

II Kings 9:1-13: THE ANOINTING OF JEHU

Beloved Congregation of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

The sad saga 冒险故事 of the house of Omri is heading towards its ominous 不祥的 end and in that miserable story we have heard the good news of the patience and grace of God but also the reality of His just judgment. We have had cause to reflect on the importance of human leadership in the calling and commissioning of the people of God in Canaan then and our task today as the living body of Christ here on earth to be light of the world and salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13-16). We understand then the importance of leadership to our calling as church here on the earth to represent Christ and to obey the Great Commission. That means we ought to have leaders who not only lead and do the work but train others to do that work. It means that the leadership must be obedient 服从的.

Still the people of God are responsible also for their own lives and must analyze their own lives in order to make their own callings and election and sure (2 Peter 1:10). So together shepherd (King Joram) and flock (the Northern Tribes of Israel), as we read in 2 Kings 9:1-10, had wandered into the valley of the shadow of death because they had rejected the LORD as their Shepherd. Now the day of reckoning had come. It all could have been so different. When you do not walk into the valley of the shadow of death with the LORD, you had better fear evil!

Enter Jehu as the new servant of God. As S.G De Graaf (作者 of Promise and Deliverance) reminds us, Jehu was no less than the house of Ahab (or David for that matter) to be an agent of grace. His calling was to serve God in subservience to the gracious LORD God. So the annals 史册 of history tell us of what happens when the servants of God lead in accordance with his Word whether politically (state) or ecclesiastically 教会(church); and the destruction that comes when they do not. Now Jehu is confronted with the grace of God. So we are confronted with this grace as well. But grace presumes the judgment of God and so we are confronted with Yahweh in all of His glory as the Lord and master of history and the Shepherd of His people. I bring to you the Word of the Lord under the theme:

THE LORD ANNOINTS JEHU AS KING AND EXECUTIONER: 1. ELISHA SENDS FOR JEHU(1-5)

2.ELISHA’S MESSAGE FOR JEHU(6-10)3.THE RECOGNITION OF JEHU(11-13)

ELISHA SENDS FOR JEHU Israel was, we recall, in Ramoth struggling to keep hold of this renegade 叛变 state that sought independence. Jehoram had led the nation in the way of the house of Ahab and Jezebel and so the people called on Baal to love them and watch over them. This of course was a direct violation of the first commandments: You shall not have other gods before me! It was a direct violation of God’s command that the king must rule with the Torah by his side (Deuteronomy 17:18-20). The kings of the house of Ahab were shepherds that led the people into the sands of the wilderness where the water did not flow, nor did the milk or honey. There was now nothing but civil war and unrest, heavy taxation and a wounded king who though at least had gone to battle with his troops sat now with his nephew nursing his wounds in Jezreel. The house of Ahab had become pathetic 可怜. The LORD now would clean house so to speak. The LORD as abused husband had had enough and the wrath of God was kindled against the house of Omri and Ahab, the fathers and grandfathers of the wicked kings of old. It was time for the LORD to bring change and with it new hope for the straying 迷路 and wicked nation.

Elisha was moved by the Spirit of God to complete the commission given to Elijah to anoint Jehu, the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi to distinguish him from the house of Jehoshaphat son of Asa of Judah. Recall that God displayed his love to an ailing 生病 Elijah who despondent 沮丧的 was comforted with the Words the LORD would certainly bring judgment upon the house of Ahab by the hand of Hazael and Jehu (1 Kings 19:15-18). That means of course that the LORD was working from within (Jehu) and without (the enemies of Israel) to bring the wicked and obstinate 固执 Israel to her knees.

