

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.1, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 1 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.1, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture analyzes 2 Kings 9-10, focusing on the story of Jehu's rise to **power**. The lecture emphasizes that Jehu's actions, while fulfilling God's prophecy against Ahab's dynasty, also demonstrate overzealousness. **It highlights the complexities of doing God's will, suggesting it can be done in ways not aligned with God's desires.** The discussion explores the characters of Jehu and Jezebel and considers how they serve as examples of obedience to God and the world's efforts to thwart God's plans. **Oswalt notes that the events are a military coup, but also that Jehu understood it as a divinely ordained action.** He touches on the radical actions sometimes needed to confront worldly opposition.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.1 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).



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on22_1.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.1, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 1

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 2 Kings 9-10, Part 1, focusing on the anointing of Jehu and his actions.

Briefing Document: Oswalt on 2 Kings 9-10 (Part 1)

Subject: Analysis of Jehu's Actions and the Fulfillment of Prophecy in 2 Kings 9-10.

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session22_1.pdf" (Dr. John Oswalt, Kings, Session 22, Part 1, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 1)

Date: May 15, 2024

Main Themes:

- **Fulfillment of Prophecy and Divine Judgment:** Oswalt emphasizes that Jehu's actions are primarily understood within the context of fulfilling God's judgment against the house of Ahab, especially due to Ahab's idolatry and injustice, specifically regarding Naboth's vineyard.
- "He is carrying out the prediction of God. He's carrying out the words of Elijah."
- "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."
- **Jehu's Decisiveness (and Overzealousness):** Jehu is portrayed as a man of action, decisive and ruthless. However, Oswalt points out that Jehu's zeal sometimes oversteps the explicit divine mandate. This creates a key tension: Jehu is doing God's will, but not always in God's way.
- "He drives us furiously in the language of the King James—very decisive, no ifs, no ands, no buts."
- "It's possible to do God's will in other than God's way."
- **The Nature of the World's Opposition:** Jezebel's response to Jehu's coup is presented as an example of how the world will oppose those who seek to follow God's will. This opposition is characterized by intimidation and accusations of self-serving motives. Radical action is sometimes necessary to overcome this opposition.

- "The world will seek to intimidate us."
- "The world is probably not going to whine, but it's going to do its dead-level best to push back."
- "There are also moments when we have to take radical steps. Some things have to be gotten rid of."
- **Being on God's Side:** Oswalt encourages listeners to discern where God is working and align themselves with His purposes. This involves recognizing God's judgment and participating in His plan.
- "Where is he working? Where is he moving? What's happening? Let's be on his side. Let's be on his side."

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Historical Context:** The events surrounding Jehu's coup took place around 841 BC, roughly 35-36 years after Ahab came to the throne (around 875 BC). This period was crucial in the struggle to prevent Baal worship from replacing Yahweh worship in Israel.
- **Elijah/Elisha's Ministry:** The anointing of Hazael and Jehu was part of a single, unified ministry initiated by Elijah and continued by Elisha. This ministry was focused on enacting God's judgment.
- "This is not two ministries. This is one ministry. And in fact, as Elisha carries out, as we saw last time, the anointing of Hazael and J Hugh, it's clear that Elijah had taught him."
- **Jehu's Motivation:** Jehu's actions were driven by a sense of divine mandate, stemming from his anointing and his memory of Elijah's prophecy at Naboth's vineyard.
- **Ahaziah's Death:** While Jehu was divinely appointed to eliminate the house of Ahab, the killing of Ahaziah, King of Judah, was not explicitly commanded. Oswalt interprets this as an example of Jehu's overzealousness.
- **Jezebel's Character and Demise:** Jezebel is depicted as a powerful, manipulative figure who attempts to intimidate Jehu. Her death, thrown from a window by her own servants, symbolizes the overthrow of worldly power that opposes God's will.

- "She's going to play the game the way she played it all the way through, and that's intimidation...She tried to intimidate Elijah."
- **Jehu's legacy:** His legacy may be used to examine ways that people try to justify actions in the name of divine purpose.

Quotes for Emphasis:

- "God's mills grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine." (Regarding the long-term nature of divine judgment.)
- "It is possible to do God's will in other than God's way." (A critical point regarding Jehu's actions.)
- "There were some people who were sick and tired of that... some people who were willing to take radical action and in general, dealing with the world, that's what you got to do. It's a radical action." (Describing the circumstances surrounding Jezebel's death and a general approach to resist the world.)

Implications:

This passage raises important questions about the nature of divine justice, the dangers of overzealousness, and the proper way to respond to worldly opposition. It challenges listeners to consider how they can align themselves with God's will while avoiding the pitfalls of self-righteousness and unchecked power. The actions of figures like Jehu and Jezebel also provide insights into the historical and political context of ancient Israel and the ongoing struggle between faith and idolatry.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.1, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 1

The Reign of Jehu: A Study Guide to 2 Kings 9-10

I. Study Guide Outline

A. Historical Context

- Time Period: Briefly review the timeline of the divided kingdom. Note the reign of Ahab (875 BCE) and the coup of Jehu (841 BCE).
- Key Players: Identify and define the roles of Ahab, Jezebel, Joram, Ahaziah, Jehu, Elisha, and Hazael.
- Geographical Significance: Understand the importance of Ramoth Gilead, Jezreel, and Naboth's vineyard.

