

2 Kings 9

Verses 1-3

Now Elisha the prophet summoned one of the sons of the prophets and said to him, “Get ready and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead.

² When you arrive there, then look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in and have him get up from among his brothers, and bring him to an inner room. ³ Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head, and say, ‘This is what the Lord says: “I have anointed you king over Israel.”’ Then open the door and flee, and do not wait.”

² When you arrive there, then look there for Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in and have him get up from among his brothers, and bring him to an inner room.

See chart 905

Northern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
10	Jehu	841	814	28	

Since Jehu was not Jehoram’s son this could have been seen as treason and had to be done in private. His father, Jehoshaphat, was not the king of Judah but another man with the same name.

³ Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head, and say, ‘This is what the Lord says: “I have anointed you king over Israel.”’ Then open the door and flee, and do not wait.”

God had commanded Elijah to anoint Jehu as king about 23 years earlier.

See 1 Kings 19:15 - 16

¹⁵ The LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ You shall also anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

See chart 910 1st Kings 19 to 2nd King 9

1st Kings timeline

Ch.	Event		Year
16	Ahab king of Israel	7n	874
17	Elijah fed by Ravens	m1	
18	Fire of the Lord / Baal prophets killed	m4	
19	The call of Elisha		864?
20	Ben-Hadad attacks Samaria		
21	Naboth's vineyard		
22	Ahab killed at Ramoth Gilead		853
22	Jehoram king of Judah	5s	848

2nd Kings timeline

1	Ahaziah king of Israel	8n	853
1	Joram king of Israel	9n	852
2	Elijah taken up to heaven		
3	Moab rebels		
4	Feeding of 100 people	m8	
5	Naaman healed of Leprosy	m9	
6	Famine in Samaria		
7	Unbelieving Officer gets trampled	m14	848
8	Rich woman gets income back	m15	842
8	Hazael takes over as King of Aram)		842
8	Ahaziah king of Judah	6s	841
9	Jehu anointed king of Israel	10n	841

So what was going on here and how does one explain the seeming contradictions that arise from these verses? This was explained in 1 Kings 19:15-16 but is reproduced below for the convenience of the reader.

This brings up an interesting question. It is currently some year between 874 and 853BC because Ahab is the king of Israel. Let's say it is 864BC.

Why would God want Jehu anointed now (864 BC) since he will not become king until 841BC? One theory is that God has already rejected the reigns of Ahab and his two sons and is looking ahead to the reign of Jehu. However, why would Hazael be anointed king of Syria long before he would become king?

David was anointed king long before he became king of Judah and even longer before he was made king of all Israel so it could be that God was revealing who will be the next king before it actually takes place in order to demonstrate once again that he knows and controls the destiny of all nations.

In the case of Jehu he will be anointed king in 2 Kings 9 and it was not done by Elijah or Elisha, but by a son of the prophets. However, the anointing done at the time a person becomes king is not the same as an anointing done at an earlier time as a sign from God. This same principle was used in the life of David.

Verses 4-10

⁴ So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead. ⁵ When he arrived, behold, the commanders of the army were sitting, and he said, "I have a word for you, commander." And Jehu said, For which *one* of us?" And he said, "For you, commander." ⁶ He then got up and went into the house, and *the prophet's servant* poured the oil on his head and said to him, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: 'I have anointed you king over the people of the Lord, over Israel. ⁷ And you shall strike the house of Ahab your master, so that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel. ⁸ For the entire house of Ahab shall perish, and I will eliminate from Ahab every male person both slave and free in Israel. ⁹ I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah. ¹⁰ The dogs will eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and no one will bury *her*.'" Then he opened the door and fled.

⁴ So the young man, the servant of the prophet, went to Ramoth-gilead.

Ahaziah and Joram had gone to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead, but the two kings of Israel had left for home and the commanders of the two armies were put in charge of the battle. So Elisha sent one of his servants there to anoint Jehu as the king of Northern Israel.

⁵ When he arrived, behold, the commanders of the army were sitting, and he said, “I have a word for you, commander.” And Jehu said, For which one of us?” And he said, “For you, commander.”

