

## Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.3, 2 Kings 9-10, 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 22.3, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 3, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Oswalt's lecture dissects the biblical story of Jehu from 2 Kings 9-10, focusing on Jehu's destruction of Baal worship in Israel.** It highlights Jehu's zealous but incomplete obedience to God, noting that while he eradicated Baal worship, he failed to remove the golden calves, idolatrous images of Yahweh, established by Jeroboam. **Oswalt emphasizes that Jehu's actions, though fulfilling God's will in part, lacked a wholehearted devotion and intimate relationship with God.** The lecture questions whether Jehu's actions were driven by a true love for God or merely by a desire to fulfill a task, and it also underscores that true obedience stems from a loving relationship with God, going beyond merely following explicit commands. **Ultimately, it uses Jehu's example to challenge listeners to examine their own worship and ensure it is motivated by a genuine love for and total commitment to God.** The analysis suggests that partial obedience, even in dramatic acts, falls short of God's desire for a heart fully devoted to Him.

**2. 10 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.3 – 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).**



**Oswalt\_Kings\_Sessi  
on22\_3.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.3, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 3

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. John Oswalt's session on 2 Kings 9-10, Part 3, focusing on the figure of Jehu:

#### **Briefing Document: Dr. John Oswalt on 2 Kings 9-10 (Jehu)**

**Subject:** Analysis of King Jehu's actions and motivations in the context of his obedience (or lack thereof) to God's will.

**Source:** Excerpts from "Oswalt\_Kings\_EN\_Session22\_3.pdf" (Dr. John Oswalt, Kings, Session 22, Part 3)

#### **Main Themes:**

- **Radical Obedience vs. Wholehearted Devotion:** The central tension explored is the difference between performing acts of obedience to God's commands and having a deep, loving, and completely devoted relationship with God. Jehu, while effective in eliminating Baal worship, is presented as an example of someone who obeyed partially and in his own way, ultimately missing a deeper connection with God.
- **The Danger of Partial Obedience and Lingering Idolatry:** The session emphasizes the danger of not fully eradicating idols, even small ones, from one's life. This is illustrated by Jehu's failure to remove the golden calves of Jeroboam. Oswalt uses the analogy of COVID-contaminated pennies: "All of them are contaminated with COVID. How many do I have to get rid of? Every last one of them."
- **The Difference Between "Doing God's Will" and "Doing What Gives God Joy":** Oswalt differentiates between performing actions that fulfill God's direct commands and seeking to please God's heart in a way that stems from a loving relationship. He suggests that Jehu fulfilled the "obvious intention of his mandate: get rid of Baalism," but failed to pursue a more profound obedience.
- **Jehu as a Mixed Example: Triumph and Tragedy:** Jehu is depicted as a complex figure. He achieved significant results in purging Baal worship and establishing a dynasty, but his actions were flawed by incomplete obedience and perhaps even a zeal driven by personal gratification rather than pure devotion.