B. The Prophecy and Anointing

- Elijah's Commission: Analyze God's instructions to Elijah in 1 Kings 19 to anoint Hazael, Jehu, and Elisha. Consider the execution of these commands.
- Jehu's Anointing: Explore the significance of Jehu's anointing and how it connects to the broader narrative of God's judgment.

C. Jehu's Coup and Purge

- Jehu's Character: Examine Jehu's decisiveness, zeal, and potential overzealousness.
- The Assassination of Joram: Understand the significance of killing Joram on Naboth's vineyard.
- The Death of Ahaziah: Analyze the text, noting that Jehu was not instructed to kill Ahaziah and that he may have acted overzealously.
- The Death of Jezebel: Consider the significance of Jezebel's death and what it reveals about the changing power dynamics.

D. Theological Implications

- Divine Judgment: Understand the concept of divine judgment as it relates to Ahab's dynasty and Baal worship.

- God's Will vs. God's Way: Reflect on the concept that it is possible to do God's will in other than God's way.
- Dealing with the World: Analyze the challenges of serving God in a hostile environment.

II. Quiz (Short Answer)

1. What was the primary theological conflict during the time leading up to Jehu's coup?
2. What three individuals did God instruct Elijah to anoint in 1 Kings 19?
3. What is the significance of Jehu killing Joram on Naboth's vineyard?
4. Explain the meaning of the phrase "God's mills grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine."
5. What is the significance of Jezebel's actions upon hearing of Jehu's arrival in Jezreel?
6. What does the death of Jezebel suggest about the state of her power and influence?
7. Explain the idea of "doing God's will in other than God's way," using Jehu as an example.
8. How does the passage characterize Jehu's driving style? What might this symbolize?
9. What are some interpretations of the messenger's actions of joining Jehu after meeting him?
10. Describe some interpretations of why Jezebel is not "begging for her life," and instead, attempting to intimidate Jehu.

III. Quiz Answer Key

1. The primary theological conflict was whether Baal would replace Yahweh as the dominant deity in Israel. This struggle is depicted through the actions of Ahab and Jezebel in promoting Baal worship, challenged by the prophets Elijah and Elisha.
2. God instructed Elijah to anoint Hazael as king of Syria, Jehu as king of Israel, and Elisha as his successor in the prophetic ministry. The purpose of these

anointments was to carry out God's judgment against the house of Ahab and cleanse Israel of Baal worship.

3. Killing Joram on Naboth's vineyard fulfilled Elijah's prophecy regarding Ahab's dynasty and highlighted God's justice. It was a symbolic act demonstrating that Ahab's sin against Naboth would be avenged on his own family.
4. This phrase means that God may not deliver justice immediately, but when he does, it is complete and thorough. God patiently gives people a chance to change, but He will bring judgment for those who do not.
5. Jezebel's actions, putting on eye makeup and arranging her hair, demonstrate her defiance and attempt to intimidate Jehu. Rather than submitting, she meets her fate with a show of power and control, reinforcing her character as a formidable opponent.
6. The death of Jezebel suggests that her power and influence had waned, even among her own servants. Her own servants threw her out the window, and no one came to her defense.
7. "Doing God's will in other than God's way" refers to pursuing a righteous goal through unrighteous or excessive methods. Jehu's killing of Ahaziah, when he had not been commanded to do so, exemplifies acting outside of God's specific instructions.
8. Jehu is characterized as driving "furiously." This symbolizes his decisiveness, zeal, and single-mindedness in carrying out his mission. However, it can also suggest a lack of control or recklessness.
9. The messenger's action of joining Jehu may suggest a recognition of Jehu's authority or a desire to align with what they perceive as the winning side. It can also be interpreted as fear of Jehu's reputation and decisiveness.
10. Jezebel attempts to intimidate Jehu because she wants to go out fighting. She does not want to give Jehu the satisfaction of begging for mercy. She seeks to accuse Jehu of simply treacherously killing the King for his own favor.

IV. Essay Questions

1. Analyze Jehu's character, focusing on the balance between his zeal for God and his potential for overzealousness. How does the text portray this tension?
2. Discuss the theological significance of Jehu's coup in the context of divine judgment and covenant faithfulness. How does this event fit into the broader narrative of the books of Kings?
3. Explore the theme of "doing God's will in other than God's way" as it is illustrated in the story of Jehu. What are the potential dangers and implications of this approach?
4. Compare and contrast the leadership styles of Ahab and Jehu. How did their actions impact the religious and political landscape of Israel?
5. Examine the role of prophecy in the narrative of Jehu's rise to power. How do the prophecies of Elijah and Elisha shape the events and characters in 2 Kings 9-10?

