

JEHU: MAN OF ZEAL
2 KINGS 9:1-3 / 4-8-18 / SS

I. JEHU' LIFE.

- A. His name means "**Yahweh is He**".
- B. He was a reformer who God used to clean up the mess left by Ahab.
- C. His service began as the captain of the guard for Israel's army under the reigns of Jehoram in Israel and Ahaziah in Judah.
 - 1. Jehoram, king of Israel was Ahab's son—2 Kings 3:1-3.
 - 2. Ironically, Ahaziah, king of Judah, was Ahab's grandson and Jehoram's son—2 Kings 8:25-26.
- D. Due to Jehoram's evil reign God instructed the prophet Elisha to anoint Jehu as the next king of Israel—2 Kings 9:1-3.
- E. Jehu assumed leadership in Israel by assassinating several people with God's blessing.
 - 1. Jehu assassinated both King Jehoram and King *Ahaziah*.
 - 2. He had Jezebel killed.
 - 3. He had Ahab's sons killed.
 - 4. He also killed the remaining false prophets of Baal.

II. JEHU'S FAILURE.

- A. He rid Israel of Baal worship but not all idolatry—2 Kings 10:29.
- B. In allowing the golden calves to be worshipped in Israel, Jehu only partially obeyed God—2 Kings 10:30-31.
- C. He apparently overstepped his bounds in the extent of his zeal in killing Ahab's family and also the prophets of Baal. In other words, he became "blood thirsty".
 - 1. This earned him a rebuke from God—Hosea 1:4.
 - 2. In the above verse God instructed the prophet Hosea to name one of his sons "Jehu" as a reminder that Israel had failed to consistently worship God as Jehu did.

III. JEHU'S LESSONS

- A. One positive lesson from Jehu is that initially he obeyed God in getting rid of Baal worship in Israel.
- B. Negatively, however, he only partially obeyed God—Gal. 4:18 and James 1:25.