#### **Key Ideas and Facts:**

- **Jehu's Decisive Action Against Baal Worship:** Jehu cleverly orchestrated the gathering and slaughter of Baal worshippers in Samaria. His strategy involved deception: "His deception was precisely for the purpose of getting them all together in one place at one time." He destroyed the Baal temple and turned it into a latrine, signifying total eradication.
- **The Importance of Total Eradication:** Oswalt stresses that any remnant of idolatry or anything that hinders a person's relationship with God must be dealt with radically. "Total eradication. Leave a little bit, and you will go back to the same place."
- **Jehu's Failure to Remove the Golden Calves:** Despite his zeal in destroying Baal worship, Jehu did not remove the golden calves at Bethel and Dan, instituted by Jeroboam. This failure is viewed as a crucial flaw, representing a lack of complete devotion to God: "So, Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel. However...he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, son of Nebat...the worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan."
- **Jehu's Dynasty:** Because Jehu did accomplish God's will by destroying Ahab's line, the Lord allowed his descendants to sit on the throne for four generations. "The Jehu dynasty was on the throne for about 100 years through four generations." However, even this blessing is tempered by the fact that "Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the Lord, the God of Israel with all his heart."
- **God Desires Relationship, Not Just Obedience:** Oswalt argues that God desires a loving, intimate relationship with His followers, not simply adherence to rules or commands. "God doesn't want your obedience. He wants you, and if he gets you, then doing what your father wants is not a big deal." He contrasts "God's will" with "My father's will," suggesting that true obedience stems from a personal relationship with God as Father.
- **The Significance of God's Approval:** The session concludes with a reflection on seeking God's approval and living in the "smile of God's eyes," as opposed to merely fulfilling a checklist of requirements. Oswalt states, "I want to live in the smile of God's eyes. I want him to say, oh honey, you're doing just what I want."
- **A Personal Challenge:** Oswalt challenges the listeners to consider how they might be like Jehu, doing God's will in a partial or incomplete way, and to seek a deeper, more loving relationship with God where obedience becomes a pleasure rather than a burden. "Take us beyond Jehu. Take us into your heart. Where doing what you want will be a pleasure to us, not a burden."

**Implications:**

- The story of Jehu serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of complete devotion and a loving relationship with God, beyond mere outward acts of obedience.
- It encourages listeners to examine their own lives for areas of partial obedience or lingering idols that may be hindering their relationship with God.
- It calls for a shift in focus from simply "doing God's will" to seeking to understand and fulfill what brings joy to God's heart.

This briefing document encapsulates the key themes and ideas presented in the provided excerpts, emphasizing the complex character of Jehu and the importance of wholehearted devotion to God.

## 4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.3, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 3

### Jehu: Triumph and Tragedy in 2 Kings 9-10

#### Study Guide

This study guide is designed to help you understand the key themes, events, and theological implications of 2 Kings 9-10, as presented in Dr. Oswalt's lecture. It covers the anointing and actions of Jehu, the destruction of Baal worship, and the limitations of Jehu's obedience.

#### Key Themes

- **Radical Obedience vs. Wholehearted Devotion:** The tension between performing God's will and loving God with all your heart.
- **Eradication of Idolatry:** The complete removal of anything that stands between God and His people.
- **Jehu's Legacy:** A mixed legacy of fulfilling God's command and failing to fully embrace God's heart.
- **The Danger of Partial Obedience:** The idea that half-measures can leave room for destructive influences to return.
- **The Importance of Relationship with God:** The idea that true obedience stems from a deep, loving relationship with God, not just a sense of duty.

#### Summary of Events

1. **Jehu's Anointing:** Jehu is anointed king of Israel by a prophet at the command of God.
2. **The Massacre of the House of Ahab:** Jehu systematically kills Joram (King of Israel), Ahaziah (King of Judah), Jezebel, and all remaining members of Ahab's family.
3. **Deception and Destruction of Baal Worship:** Jehu cleverly gathers all the Baal worshippers under the pretense of a great sacrifice to Baal, and then has them slaughtered. The Baal temple is destroyed and turned into a latrine.

4. **Jehu's Incomplete Reformation:** Despite destroying Baal worship, Jehu continues the idolatrous worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan, established by Jeroboam.
5. **God's Assessment of Jehu:** God acknowledges Jehu's obedience in destroying Ahab's house and Baal worship, promising his descendants four generations on the throne. However, God also notes Jehu's failure to fully obey God's law.

## Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. What is the significance of Jehu's destruction of the Baal temple and turning it into a latrine?
2. Why does Dr. Oswalt emphasize the difference between doing God's will and doing what brings God joy?
3. How does Jehu's actions reflect a "triumph and tragedy"?
4. What was Jeroboam's sin, and why did Jehu continue it?
5. What does the example of the "COVID-contaminated pennies" illustrate in the context of the passage?
6. How did Jehu's deception help him eliminate Baal worship?
7. What does Oswalt mean when he says that God wants you, not just your obedience?
8. How does the passage connect Jehu's story to the idea of "total eradication"?
9. What were the limitations to Jehu's service to the Lord?
10. How does Dr. Oswalt use Deuteronomy 10:12-13 to evaluate Jehu's reign?