V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Ahab:** King of Israel (Northern Kingdom) known for his wickedness and promotion of Baal worship.
- **Ahaziah:** King of Judah (Southern Kingdom) and son of Athaliah. He was killed by Jehu.
- **Athaliah:** Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, married to the king of Judah. Known for her wickedness and attempt to seize the throne of Judah.
- **Baal:** A Canaanite deity associated with fertility and storms. His worship was a major source of conflict in Israel.
- **Elijah:** A prophet of God who challenged Ahab and Jezebel and prophesied against their dynasty.
- **Elisha:** The successor of Elijah, who continued his prophetic ministry and anointed Jehu as king.
- **Hazael:** King of Syria, anointed by Elisha.
- **Jehu:** King of Israel, anointed to execute God's judgment on the house of Ahab and eliminate Baal worship.
- **Jezebel:** Wife of Ahab and a strong advocate for Baal worship. Her actions provoked the judgment of God.
- **Joram:** King of Israel and son of Ahab and Jezebel. He was assassinated by Jehu.
- **Naboth:** An Israelite who was unjustly murdered by Ahab and Jezebel for his vineyard. His death prompted Elijah's prophecy of judgment.
- **Ramoth Gilead:** A strategic city on the east side of the Jordan River, often contested between Israel and Syria.
- **Jezreel:** The location of the palace where Joram was killed.
- **Divine Judgment:** God's act of dispensing justice and punishment for sin and rebellion.
- **Military Coup:** The overthrow of an existing government by the military.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.1, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 1, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source:

FAQ on 2 Kings 9-10 and the Anointing of Jehu

- **What is the significance of the Elijah/Elisha narratives in the Books of Kings?**
- The Elijah/Elisha narratives, spanning from 1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13, address a pivotal question: Will Baal supplant Yahweh as the dominant deity in Israel? These narratives, particularly the events surrounding Jehu's anointing, highlight God's judgment against the dynasty of Ahab, which had promoted Baal worship, and emphasize the importance of remaining faithful to Yahweh.
- **Why did Elisha carry out the anointing of Hazael and Jehu, rather than Elijah?**
- While God initially instructed Elijah to anoint Hazael and Jehu, Elisha ultimately carried out these tasks. This doesn't indicate disobedience on Elijah's part. The text indicates Elisha was taught by Elijah, making it clear that Elijah's ministry prepared Elisha for these actions at the appropriate times, with the anointing of Jehu occurring approximately 35 years after Ahab came to the throne. It was one ministry, not two separate ones.
- **What does Jehu's decisive and furious driving reveal about his character and mission?**
- Jehu's decisive and relentless approach, symbolized by his "furious driving," demonstrates his determination and unwavering commitment to his divinely ordained task. He displays a sense of urgency and a single-minded focus on executing God's judgment against the house of Ahab. He is portrayed as a man of action, unwilling to compromise or be deterred from his mission.
- **How did Jehu justify his actions, especially the killing of Joram, in light of previous prophecies?**
- Jehu connected his actions to the prophecies of Elijah, particularly concerning the fate of Ahab's dynasty and the retribution for the murder of Naboth. By throwing Joram's body on Naboth's field, Jehu demonstrated his belief that he was fulfilling God's judgment as foretold by the prophet. He viewed himself as an instrument of divine justice.

- **Was Jehu's killing of Ahaziah justified, and what does it reveal about his character?**
- The text suggests that Jehu's killing of Ahaziah was not explicitly commanded by God. While Ahaziah was not a righteous ruler, there was no direct divine mandate for his death. This act demonstrates Jehu's overzealous nature and a potential tendency to exceed the boundaries of his divine commission. It illustrates the idea that it is possible to do God's will in other than God's way.
- **What does Jezebel's response to Jehu's arrival tell us about her character?**
- Jezebel's defiant and intimidating response to Jehu, even in the face of certain death, reveals her unyielding pride and determination to maintain her power and influence. Her attempt to intimidate Jehu reflects the world's opposition to those who seek to serve God, and the lengths it will go to in order to push back against those who stand for righteousness.
- **What does Jezebel's death at the hands of her own servants signify?**
- Jezebel's death, being thrown from a window by her own servants, signifies the rejection of her rule and influence, even by those closest to her. It represents a radical action and a decisive rejection of her wicked ways and indicates that some people were sick of her ways and willing to take radical action.
- **What is the lesson for believers today regarding doing God's will?**
- The narrative of Jehu serves as a cautionary tale, demonstrating that while it is important to be decisive and committed to God's will, it is also crucial to remain within the boundaries of His specific instructions. It is possible to do God's will in other than God's way. Overzealousness and exceeding divine mandates can lead to unintended consequences and potentially compromise the integrity of one's service to God. Believers should strive for obedience coupled with discernment and humility.