Jehu was a man that was well qualified for the job for the following reasons:

1. Jehu was the son of a prophet and a prophet of God

See 2 Chronicles 19:2

Then Jehoshaphat the king of Judah returned in safety to his house in Jerusalem.

² And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord, and by doing so *bring* wrath on yourself from the Lord? ³ But there is *some* good in you, for you have removed the Asheroth from the land and you have set your heart to seek God.”

2. He may have been the writer of 1st and 2nd Kings

See 2 Chronicles 20:34 (in the Septuagint) 872 – 848 BC

³⁴ And the rest of the acts of Josaphat, the first and the last, behold, they are written in the history of Jeu [the son] of Anani, who wrote the book of the kings of Israel.

However, modern texts including the NASB do not credit him with writing 1st and 2nd Kings.

³⁴ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat, first to last, behold, they are written in the annals of Jehu the son of Hanani, which is recorded in the Book of the Kings of Israel.

3. He was a commander of the army.

This is stated in verse 5.

⁶ He then got up and went into the house, and *the prophet's servant* poured the oil on his head and said to him, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: ‘I have anointed you king over the people of the Lord, over Israel.”

God appointed someone who was not a son or grandson of Ahab because God wanted to avenge Ahab's family for their sin. A commander of the army was a logical choice since he would already have the respect of the soldiers.

See chart 915

Northern kings & their successor			
	King	A son reigned after him or the king was overthrown	End of one and the beginning of another
1	Jeroboam I	Nadab	1 Kings 15:25
2	Nadab	Overthrown by Baasha	1 Kings 15:27
3	Baasha	Elah	1 Kings 16:6
4	Elah	Overthrown by Zimri	1 Kings 16:10
5	Zimri	Overthrown by Omri	1 Kings 16:17-18
6	Omri	Ahab	1 Kings 16:28
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

⁷ And you shall strike the house of Ahab your master, so that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel. ⁸ For the entire house of Ahab shall perish, and I will eliminate from Ahab every male person both slave and free in Israel.

God's judgment is often deferred for a time giving evil people time to repent of their sin but a day of judgment always comes.

⁹ I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.

Both of these Kings suffered the loss of all their male descendants because of their sin.

1. For Jeroboam see 1 Kings 15:29-30

²⁹ And as soon as he was king, he struck and killed all the household of Jeroboam. He did not leave Jeroboam any persons alive, *but kept killing* until he had eliminated them, in accordance with the word of the Lord which He spoke by His servant Ahijah the Shilonite, ³⁰ *and* because of the sins of Jeroboam which he committed, and into which he misled Israel, because of his provocation with which he provoked the Lord God of Israel to anger.

2. For Baasha see 1 Kings 16:10-11

¹⁰ Then Zimri came in and struck him and put him to death in the twenty-seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and he became king in his place. ¹¹ And when he became king, as soon as he sat on his throne, he killed all the household of Baasha; he did not leave a single male alive, either of his ^[a]relatives or of his friends.

¹⁰ The dogs will eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and no one will bury her.” Then he opened the door and fled.

Elijah was the first to deliver this prophecy.

See 1 Kings 21:23

²³ The LORD has also spoken of Jezebel, saying, ‘The dogs will eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel.’

Verses 11-13

¹¹ Now Jehu went out to the servants of his master, and one said to him, “Is everything well? Why did this crazy fellow come to you?” And he said to them, “You know *very well* the man and his talk.” ¹² And they said, “It is a lie; tell us now.” And he said, “Such and such he said to me, saying, ‘This is what the Lord says: “I have anointed you king over Israel.”’” ¹³ Then they hurried, and each man took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and blew the trumpet, saying, “Jehu is king!”

¹¹ Now Jehu went out to the servants of his master, and one said to him, “Is everything well? Why did this crazy fellow come to you?” And he said to them, “You know *very well* the man and his talk.”

This attitude toward a son of the prophets was to be expected from ungodly men.

