

The Death of Jezebel

2 Kings 9:30 – 10:36

by Don Falkos

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With King Jehoram dead, Jehu went to the royal palace to find Jezebel, the wife of the former king Ahab and the primary instigator in Israel's current bout of idolatry. She heard he was coming, so she put on makeup, fixed her hair, and sat at a window. When Jehu arrived, Jezebel shouted down to him, "Are you here in peace or to murder your betters?"

Jehu called out, "Is anyone in there on my side?" A few servants appeared. He ordered them, "Throw her out the window!" And they did. Some of her blood spattered on the wall of the palace, and Jehu trampled her under the hooves of his horses.

He went inside and ate and drank. Then he said, "I suppose we ought to bury her, she was the daughter of a king." But in that short time her body had been devoured by dogs, fulfilling Elijah's prophecy about her.

Jehu sent word to Samaria, "Execute the sons of Ahab and send their heads to me here in Jezreel." His orders were carried out. Then he set about systematically killing every surviving member of Ahab's household.

In Samaria, Jehu tricked the priests of Baal into assembling in one place. He then had them all slaughtered. The temple of Baal was torn down and was afterward used as a latrine. Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel, but he did not eliminate the worship of Jeroboam's golden calves.

Jehu ruled Israel for many years, constantly plagued by Hazael of Aram. And by the time of his death, Israel had lost much of its territory.