## Quiz Answer Key

1. The destruction and desecration of the Baal temple symbolize a complete eradication of Baal worship, emphasizing that there should be no possibility of its return. Turning it into a latrine is a statement of utter contempt and defilement of the idolatrous site.
2. Dr. Oswalt emphasizes that while obedience is important, God desires a loving relationship with His people. Doing what brings God joy stems from a deep love and understanding of His heart, going beyond mere duty or obligation.

3. Jehu's actions are a triumph because he fulfilled God's command to destroy Baal worship and the house of Ahab. It is a tragedy because he only partially obeyed God, failing to remove the golden calves and not serving God with a whole heart.
4. Jeroboam's sin was establishing the worship of golden calves at Bethel and Dan to prevent the northern kingdom from returning to Jerusalem for worship. Jehu continued it because he possibly feared the political consequences of removing the idols, such as the dissolution of his kingdom.
5. The example illustrates that even a small amount of contamination can be deadly, emphasizing the need for complete and radical removal of anything that hinders one's relationship with God. Just keeping one contaminated penny is enough to spread the disease.
6. Jehu used deception to gather all the Baal worshippers under the pretense of a great sacrifice to Baal. This allowed him to eliminate them all at once, ensuring the complete destruction of Baal worship in Israel.
7. Oswalt means that God desires a loving relationship with us and genuine devotion. When we are motivated by this love, obedience becomes a natural outflow of our hearts, rather than a grudging obligation or a mere checklist of tasks to complete.
8. The passage connects Jehu's story to the idea of "total eradication" by highlighting the complete destruction of the Baal temple and its idol. This illustrates the need to remove anything that stands in the way of one's relationship with God.
9. Jehu eliminated Baalism, but did not fully serve the Lord with all his heart. He still failed to eradicate Jeroboam's idolatry.
10. Oswalt utilizes Deuteronomy 10:12-13, which emphasizes fearing, obeying, loving, and serving the Lord with all one's heart and soul, to highlight that Jehu's actions were not characterized by wholehearted devotion. Jehu's obedience lacked the element of love and complete dedication that Deuteronomy calls for.

## Essay Questions

Consider the following questions and develop well-structured essays.

1. Analyze Jehu's actions in the context of divine command theory. Was Jehu morally justified in his actions, given God's explicit commands? Explore the ethical complexities of his obedience.
2. Discuss the concept of "partial obedience" in the context of Jehu's reign. How does his failure to eradicate the golden calves illustrate the dangers of incomplete devotion to God? What are the potential consequences of this kind of partial obedience in contemporary Christian life?
3. Explore the idea that Jehu did God's will but not in God's way. What does this distinction mean in the context of the passage? How can Christians today avoid falling into the same trap?
4. Compare and contrast Jehu's approach to religious reform with that of other biblical figures, such as Josiah or Hezekiah. What lessons can be learned from their successes and failures?
5. How does Dr. Oswalt's interpretation of Jehu's story challenge or reinforce traditional interpretations of the passage? Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of his approach.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Baal:** A Canaanite deity often associated with fertility and storms. The worship of Baal was a major source of idolatry in Israel.
- **Golden Calves:** Idols established by Jeroboam in Bethel and Dan to provide alternative places of worship for the northern kingdom, preventing them from returning to Jerusalem.
- **Idolatry:** The worship of idols or anything that takes the place of God in one's life.
- **Jehu Dynasty:** The dynasty established by Jehu, which lasted for four generations in the northern kingdom of Israel.
- **Jeroboam:** The first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after the split of the kingdom following Solomon's reign. He is known for establishing idolatrous worship.
- **Radical Obedience:** Complete and uncompromising adherence to God's commands.
- **Wholehearted Devotion:** Loving and serving God with all one's heart, soul, and mind, motivated by a deep relationship with Him.
- **Yahweh:** The personal name of God in the Hebrew Bible.
- **Coup d'etat:** a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.
- **Mandate:** an official order or commission to do something.

