

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.3, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 3 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 21.3, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 3, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture examines the biblical account of Jehu's anointing as king of Israel. The lecture emphasizes the historical context and potential motivations behind the events described in 2 Kings 8-9. **Oswalt highlights the swiftness and decisiveness of Jehu's actions, which suggest his popularity within the army.** The lecture also explores the broader conflict between Yahweh and Baal, suggesting that God's compassion for his people is a primary motivator. **Oswalt connects the events to themes of divine justice and the consequences of opposing God's chosen people.** Finally, Oswalt reminds us that God is in charge and we should align ourselves with him.

**2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.3 – 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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3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.3, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 3

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 8-9, specifically focusing on the anointing of Jehu:

Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 8-9 (Jehu's Anointing)

Subject: Analysis of the anointing of Jehu as King of Israel, focusing on historical accuracy, divine purpose, and the ongoing conflict between Yahweh and Baal.

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session21_3.pdf," Dr. John Oswalt, Kings, Session 21, Part 3, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 3.

Main Themes:

- **The Significance of Jehu's Appointment:** The anointing of Jehu is presented as the "other bookend" to the appointment of Hazael, King of Syria, marking a critical moment in the power dynamics between Israel, Syria, and the worship of Yahweh versus Baal.
- **Historical Accuracy and Narrative Detail:** Oswalt emphasizes the historical accuracy of the biblical account, pointing to details such as the messenger being told to run and the swift action taken after Jehu is anointed as evidence. He notes, "Again, I say this is a testimony of the historical accuracy of the account."
- **Divine Purpose and Compassion:** The lecture frames Jehu's anointing as stemming from God's compassion for his people, who are suffering under the idolatrous reign of Ahab and Jezebel. Oswalt states, "But much more deeply, it's the result of God's compassion for his people. You don't mess with God's people."
- **The Ongoing Conflict Between Yahweh and Baal:** The story is set against the backdrop of a larger conflict between Yahweh and Baal, a struggle for the religious and political allegiance of Israel.
- **The Importance of Aligning with God's Purposes:** Oswalt concludes by urging listeners to consider whether they are aligned with God's purposes and can be used by Him.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Jehu's Position:** Jehu is described as a general, in charge of the army at Ramoth Gilead, which makes him the "man on the spot" when the prophet arrives to anoint him.
- **Elisha's Instructions:** Elisha instructs a "son of the prophets" to anoint Jehu in secret and then flee. The urgency is highlighted: "Open the door and run."
- **The Messenger's Expanded Message:** The messenger relays a more detailed message than Elisha initially provided, leading Oswalt to suggest divine inspiration at that moment: "I think there, at that moment, the Lord came upon him, and he said more than he had planned to say."
- **Justification for Jehu's Anointing:** The messenger emphasizes that Jehu's anointing is to avenge the blood of God's servants (the prophets) shed by Jezebel. "I will avenge the blood of my servants, the prophets, and the blood of all the Lord's servants shed by Jezebel."
- **Immediate Acceptance:** The speed and decisiveness with which Jehu's troops accept him as king are noteworthy. "They quickly took their cloaks, spread them under him on the bare steps, blew the trumpet, and shouted, Jehu's king. Wow." Oswalt interprets this as a testament to Jehu's leadership and popularity.
- **Jehu's Driving:** The description of Jehu's fast and reckless driving ("He drives like a maniac") is a memorable detail that contributes to the vividness of the narrative.
- **The Significance of Naboth's Vineyard:** The meeting between Jehu and Joram/Ahaziah occurs at Naboth's vineyard, highlighting the consequences of Ahab and Jezebel's unjust actions. "They met him at the plot of ground that had belonged to Naboth."
- **God's Sovereignty:** Oswalt uses the story to illustrate God's sovereignty and his ability to accomplish his purposes despite human limitations and doubts. He states, "God is going to accomplish his purposes. He's not going to be defeated, friends."

Quotes:

- "Again, I say this is a testimony of the historical accuracy of the account."
- "But much more deeply, it's the result of God's compassion for his people. You don't mess with God's people."
- "I think there, at that moment, the Lord came upon him, and he said more than he had planned to say."
- "I will avenge the blood of my servants, the prophets, and the blood of all the Lord's servants shed by Jezebel."
- "They quickly took their cloaks, spread them under him on the bare steps, blew the trumpet, and shouted, Jehu's king. Wow."
- "He drives like a maniac."
- "They met him at the plot of ground that had belonged to Naboth."
- "God is going to accomplish his purposes. He's not going to be defeated, friends."

Potential Discussion Points:

- The tension between divine will and human agency in Jehu's actions.
- The role of violence in fulfilling God's purposes.
- The relevance of the story to contemporary issues of justice, leadership, and faith.
- The characterization of Jehu as a leader.

