

## 2 Kings 10

Verses 1- 5

Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters and sent *them* to Samaria, to the officials of Jezreel, the elders, and to the guardians of *the children of Ahab*, saying, <sup>2</sup> “And now, when this letter comes to you, since your master’s sons are with you, as well as the chariots and horses, and a fortified city and the weapons, <sup>3</sup> select the best and most capable of your master’s sons and seat *him* on his father’s throne, and fight for your master’s house.” <sup>4</sup> But they feared greatly and said, “Behold, the two kings did not stand *firm* before him; how then can we stand?” <sup>5</sup> And the one who was in charge of the household, and the one who was in charge of the city, and the elders, and the guardians of *the children*, sent *word* to Jehu, saying, “We are your servants, and everything that you tell us we will do. We will not appoint any man king; do what is good in your sight.”

Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria

It was not uncommon for judges and kings to have many wives, concubines and children.

1. Gideon had 71 sons and many wives.

See Judges 8:5

<sup>30</sup> Now Gideon had seventy sons who were his direct descendants, for he had many wives. <sup>31</sup> And his concubine who was in Shechem also bore him a son, and he named him Abimelech.

2. Jair had 30 sons

See Judges 10:3 - 4

<sup>3</sup> After him, Jair the Gileadite rose up and judged Israel for twenty-two years.

<sup>4</sup> And he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys, and they had thirty cities in the land of Gilead that are called Havvoth-jair to this day. <sup>5</sup> And Jair died and was buried in Kamon.

3. Abdon had 40

See Judges 12:13–15

<sup>13</sup> Now Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite judged Israel after him. <sup>14</sup> He had forty sons and thirty grandsons who rode on seventy donkeys; and he judged Israel for eight years. <sup>15</sup> Then Abdon the son of Hillel the Pirathonite died and was buried at Pirathon in the land of Ephraim, in the hill country of the Amalekites.

4. Solomon was the most prolific.

See 1 Kings 11:3 - 4

<sup>3</sup> He had seven hundred wives, *who were princesses*, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned his heart away. <sup>4</sup> For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away to follow other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of his father David *had been*.

5. Rehoboam had 28 sons and 60 daughters

See 2 Chron 11:21

<sup>21</sup> Rehoboam loved Maacah the daughter of Absalom more than all his *other* wives and concubines. For he had taken eighteen wives and sixty concubines, and fathered twenty-eight sons and sixty daughters.

**And Jehu wrote letters and sent *them* to Samaria, to the officials of Jezreel, the elders, and to the guardians of *the children of Ahab*, saying,** <sup>2</sup> “And now, when this letter comes to you, since your master’s sons are with you, as well as the chariots and horses, and a fortified city and the weapons,

The rulers of Jezreel, the elders, and the guardians of the royal family were in Samaria at the time because of the war at Ramoth-gilead. If things went poorly at Ramoth-gilead, Samaria was easier to defend than Jezreel.

See Video 1005      8.48 Samaria

<https://www.levickfamily.com/8.48.html>

<sup>3</sup> select the best and most capable of your master's sons and seat *him* on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house." <sup>4</sup> But they feared greatly and said, "Behold, the two kings did not stand *firm* before him; how then can we stand?"

Jehu had killed the two reigning kings of Israel, Joram & Ahaziah, and it seems obvious that none of Ahab's other sons that were capable of taking the throne given the fact that Jehu was taunting the nobles and elders to pick one of them and put him on the throne.

<sup>5</sup> And the one who *was* in charge of the household, and the one who *was* in charge of the city, and the elders, and the guardians of *the children*, sent *word* to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, and everything that you tell us we will do. We will not appoint any man king; do what is good in your sight."

These were the same cowards who had obeyed the orders of Jezebel when she told them to murder Naboth and his sons 15 years earlier.

See 1 Kings 21:11

<sup>11</sup> So the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did just as Jezebel had sent *word* to them, just as it was written in the letters which she had sent them.