It is interesting to note some of the similarities in the way the Lord called Saul and David. Remember that the Lord sent Samuel to find these two men and to anoint them with oil. We read too of the anointing of Solomon but we never read until now of an anointing of any king of Israel. Both Saul and David were men of some talents and ability that the LORD had provided. Saul, of course, ruled by his own merit and rejected the grace of God and though David fell and often he always fell back on the grace and mercy of God acknowledging that the LORD was the King of Glory, strong and majestic in battle! Then Saul was replaced by David and now the house of Omri by Jehu. Elisha the man of God sends a pupil of the prophets (as Keil and Delitsch in their commentary refer to him) to anoint Jehu. Things were moving sadly and yet wondrously to their appointed end. Once more we have cause to rejoice that the LORD is the God of His Word who can be trusted.

The LORD sent out to find his servant. There is really nothing special about Jehu except that he is a respected soldier. But what does that matter to the Lord? As Jesus would later say to the 12 disciples, “It is not that you chose me but I chose you and appointed you to bear much fruit.”(John 15:16) Paul would write later, “It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy” (Rom. 9:16). In God’s wisdom and grace to Israel and Elijah, the Lord, before the foundation of the world, appointed Jehu to be king and the executioner of His wrath. Jehu, whose name means something like, “The LORD is true or the true one” is evidence of that our God is truth and is to be worshipped in Spirit and truth.

The servant was to go quickly and leave quickly. He was to go into the battle fray 磨损处 and anoint Jehu the king of Israel. He was to do that privately and then to leave quickly for certainly there would be factions that were loyal to Jehoram. This process would allow Jehu to discern 辨别 and process this new turn of events and respond in private. It allowed Jehu to respond to the grace of God and the enormity 艰巨 of his task in private devotion. Yes the Lord is good! There Jehu stood and there was a time to make a right and godly decision understanding the grace of God.

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We recall for a moment the anointing of Jesus. Then a prophet after the line of Elijah and Elisha, John (the Baptist), his name means “grace”, was called by God to baptize the Son of God in the Jordan River. Immediately Jesus headed out into the desert to do combat with the Satan. His baptism was a judgment upon the kingdom of darkness. It was the confirmation of a Word spoken thousands of years earlier in the Garden. The Lord Jesus had come to bring an end to the house of Lucifer. Yes, beloved, Jesus had come to bring us salvation. But to do that violence against the wicked must happen as well. Jesus came in grace and in judgment. He too stood and in obedience to His call and became the King and warrior of grace! Jehu stands a type of Christ and stands as an antitype 预表 of Christ. Israel needed a leader and a redeemer. Someone had to rescue the people from the realm of darkness that her own leaders had plunged her into. Israel was like the world now. The Lord called Jehu. Many years later the Lord called Jesus Christ. We too live in this world but now under His faithful and perfect leadership that we might live in humility and awe before the throne of grace and worship the LORD in Christ, in Spirit and in truth. He came to die the horrible and brutal death on the cross that all those who believe might have eternal life. Now we have a moment to make the right decision and to obey Jesus call to repent and believe! We make this decision to repent and believe only on the basis of the grace of God!

The servant of the Lord, that son of the prophets went in obedience to his call. He did as he was called. He entered into the commanders’ council and separated Jehu and found things as the LORD has told him. There in the house there in Ramoth-Gilead he did the bidding of the LORD and anointed Jehu.

ELISHA’S MESSAGE FOR JEHU: Perhaps we might be better to title this point, “The LORD’S message to Jehu.” But the servant and the LORD were so connected therefore we want to draw attention to Elisha in his office of prophet. Elisha was as a prophet to bring the Word of the LORD, faithfully and courageously. Truly this man had been used by the LORD in mighty ways. But by His Word through Elisha the LORD had certainly come in judgment and grace. Though the house of Omri had great difficulty in viewing Elijah and Elisha as friends of the throne, they nonetheless were. Time again Elijah and Elisha went and discussed and declared and decreed that the house of Ahab might turn from the wicked ways and lead the people in the paths of righteousness. But it was to no avail. As the Spirit by the pen of Paul tells us in Romans 9, the LORD hardens the heart that He hardens that His name will be declared and glorified (Romans 9:18).

The message that Elisha brought was a stark 绝对 and frank 坦率 declaration of the wrath of God:

This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anoint you king over the Lord’s people Israel. You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge 报仇 the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the Lord’s servants shed by Jezebel. The whole house of Ahab will perish. I will cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free. I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah.

