

Inaugurating the Jehu Dynasty (2 Kings 9-10)

Park Street Church Christian Formation (3/12/17)

Where We Are Going Today: Overview

- Reviews:
 - Theological lessons
 - Geo-politics
- Dynastic overthrow rocks the northern kingdom—again
- Suppressing Baal worship—again

Review: Theological Lessons

- God's prophets were called to function in the midst of seemingly intractable political messes, both at home and "abroad."
- Elisha's double portion of the Spirit echoed Elijah's ministry and foreshadowed Jesus's miracles.
- God healed and rescued in very surprising and unpredictable ways.
- Faithfulness counts—no matter where we are!

Review: Politics and Religion

Kings of Israel and Judah

Ahab (N)	Jehoshaphat (S)
Ahaziah	Jehoram
Joram (Jehoram)	Ahaziah

*Jehoram of the south was married to Ahab and Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah [2 Kgs 8:18]

Elijah's "Tasks" – 1 Kings 19

- Anoint Hazael – king of Damascus
- Anoint Jehu – king of northern kingdom
- Anoint Elisha

Order of Fulfillment

- Elisha
- Hazael
- Jehu

Review: Shocking Developments (2 Kings 8)

- Ben-Hadad (Syria), who had been such a thorn in the flesh of the northern kings, fell ill
- Elisha went to Damascus! [Note the king of Syria consulted the Lord - 2 Kgs 8:8]
- Elisha revealed Hazael's intentions—to assassinate ben-Hadad [2 Kgs 8:10-15] and brutally rule Gilead [note Amos 1:3-5]
- Edom [previously allied with Judah and Israel against Moab – 2 Kgs 3] rebelled

Setting the Stage for the Military Coup

- Ahaziah (S) joined Joram (N) to counter the might of Hazael
- Battle at Ramoth-Gilead
- Joram wounded and retreated to Jezreel
- Ahaziah paid him a call

Jehu Anointed

- Prophetic authority: Elijah → Elisha → an unnamed man from the company of the prophets
- Elisha's mandate to the unnamed prophet
 - Find Jehu and take him aside
 - Pour anointing oil on his head - proclaim him king
 - Run!
- What did the prophet actually say?

Regime Change

- Jehu's ride toward Jezreel
- Encountered Joram and Ahaziah at Naboth's vineyard
- The end of Jezebel [cf. 1 Kgs 21:23]
- The end of the house of Ahab in Samaria
- What about those "civil servants"? Why switch allegiance so quickly?

Outwitting the Prophets of Baal

- En route to Samaria – who was Jehonadab, the Recabite?
- The "great sacrifice for Baal" – all the faithful Baal ministers in robes [to mark them]
- Destruction of Baal worship
- The word of the Lord – "you have done well . . ." [judgment on the house of Ahab]
- Jehu neglected the Law of the Lord
- Hazael overpowered and reduced Israel's hold to the east of the Jordan Valley

Excursus: Tel Dan Inscription

- Largest fragment (A) found in 1993 in secondary usage (reused in a wall) and covered by debris . Two additional fragments (B C).
- In Aramaic.
- The king of Damascus boasts of victories over "[Jeho]ram son of Ahab, king of Israel" and [Ahaz]jah son of [Jehoram, ki]ng of the **house of David**"

What Questions Do These Events Raise?