Verses 6-11

Then he wrote them a letter a second time, saying, "If you are on my side, and will listen to my voice, take the heads of the men, your master's sons, and come to me at Jezreel about this time tomorrow." Now the king's sons, seventy men, were with the great people of the city, *who* were raising them. <sup>7</sup> When the letter came to them, they took the king's sons and slaughtered *them*, seventy men, and put their heads in baskets, and sent *them* to him at Jezreel. <sup>8</sup> When the messenger came and informed him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons," he said, "Put them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning." <sup>9</sup> Now in the morning he went out and stood and said to all the people, "You are innocent; behold, I conspired against my master and killed him, but who killed all these?"

<sup>10</sup> Know then that nothing of the word of the Lord, which the Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab, shall fall to the earth, for the Lord has done what He spoke through His servant Elijah." <sup>11</sup> So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, his acquaintances, and his priests, until he left him without a survivor.

**Then he wrote them a letter a second time, saying, “If you are on my side, and will listen to my voice, take the heads of the men, your master’s sons, and come to me at Jezreel about this time tomorrow.”**

Jehu wanted the heads of Ahab’s 70 sons delivered to him by the next day. Since this was a fortified city with some military stationed there the officials and elders were able to give Jehu what he wanted.

**<sup>9</sup> Now in the morning he went out and stood and said to all the people, “You are innocent; behold, I conspired against my master and killed him, but who killed all these?”**

Jehu had killed a king, Joram, to take the throne but this group of “leaders” had just killed 70 men to remain in office.

**<sup>11</sup> So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, his acquaintances, and his priests, until he left him without a survivor.**

Jehu did not stop with Ahab's sons; he also killed those who supported Ahab.

Verses 12-14

**<sup>12</sup> Then he set out and went to Samaria. On the way while he was at Beth-eked of the shepherds, <sup>13</sup> Jehu encountered the relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah, and he said, “Who are you?” And they answered, “We are the relatives of Ahaziah; and we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother.” <sup>14</sup> Then he said, “Take them alive.” So they took them alive, and slaughtered them at the pit of Beth-eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them.**

**<sup>13</sup> Jehu encountered the relatives of Ahaziah king of Judah, and he said, “Who are you?” And they answered, “We are the relatives of Ahaziah; and we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother.”**

Jehu had just killed Ahaziah, the 70 sons of Ahab (by strong-arming the town leaders), and Jezebel the queen mother and now he just happens to encounter these 42 relatives of Ahaziah who had come down to greet the 70 sons of Ahab and Jezebel.

Do you remember the song, "Gloom, despair, and agony on me"?  
The chorus of that song sums up the luck of these men.

See pic 1010

*Chorus:*

*Gloom, despair, and agony on me*

*Deep, dark depression, excessive misery*

*If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all*

*Gloom, despair, and agony on me*

Verses 15-17

<sup>15</sup> Now when he had gone from there, he encountered Jehonadab the son of Rechab *coming* to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, just as my heart *is* with your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." *Jehu said*, "If it is, give *me* your hand." And he gave *him* his hand, and he pulled him up to him into the chariot. <sup>16</sup> Then he said, "Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord." So he had him ride in his chariot. <sup>17</sup> When he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, until he had eliminated them, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke to Elijah.

Now when he had gone from there, he encountered Jehonadab the son of Rechab *coming* to meet him

The Rechabites were a branch of the Kenites, who were related to Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses. They followed the children of Israel into Canaan and continued to live among them as devoted worshippers of The Lord.

The Lord used this group as an example to show how Israel should have followed Him.

See Jeremiah 35

**<sup>16</sup> Then he said, “Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord.” So he had him ride in his chariot.**

Jehu was doing what God wanted when it came to punishing Ahab and Jezebel and God will bless him for that, but he was not as devoted to the Lord as he should have been or as much as he thinks he is.

See verses 30 and 31.

**<sup>30</sup> Yet the Lord said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in performing what is right in My eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab in accordance with everything that was in My heart, your sons to the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.” <sup>31</sup> But Jehu was not careful to walk in the Law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his heart; he did not desist from the sins of Jeroboam, into which he misled Israel.**

**<sup>17</sup> When he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, until he had eliminated them, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke to Elijah.**

Anyone in Samaria who was loyal to Ahab was eliminated.