## 5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 22.3, 2 Kings 9-10, Part 3, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

### FAQ on Jehu and Wholehearted Obedience

Here are some frequently asked questions that address the main themes and ideas presented in the provided text.

- **What was Jehu commissioned to do, and how did he accomplish it?**
- Jehu was commissioned to eradicate Baal worship from Israel, specifically targeting the house of Ahab. He shrewdly gathered all the Baal worshippers, prophets, servants, and priests under the pretense of a great sacrifice to Baal, luring them into the Baal Temple in Samaria. Once assembled, he ordered their execution, ensuring none escaped. He then demolished the sacred stone and tore down the temple of Baal, turning it into a latrine, signifying a total eradication of Baal worship.
- **Why was it important for Jehu to eradicate Baal worship entirely?**
- Total eradication was essential because leaving even a small remnant of Baal worship would risk its resurgence. The text emphasizes that anything standing in the way of God's lordship, no matter how small, can cripple one's faith and draw them back to idolatry. Like contaminated pennies, every last bit of influence must be removed to prevent reinfection.
- **What was Jehu's major failing despite his successful eradication of Baal worship?**
- Jehu failed to fully obey God because he did not remove the golden calves at Bethel and Dan, idols that had been established by Jeroboam. While he eliminated Baal worship, he continued to allow the worship of Yahweh through these idols, demonstrating a lack of wholehearted devotion to God.

- **Why didn't Jehu remove the golden calves, and what might have been the consequences if he had?**
- The text suggests that Jehu might have been concerned about the potential political consequences of removing the golden calves. If he had gotten rid of these idols, his people may have returned to Jerusalem to worship, which may have led to the dissolution of the northern kingdom. However, the text also questions whether they could have worshipped God at Bethel without an idol.
- **What does the story of Jehu teach about the difference between doing God's will and having a relationship with God?**
- The story of Jehu illustrates that one can perform actions that align with God's will without truly having a loving, devoted relationship with Him. Jehu obeyed God's command to eliminate Baal worship, but he did so partially and in his own way, failing to remove the golden calves and not serving God with all his heart. God desires not merely obedience, but a relationship where one's actions flow from a deep love and desire to please Him.
- **What does it mean to serve the Lord with all your heart?**
- Serving the Lord with all your heart means giving Him total obedience and making Him the central focus of your life. It involves aligning your will with His, doing things His way rather than seeking the minimum required, and prioritizing your relationship with Him above all else. It means seeking not just to do what pleases Him, but what brings Him joy.
- **How does the idea of "living in the smile of God's eyes" relate to the story of Jehu?**
- The idea of living in the smile of God's eyes represents a desire to know that one's actions are pleasing to Him and reflect a deep connection with Him. Jehu missed this because he focused on fulfilling the specific command to eradicate Baal worship without considering the broader implications of his actions or the deeper desire of God for a complete devotion. He did God's will in a partial way but missed the opportunity to truly delight God through wholehearted obedience.

- **What is the personal challenge presented by the story of Jehu?**
- The story of Jehu challenges individuals to examine their own worship and obedience to God. It prompts reflection on whether there are areas in one's life where they are holding back from fully surrendering to God's will, whether they are missing opportunities to serve Him more purely, and whether they are truly seeking a loving relationship with Him rather than just performing actions to fulfill a duty. It challenges one to identify anything standing in the way of their relationship with God and to be willing to remove it, seeking to do not just God's will, but what brings joy to His heart.