See Hosea 9:7

**The days of punishment have come,
The days of retribution have come;
Let Israel know *this!*
The prophet is a fool,
The inspired person is insane,
Because of the grossness of your wrongdoing,
And *because your hostility is so great.***

¹² And they said, “It is a lie; tell us now.” And he said, “Such and such he said to me, saying, ‘This is what the Lord says: “I have anointed you king over Israel.”’”

¹³ Then they hurried, and each man took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and blew the trumpet, saying, “Jehu is king!”

Well, that was a quick change in their attitude. In 30 seconds it went from a lie to singing Hale to the Chief.

Verses 14-16

¹⁴ So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. Now Joram with all Israel was defending Ramoth-gilead against Hazael king of Aram, ¹⁵ but King Joram had returned to Jezreel to have himself healed of the wounds which the Arameans had inflicted on him when he fought Hazael king of Aram. So Jehu said *to the other men*, “If *this* is your intent, *then* let no one escape from the city to go tell *about it* in Jezreel.” ¹⁶ Then Jehu rode in a chariot and went to Jezreel, since Joram was lying there *recovering*. And Ahaziah the king of Judah had come down to see Joram.

Verses 14 & 15 bring the reader back to the scene in 2 Kings 8:28-29. The armies of King Joram and King Ahaziah are at Ramoth-gilead and the two kings are at Jezreel.

In verse 16 Jehu leaves the army at Ramoth-gilead and heads to Jezreel in order to solidify his new position as king of Northern Israel.

Verses 17-20

¹⁷ Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel and he saw the company of Jehu as he came, and he said, "I see a company." And Joram said, "Take a horseman and send him to meet them and have him ask, 'Is *your intention* peace?'" ¹⁸ So a horseman went to meet him and said, "This is what the king says: 'Is *your intention* peace?'" But Jehu said, "How is peace any business of yours? Turn *and* follow me." And the watchman reported, "The messenger came to them, but he did not return." ¹⁹ Then he sent a second horseman, and he came to them and said, "This is what the king says: 'Is *your intention* peace?'" And Jehu answered, "How is peace any business of yours? Turn *and* follow me." ²⁰ And the watchman reported, "He came up to them, but he did not return; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously."

¹⁸ So a horseman went to meet him and said, "This is what the king says: 'Is *your intention* peace?'" But Jehu said, "How is peace any business of yours? Turn *and* follow me." And the watchman reported, "The messenger came to them, but he did not return."

When the first messenger failed to return, Joram should have understood that this was not a good sign and not wasted any more time by sending another messenger. However, because of his sickness an escape may not have been possible and the entire army was at Ramoth-gilead which means there was probable only a few soldiers left at Jezreel.

²⁰ And the watchman reported, "He came up to them, but he did not return; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, for he drives furiously."

The second messenger followed the same course of action as the first one.

Joram's brother Ahaziah sent fifty men to arrest Elijah and when fire came from heaven and killed them he sent another captain with fifty men and when they did not return he sent a 3rd group. It seems these two brother were both a little slow to recognize the obvious.

However, after the second messenger did not return the watchman noticed that the driving was furious.

Our kids say the same thing when I ask if Nancy is back yet! ☺

Verses 21-24

²¹ Then Joram said, “Get ready.” And they made his chariot ready. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out to meet Jehu and found him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.

²² When Joram saw Jehu, he said, “Is *your intention* peace, Jehu?” And he answered, “What ‘peace,’ so long as your mother Jezebel’s acts of prostitution and witchcraft are so many?” ²³ So Joram turned back and fled, and he said to Ahaziah, “*There is treachery, Ahaziah!*” ²⁴ Then Jehu drew his bow with his full strength and shot Joram between his arms; and the arrow went through his heart, and he sank in his chariot.

²¹ Then Joram said, “Get ready.” And they made his chariot ready. Then Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out to meet Jehu and found him on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite.

Ahaziah had come to Jezreel to see how Joram was doing with his injuries and now he finds himself in the middle of a coup.

Ahaziah and Joram found Jehu on the property of Naboth the Jezreelite. This was the land that Ahab had taken from Naboth after he had him put to death. Ahab wanted this vineyard so he could have a vegetable garden near his palace. See 1 Kings 21

²² When Joram saw Jehu, he said, “Is *your intention* peace, Jehu?” And he answered, “What ‘peace,’ so long as your mother Jezebel’s acts of prostitution and witchcraft are so many?”