Verses 18-24

**<sup>18</sup> Then Jehu gathered all the people and said to them, “Ahab served Baal a little; Jehu will serve him much. <sup>19</sup> Now, summon to me all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests; let no one go missing, because I have a great sacrifice for Baal; whoever is missing shall not live.” But Jehu did it in deception, in order to eliminate the worshipers of Baal. <sup>20</sup> And Jehu said, “Proclaim a holy assembly for Baal.” And they proclaimed *it*. <sup>21</sup> Then Jehu sent *word* throughout Israel, and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a person left who did not come. And when they entered the house of Baal, the house of Baal was filled from one end to the other. <sup>22</sup> And he said to the one who was in charge of the wardrobe, “Bring out garments for all the worshipers of Baal.” So he brought out the garments for them. <sup>23</sup> Then Jehu entered the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab; and he said to the worshipers of Baal, “Search carefully and see to it that there is here with you none of the servants of the Lord, but only the worshipers of Baal.” <sup>24</sup> Then they entered to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings.**

<sup>19</sup> Now, summon to me all the prophets of Baal, all his worshipers and all his priests; let no one go missing, because I have a great sacrifice for Baal; whoever is missing shall not live.” But Jehu did it in deception, in order to eliminate the worshipers of Baal.

Elijah killed the 450 prophets of Baal around 866 BC. It is now 30 years later and Baal worship had returned and was flourishing.

See timeline 1015

### 1st Kings timeline Part 2

Ch.	Event		Year
16	Ahab king of Israel	7n	874
16	Ahab builds altar to Baal		
17	Widows son raised from dead	m3	
18	Fire of the Lord / Baal prophets killed	m4	866 ?
18	Rain	m5	
19	The call of Elisha		
20	Ben-Hadad attacks Samaria		
21	Naboth's vineyard		
22	Ahab killed at Ramoth Gilead		853

### 2nd Kings timeline Part 2

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
8	Jehoram king of Judah	5s	848
9	Jehu anointed king of Israel	10n	841
10	Ahab's family killed		
10	Servants of Baal killed		
10	Temple of Baal destroyed		836 ?
11	Athaliah takes control of Israel	841	835

<sup>22</sup> And he said to the one who was in charge of the wardrobe, “Bring out garments for all the worshipers of Baal.” So he brought out the garments for them.

It was smart to have all the Baal worshippers dress in a special garment so that when the killing started they could not escape in the confusion.

**<sup>23</sup> Then Jehu entered the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab; and he said to the worshipers of Baal, “Search carefully and see to it that there is here with you none of the servants of the Lord, but only the worshipers of Baal.”**

Jehu was very careful to only kill those associated with Baal.

Verses 25-28

**<sup>25</sup> Then it came about, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the royal officers, “Go in, kill them; let none come out.” So they killed them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the royal officers threw *them* out, and went to the sanctuary of the house of Baal. <sup>26</sup> They brought out the memorial stones of the house of Baal and burned them. <sup>27</sup> They also tore down the memorial stone of Baal and tore down the house of Baal, and made it a latrine *as it is* to this day. <sup>28</sup> So Jehu eradicated Baal from Israel.**

**<sup>25</sup> Then it came about, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the royal officers, “Go in, kill them; let none come out.” So they killed them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the royal officers threw *them* out, and went to the sanctuary of the house of Baal.**

We are not told how many people died that day but it must have been a very large crowd given the fact that Jehu had given the command that Baal worshipper had to show up or suffer the death penalty.

**<sup>26</sup> They brought out the memorial stones of the house of Baal and burned them.**

One way to destroy a stone image is to heat it in an intense fire reducing it to a glob of metal. Another way is to shatter it by casting water on it while it is very hot.

**<sup>27</sup> They also tore down the memorial stone of Baal and tore down the house of Baal, and made it a latrine *as it is* to this day.**

This seems like a fitting end to a house of a false god and a perverted religion. Having said that Israel had a very special covenant with God and other nations of the world should not pursue this kind of action against religions they do not agree with.



<sup>28</sup> **So Jehu eradicated Baal from Israel.**

This probably eliminated the worship of Baal for a period of time in Israel but as we have seen before it's very difficult to completely wipe out a pagan religion indefinitely. The killing of the 450 priests of Baal at Mount Carmel was a great victory at the time, but within 30 years, the worship of Baal was flourishing once again in Israel.

We know Baal Worship continued at a later time in the southern kingdom.