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.3, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 3

Jehu's Anointing and the Fall of Ahab: A Study Guide to 2 Kings 8-9

I. Key Concepts and Themes

- **Divine Sovereignty:** God's plan will prevail, even when it seems unlikely.
- **Prophetic Authority:** The role of prophets like Elisha in executing God's will.
- **Judgment and Justice:** God's judgment on the wicked, particularly the house of Ahab for its idolatry and injustice.
- **Political Intrigue and Revolt:** The violent overthrow of the existing dynasty and the establishment of a new one.
- **The Conflict Between Yahweh and Baal:** The ongoing struggle between the worship of the one true God and the false god Baal.
- **Historical Accuracy:** Evidence within the biblical account that suggests it is historically grounded.
- **Leadership:** Comparisons between Jehu and Joram and the impact on allegiance.

II. Detailed Summary

The passage focuses on the anointing of Jehu as king of Israel and the subsequent actions he takes to eradicate the house of Ahab and the worship of Baal.

1. **Elisha's Instructions:** Elisha sends a young prophet to Ramoth Gilead to find Jehu, a commander in the Israelite army. The prophet is instructed to anoint Jehu as king and deliver a message from God concerning the destruction of Ahab's house.
2. **The Anointing:** The young prophet finds Jehu, takes him aside, and anoints him king. He declares that Jehu is chosen to execute God's judgment against Ahab's family for their wickedness, particularly the shedding of the blood of God's prophets and servants.
3. **Jehu's Acceptance:** Jehu's fellow officers quickly accept him as king, demonstrating his popularity and leadership. They immediately proclaim him king and begin to plan their next moves.

4. **Journey to Jezreel:** Jehu and his forces travel to Jezreel, where King Joram (Ahab's son) is recovering from wounds. Joram sends out messengers to inquire about their intentions, but Jehu convinces them to join his cause.
5. **The Confrontation:** Joram and Ahaziah (king of Judah, who was visiting Joram) ride out to meet Jehu. Jehu confronts Joram about the sins of his parents, and then shoots and kills him. Ahaziah attempts to flee but is also wounded and later dies.
6. **Jezebel's Death:** Jehu arrives in Jezreel and confronts Queen Jezebel. Knowing her fate, she prepares herself and taunts Jehu from a window. Jehu orders her thrown down, and she is trampled by horses and devoured by dogs, fulfilling the prophecy.
7. **The Broader Context:** This excerpt reminds us of the ongoing battle between those faithful to Yahweh and those who have embraced Baal worship. While this passage describes events that occurred thousands of years ago, it demonstrates the danger that exists when "God's people" are targeted.

III. Key Figures

- **Jehu:** An Israelite army commander anointed by Elisha to be king of Israel. He is tasked with destroying the house of Ahab and eradicating Baal worship.
- **Elisha:** The prophet of God who instructs the young prophet to anoint Jehu.
- **Joram (Jehoram):** The king of Israel, son of Ahab and Jezebel, who is assassinated by Jehu.
- **Jezebel:** The infamous queen of Israel, wife of Ahab, known for promoting Baal worship and persecuting the prophets of Yahweh. She is killed by Jehu's orders.
- **Ahaziah:** The king of Judah who is visiting Joram and is also killed during Jehu's revolt.
- **Young Prophet:** Obedient messenger of Elisha who carries out the anointing of Jehu.

IV. Quiz (Short Answer)

1. What specific instructions did Elisha give to the young prophet regarding the anointing of Jehu?

2. Why do you think the young prophet was told to flee immediately after anointing Jehu?
3. What reasons did the messenger give to Jehu for the destruction of Ahab's house?
4. What action did the army commanders immediately take after hearing that Jehu was anointed king? What does this suggest about his leadership?
5. What question did Joram send the horsemen to ask Jehu, and how did Jehu respond? What does this interaction suggest?
6. Where did Jehu meet Joram and Ahaziah, and why is that location significant?
7. What is Jezebel's reaction when she hears that Jehu is coming to Jezreel?
8. How does Jehu ensure that the prophecy regarding Jezebel's death is fulfilled?
9. According to Oswalt, why was Jehu appointed king of Israel?
10. Describe in what ways Oswalt uses this passage to show God's relationship with Israel.

V. Quiz Answer Key

1. Elisha instructed the young prophet to take a flask of oil, find Jehu at Ramoth Gilead, anoint him as king of Israel, and declare God's judgment against Ahab's house, then flee immediately.
2. The immediate flight suggests the dangerous nature of conspiracy and revolt. Jehu was essentially being tasked to overthrow the current king.
3. The messenger stated that Jehu would destroy the house of Ahab to avenge the blood of the prophets and servants of the Lord shed by Jezebel.
4. The army commanders immediately proclaimed Jehu king and spread their cloaks on the steps for him, indicating his popularity and their readiness to follow him.
5. Joram asked, "Do you come in peace?" Jehu responded by telling the horsemen to fall in behind him, suggesting Jehu's authority and the horseman's readiness to switch allegiance.
6. Jehu met Joram and Ahaziah at the plot of ground that had belonged to Naboth, which is significant because it highlights Ahab's injustice in seizing Naboth's vineyard.