Joram hoped that Jehu, had arrived with good intentions but that was not possible because Jehu had been given a mission from God to kill the entire house of Ahab.

Jezebel was guilty of prostitution in two ways.

1. She was a strong promoter of the Baal cult

The worship of this Canaanite fertility god involved acts of prostitution.

2. She drew Israel away from God

God was the husband of Israel and when the people of Israel turned from God to worship Baal it was like a wife committing adultery.

²³ So Joram turned back and fled, and he said to Ahaziah, “*There is treachery, Ahaziah!*” ²⁴ Then Jehu drew his bow with his full strength and shot Joram between his arms; and the arrow went through his heart, and he sank in his chariot.

Do sons suffer the consequences of their father’s sin? When Adam & Eve sinned it brought suffering & death to all of humanity, to the animal kingdom, and to the physical universe.

See Romans 8:19 - 23

¹⁹ For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons *and daughters* of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it*, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only *that*, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body.

Verses 25-26

²⁵ And *Jehu* said to Bidkar his officer, “Pick *him* up and throw him on the property of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, *when* you and I were riding together after his father Ahab, that the Lord brought this pronouncement against him: ²⁶ ‘I have certainly seen yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will repay you on this property,’ declares the Lord. Now then, pick him up and throw him on the property, in accordance with the word of the Lord.”

²⁵ And *Jehu* said to Bidkar his officer, “Pick *him* up and throw him on the property of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember, when you and I were riding together after his father Ahab, that the Lord brought this pronouncement against him:

One commentator said that kings had two trusted attendants stand behind them in their chariots. In warfare they frequently covered the king’s body with their shields. In the past, Jehu and Bidkar performed that service for Ahab. During one of those times God pronounced this judgment on King Ahab.

²⁶ ‘I have certainly seen yesterday the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons,’ declares the Lord, ‘and I will repay you on this property,’ declares the Lord. Now then, pick him up and throw him on the property, in accordance with the word of the Lord.”

Jehu remembered the prophecy that was spoken against Ahab and he helped to fulfill it by having his officer throw Joram on the property.

Verses 27-28

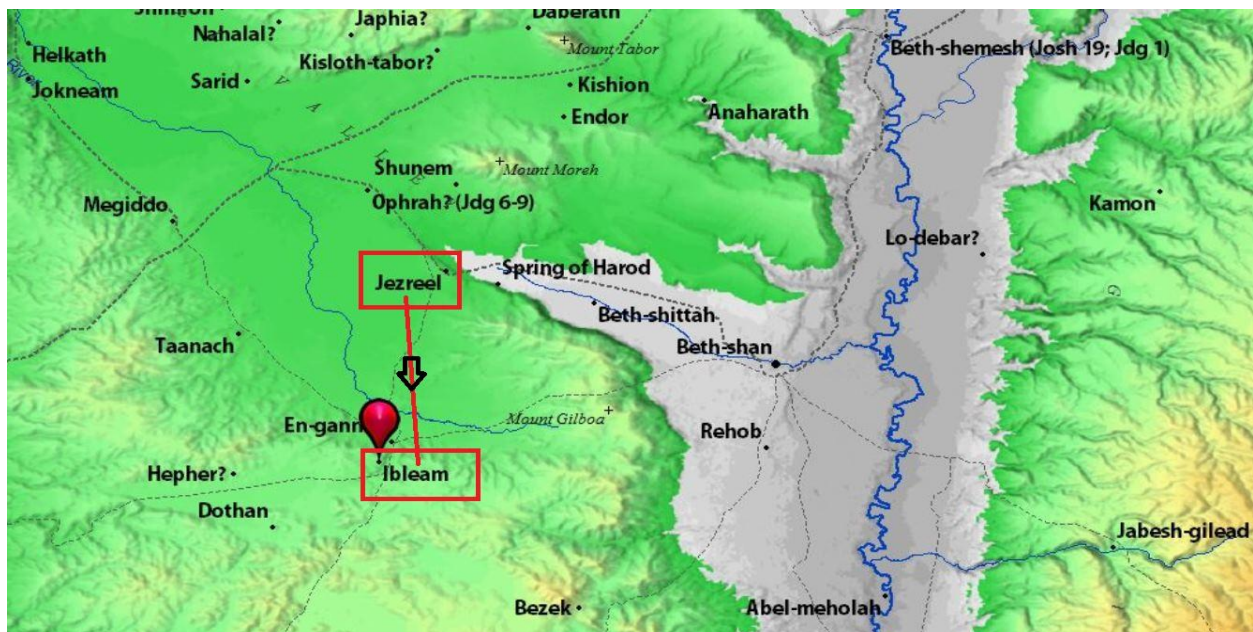
²⁷ When Ahaziah the king of Judah saw *this*, he fled by way of the garden house. But Jehu pursued him and said, “Shoot him too, in the chariot.” So *they shot him* at the ascent of Gur, which is at Ibleam. But he fled to Megiddo and died there.