See 2 Chronicles 28:2

Time frame 731 - 715

<sup>2</sup> **But he (Ahaz) walked in the ways of the kings of Israel; he also made cast metal images for the Baals.**

See 2 Kings 21:3

Time frame 686 - 642

<sup>3</sup> **For he (Manasseh) rebuilt the high places which his father Hezekiah had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, just as Ahab king of Israel had done, and he worshiped all the heavenly lights and served them.**

Verses 29-31

<sup>29</sup> **However, as for the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel, from these Jehu did not desist, *including* the golden calves that were at Bethel and at Dan.** <sup>30</sup> **Yet the Lord said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in performing what is right in My eyes, *and* have done to the house of Ahab in accordance with everything that was in My heart, your sons to the fourth *generation* shall sit on the throne of Israel."** <sup>31</sup> **But Jehu was not careful to walk in the Law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his heart; he did not desist from the sins of Jeroboam, into which he misled Israel.**

<sup>29</sup> **However, as for the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, into which he misled Israel, from these Jehu did not desist, *including* the golden calves that were at Bethel and at Dan.**

Jehu had a zeal for the Lord when it came to eradicating the house of Ahab and the Baal religion but he was not willing to eliminate the golden calves. Was this former prophet of God unable or unwilling to do so?

<sup>30</sup> Yet the Lord said to Jehu, “Because you have done well in performing what is right in My eyes, *and* have done to the house of Ahab in accordance with everything that *was* in My heart, your sons to the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.”

See chart 1020

Northern kings & their successor			
	King	A son reigned after him or the king was overthrown	End of one and the beginning of another
7	Ahab	Ahaziah	1 Kings 22:40
8	Ahaziah	No son	2 Kings 1:17-18
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	Son of Ahab. Overthrown by Jehu	2 Kings 9:24
10	Jehu	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 10:35
11	Jehoahaz	Jehoash (aka Joash)	2 Kings 13:9
12	Jehoash (aka Joash)	Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14:16
13	Jeroboam II	Zechariah	2 Kings 14:29
14	Zechariah	Overthrown by Shallum	2 Kings 15:10
15	Shallum	Overthrown by Menahem	2 Kings 15:14
16	Menahem	Pekahiah	2 Kings 15:22
17	Pekahiah	Overthrown by Pekah	2 Kings 15:25
18	Pekah	Overthrown by Hoshea	2 Kings 15:30
19	Hoshea	Overthrown by king of Assyria	2 Kings 17:4

God gave him credit for the good that he had done.

Verses 32-36

<sup>32</sup> In those days the Lord began to cut off *pieces* from Israel; and Hazael defeated *them* throughout the territory of Israel: <sup>33</sup> from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, the Reubenites, and the Manassites; from Aroer, which is by the Valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan. <sup>34</sup> Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Jehu and everything that he did and all his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? <sup>35</sup> And Jehu lay down with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. And his son Jehoahaz became king in his place. <sup>36</sup> So the time which Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

<sup>32</sup> **In those days the Lord began to cut off *pieces* from Israel;**

It would be another 90 years before Assyria deports the Northern Kingdom but the signs of their demise began in 814 BC.

See timeline 1025

### 2nd Kings timeline Part 2

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
8	Ahaziah king of Judah	6s	841
9	Jehu anointed king of Israel	10n	841
9	Jehu kills Joram and Ahaziah	9n,6s	841
9	Jezebel killed		841
10	Ahab's family killed		841
11	Athaliah takes control of Israel	841	835
11	Joash king of Judah	7s	835
12	The temple repaired		
13	Jehoahaz king of Israel	11n	814
13	Jehoash king of Israel	12n	798

**Hazael** defeated *them* throughout the territory of Israel:

See chart 1030

### Kings of Syria

King	Reign
Ben-Hadad I	885-865 BC
Hadadezer (Ben Hadad II)	865 - 842 BC
Hazael	842 – 805 or 796 BC
Ben-Hadad III	796 to 792 BC
Rezin	754 BC–732 BC

<sup>33</sup> from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, the Reubenites, and the Manassites;

The territory lost included the half tribe of Manasseh and the tribes of Gad and Reuben

See Map 1035





From Aroer, which is by the Valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan

See map 1040