7. Jezebel put on makeup, arranged her hair, and looked out the window, suggesting defiance and a queenly demeanor even in the face of death.
8. Jehu ordered the eunuchs to throw Jezebel down from the window, ensuring her death and fulfilling the prophecy that she would be eaten by dogs in the plot of ground at Jezreel.
9. Oswalt suggests that Jehu was appointed to carry out God's justice against Ahab's wicked reign, which had promoted idolatry and persecuted God's servants.
10. Oswalt uses this passage to show that God still views Israel as "His people" and that nations that harm Israel will be held to account.

VI. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of Elisha's role in anointing Jehu as king. How does this event reflect the broader themes of prophetic authority and divine intervention in the books of Kings?
2. Analyze Jehu's character as portrayed in the passage. Was he a righteous instrument of God's judgment, or merely an ambitious military leader seizing an opportunity for power? Support your argument with specific examples from the text.
3. Explore the theme of justice in the passage. To what extent does Jehu's actions represent a just and righteous response to the sins of Ahab and Jezebel? Consider the implications of the violence and bloodshed involved.
4. Compare and contrast the leadership styles of Joram and Jehu as depicted in the passage. How did their leadership qualities contribute to the events that unfolded, and what lessons can be drawn from their contrasting approaches?
5. How does Oswalt's interpretation of the passage connect the events of 2 Kings 9 to contemporary issues? Critically evaluate his argument.

VII. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Anointing:** The ritual act of pouring oil on someone's head, symbolizing divine selection and empowerment for a specific role or office, such as king or priest.
- **Baal:** A Canaanite god of fertility and storms, whose worship was often associated with idolatry and immoral practices.
- **House of Ahab:** The royal dynasty of the Northern Kingdom of Israel under King Ahab and his descendants.
- **Jezreel:** A city in the Northern Kingdom of Israel that served as a royal residence and a strategic location in the Jezreel Valley.
- **Prophet:** A person believed to be a messenger of God, conveying divine messages, warnings, and guidance to the people.
- **Ramoth Gilead:** A city located east of the Jordan River, often contested between Israel and Syria, and a strategic military outpost.
- **Yahweh:** The personal name of God in the Hebrew Bible.
- **Nimshi:** Jehu's grandfather.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.3, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 3, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions about the Anointing of Jehu in 2 Kings 8-9

1. Who is Jehu, and what role does he play in the narrative?

Jehu is the commander of the Israelite army stationed at Ramoth Gilead. He is the central figure in the account, chosen and anointed by a messenger of Elisha to become the next king of Israel. He is portrayed as a decisive leader, someone his troops readily follow, and is tasked with destroying the house of Ahab and avenging the blood of the prophets and servants of the Lord shed by Jezebel.

2. Why does Elisha send a messenger to anoint Jehu instead of going himself?

The source doesn't explicitly state why Elisha sent a messenger. The speaker speculates that there may be details we are not aware of that would provide the reasons if we had more information.

3. Why is the messenger told to anoint Jehu in secrecy and then flee?

The secrecy surrounding Jehu's anointing suggests the potential for conspiracy and danger. It is important to act swiftly and decisively without allowing opposition to form or plans to be disrupted.

4. How does the messenger's message to Jehu differ from Elisha's instructions, and what does this suggest?

The messenger's message to Jehu is more detailed and emphatic than the initial instructions given by Elisha. Specifically, the messenger says "king over Yahweh's people, Israel," while Elisha had said "king over Israel." This could indicate that the Lord further inspired the messenger on the spot to deliver a more complete and powerful message.

5. What is the significance of the command to destroy the house of Ahab?

The destruction of the house of Ahab is divinely ordained retribution for Ahab's wickedness, particularly his role in promoting Baal worship and the persecution of Yahweh's prophets. It is also to avenge the blood shed by Jezebel.

6. What is the significance of the plot of ground at Jezreel where Jezebel is to be devoured by dogs?

The plot of ground at Jezreel is a reference to Naboth's vineyard, which Ahab unjustly acquired through Jezebel's machinations. Jezebel's death on this same plot of ground represents divine justice and poetic retribution for her crimes.

7. How do the reactions of Jehu's fellow officers and the horsemen sent by King Joram reveal about Jehu's character and the political climate in Israel at the time?

The officers' immediate acceptance of Jehu as king, without hesitation, suggests that he was a well-respected and favored leader among the troops. The horsemen's willingness to switch allegiances to Jehu, along with the description of his "maniacal" driving, may indicate a sense of dissatisfaction with King Joram's leadership and a desire for a more decisive ruler.

8. How does this narrative connect to the larger theme of the conflict between Yahweh and Baal in the Books of Kings?

The anointing of Jehu and the destruction of Ahab's house are pivotal events in the ongoing conflict between Yahweh and Baal. These events demonstrate God's active intervention in the affairs of Israel to uphold His covenant and punish those who turn away from Him. It shows that even when it seems like Yahweh is losing the battle against Baal, as in Elijah's depression on Mount Sinai, that God has a plan and is in charge. It also touches on the question of whether or not we are in line with God's purposes.