²⁸ Then his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his grave with his fathers in the city of David. ²⁹ Now in the eleventh year of Joram, the son of Ahab, Ahaziah became king over Judah.

²⁷ When Ahaziah the king of Judah saw *this*, he fled by way of the garden house. But Jehu pursued him and said, “Shoot him too, in the chariot.” So *they shot him* at the ascent of Gur, which is at Ibleam. But he fled to Megiddo and died there.

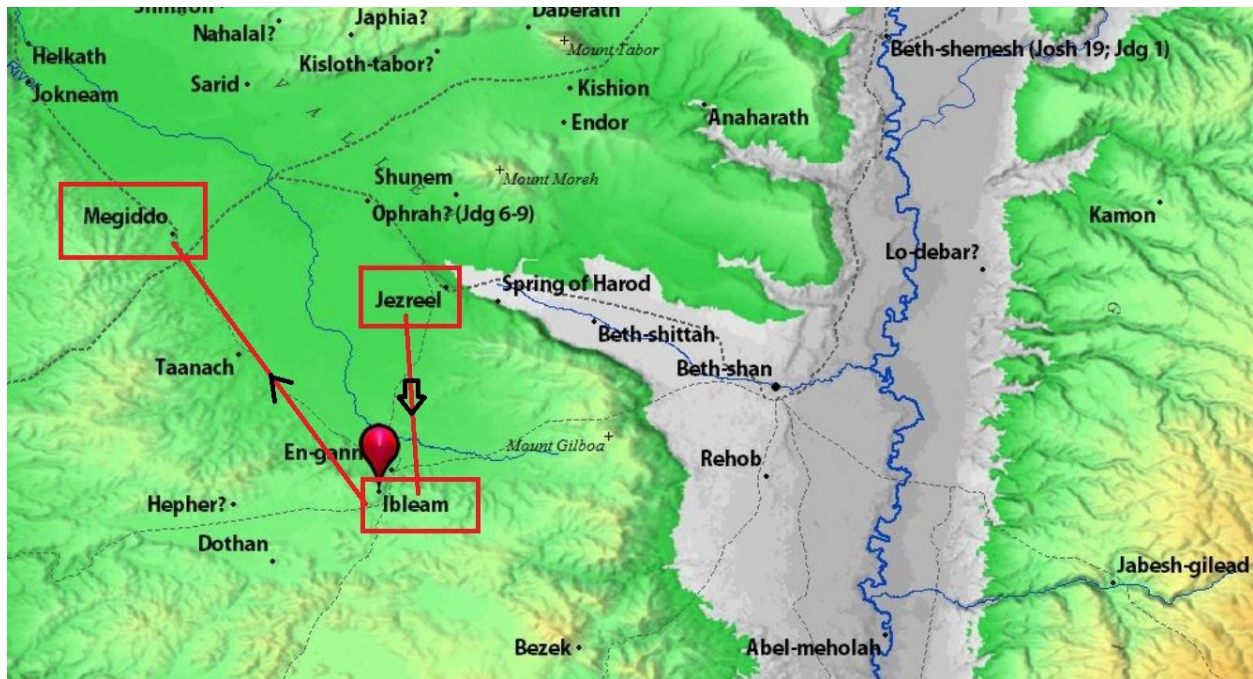
Ahaziah fled south from Jezreel but was shot at Ibleam.

