Why did Jesus have to die? (Matthew 26:50-56)

Because:

- *God said so and planned so!*
- *God knew we couldn't fix our sin ourselves!*
- *God knew the priestly sacrifices for sin could never fully take away sins!*
- *God knew there needed to be a once and for all solution for sin!*
- *God loves us and doesn't want us to perish*
- ***Scripture says it must happen this way!***

Why did Jesus have to die? (Matthew 26:50-56)

The simple answer is because - **God said so** and **God planned so!**

God knew that **we couldn't fix our sin ourselves**

God knew that **the sacrifices that the people of Israel made were just covering over sin and not fixing the problem – because the sacrifices were made by imperfect priests who themselves sin – and so these sacrifices could never fully take away sins** (Hebrews 10:1-18)

So, God knew there needed to be **a once and for all solution**

So, in Ezekiel 34:11 – God says “*I myself will search for my sheep and look after them*” – and so God sent His Son – the Good Shepherd – to seek people (sheep) lost from God - and to lay down His life for His sheep!

Why would God do that?

Well – as John 3:16 says – Jesus had to die – because **God loves us and doesn't want us to perish**

In Matthew 26:50-56 [**Please turn there now**]

When Jesus was arrested – one of Jesus companions (Peter in John 18:10) drew his sword and **cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest**

But Jesus didn't need saving from the cross

He came to save us - on that cross!

As he says in v53 - *Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*

Jesus had to die the way God planned!

As Jesus says in the next verse 54 *“But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”*

What scriptures?

Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53! Plus, Jesus Himself said He would be crucified (Matthew 16:21; 20:19; Luke 24:7)

Everything God said would happen to the Kings in 2 Kings 9 - happened!

Everything God said would happen to His Son – happened!

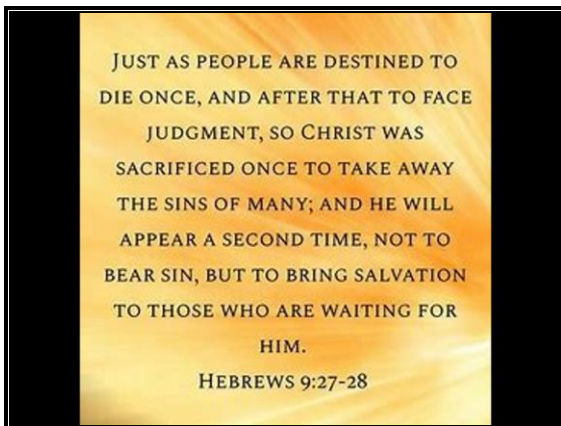
We can trust God's Word fully!

(pause)

But there's more...

God's Word also says - Jesus is coming back one day - and - God the Father has appointed Him as His instrument of judgment (Acts 10:42; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10)

[Slide – Hebrews 9:27-28]



As Hebrews 9:27 says:

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

And as Hebrews 9:28 says

Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The question is are we one of those who are waiting for Him?

In other words, have we faced up to our sin and rebellion against God?

Have we repented and put our faith in the only one who can take away our sins – and the only one who can give us forgiveness and eternal life?

And - can we see there is an urgency to tell others about – so that that don't miss out on eternal life?

Let's pray...

Thank you, Father, that your ways are higher than our ways.

Thank you, Father, that your promises always come to pass – that what you say will happen – happens – AND – the way you say things will happen – is precisely how they play out!

Thank you that it was your plan for Jesus to take the way of the cross – so we could be saved from the punishment for our sins and gain forgiveness and eternal life.

Help us to see how important it is to tell others how vital it is to believe in Jesus!

In His name we pray, Amen!

Benediction (Numbers 23:19)

God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? Amen.