See Map 920



He then fled northwest to Megiddo where he died.

See map 925



²⁹ Now in the eleventh year of Joram, the son of Ahab, Ahaziah became king over Judah.

See pic 930

Southern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

Verses 30 - 37

³⁰ When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard *about it*, and she put makeup on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked down through the window. ³¹ As Jehu entered the gate, she said, “Is *your intention* peace, Zimri, his master’s murderer?” ³² Then he raised his face toward the window and said, “Who is with me, who?” And two or three officials looked down at him. ³³ Then he said, “Throw her down.” So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her underfoot. ³⁴ When he came in, he ate and drank; and he said, “See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king’s daughter.” ³⁵ So they went to bury her, but they found nothing of her except the skull, the feet, and the palms of her hands. ³⁶ Therefore they returned and informed him. And he said, “This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ‘On the property of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; ³⁷ and the corpse of Jezebel will be like dung on the face of the field in the property of Jezreel, so they cannot say, “This is Jezebel.”’

³⁰ When Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard *about it*, and she put makeup on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked down through the window.

Jezebel was a very influential woman for her time

1. She was a king's daughter
2. She was the wife of a king, Ahab
3. The mother of two kings, Ahaziah and Joram
4. The mother-in-law of another king, Joram of Judah
5. The mother of a Queen, Athaliah

Unfortunately, all of this influence was used for evil purposes.

1. She supported 850 false prophets
2. She killed a number of true prophets and sought to kill many more.
3. She implemented the plan to kill Naboth.
4. She tried to kill Elijah.

³¹ **As Jehu entered the gate, she said, “Is *your intention* peace, Zimri, his master’s murderer?”**

She referred to Jehu as Zimri, who also killed a King to take the throw.

See chart 935

Northern kings & their successor			
	King	A son reigned after him or the king was overthrown	End of one and the beginning of another
1	Jeroboam I	Nadab	1 Kings 15:25
2	Nadab	Overthrown by Baasha	1 Kings 15:27
3	Baasha	Elah	1 Kings 16:6
4	Elah	Overthrown by Zimri	1 Kings 16:10
5	Zimri	Overthrown by Omri	1 Kings 16:17-18
6	Omri	Ahab	1 Kings 16:28
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

Jezebel was warning Jehu that he will pay for his rebellion just as Zimri paid a penalty for his rebellion by being overthrown by Omri. She did not know that this was in fact God’s will and not an act of rebellion. Jehu and his sons will have the throne for 5 generations.

See chart 940

Northern kings & their successor			
	King	A son reigned after him or the king was overthrown	End of one and the beginning of another
6	Omri	Ahab	1 Kings 16:28
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

³² Then he raised his face toward the window and said, **“Who is with me, who?”** And two or three officials looked down at him. ³³ Then he said, **“Throw her down.”** So they threw her down, and some of her blood splattered on the wall and on the horses, and he trampled her underfoot.

The officials made the decision that it would be better for them to side with a commander of the army than an old woman that was near the end of her life. So they threw her down and this was the end of a truly evil woman.

³⁴ When he came in, he ate and drank; and he said, **“See now to this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king’s daughter.”** ³⁵ So they went to bury her, but **they found nothing of her except the skull, the feet, and the palms of her hands.**

As evil as this woman had been Jehu still thought it was fitting that she be buried because of her ancestry.

One can see from this truly gruesome scene that the dogs of this city were left to scavenge for their food. They devoured Jezebel in the time it took for Jehu to eat his meal.

³⁶ Therefore they returned and informed him. And he said, **“This is the word of the Lord, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ‘On the property of Jezreel the dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel;’** ³⁷ and the corpse of Jezebel will be like dung on the face of the field in the property of Jezreel, so they cannot say, **“This is Jezebel.”**

This judgment that she suffered was an indication of just how evil she was and how God feels about people who destroy the lives of others.