It is interesting then that the LORD had chosen a commander from Jerhoram’s own army to do his bidding and execute his wrath. (We will say more about this later but we wonder about the factions that must have been occurring in that army.) Why did the Lord do it this way? It was because it was by means of the army that the LORD provided the throne for Omri. This house of warriors had as we have seen always been about intrigue, politics and the war machine. Now the very heart and soul of the Omriic dynasty 王朝 would be used against it. This is the avenging irony of the LORD for nothing escapes His attention. Thus the slave will rise up against the master and this Jehu who is but a commander in the army will be used by God to bring an end to the master’s house.

We note the word avenge. The Lord is not mocked. I hope in this era of persecution and devastation of the church that we will take heart. We note that, without vengeance ourselves, that vengeance belongs to the LORD. We see the death of those who have brought harm to the Kingdom of God, but could not overcome. We have seen the rise and fall of Muslim dictators who take their stand against the Lord and His anointed (Psalm 2). But is frightful when we think and contemplate 思虑 that this vengeance 复仇 is coming upon the kings of the covenant people! When we think of how many fall at the hand of the Spanish Inquisition 西班牙宗教裁判所 and the persecution of Rome in the days of the Reformation. When we think about the martyrdom 殉难 of Guido De Bres and others who stood firm for the truth and *sola scriptura*, then we can rest assured that those who have not repented of what they have done even to the least of these of Jesus’ brothers they have done for him. We see the Lord Jesus in all of His warrior glory in Revelation 1 and we know that He is coming for us. The Spirit and the Bride shout, “Come!” Amen! Maranatha: Come quickly Lord Jesus!

Israel was a nation of unrest, wickedness and brokenness. The blood of the prophets cried out even as the blood of Abel! Even as the blood of Christ and the martyrs 烈士 cry out. Judgment is mine says the Lord! It truly is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of an angry God as we shall see.

The judgment was a blood matter! Blood for blood for the law of sin brings death. Bloodshed demanded that blood would be shed (Genesis 9:6). The Lord would bring dishonor on the sons of Ahab and that wicked embodiment 实施例 of satanic 撒旦 rule, Jezebel. Now there was no hope!

What is worse though than the violence is the knowledge that to those judged sinners the eternity of death belonged. To these the fires of hell would be an eternal home. One father after another in Omri’s house and in the house of Israel leads a son down the road to hell. One king leads the nation into perdition 沉沦 and eternal wrath where the fires never burn out; the place of weeping and wailing and gnashing 咬牙切齿 of teeth. Beloved this too is a reality. Liberalism, humanism and universalism aside now, this is also a truth. We think now as leaders of the church and leaders of our families and as husbands who lead the good women and children of the church the

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enormity of the task. We cannot do it and we are not asked to do by ourselves, but called we must stand now too with Jehu and heed the calling of our task and hear the message of the Lord. We must lead and live in grace and by the love and mercy of God following our eternal King Jesus Christ.

Yes beloved this is a message for us too. Let us be secure in Christ and never secure in ourselves. Let us be absolutely loyal to our God who has called us by covenant to live in covenant with Him. Let us live by His mercy and grace and let those called to lead be prayed for and obedient that we might never fall away.

For Jesus is coming with at the final judgment. The house of Ahab and Jezebel is but one dynasty of Satan that has been and will be crushed. Let us be wise and let us be prepared for the Day of the Lord is approaching! There will be glory and vindication 平反 on that glorious day. But what of the sinner: what will become of them? (Psalter Hymnal # 370:3) Let us cry out the words of Christ in the church and in the world, "Repent and believe for the Kingdom of God is at hand!"

The Recognition of Jehu: The pupil of the prophets got out of there in a hurry. He had done his work well and courageously and the Lord ensured that obedience would bring safety. Jehu was left now to his own thoughts. There he stood. What would he do?

At the great crisis of Jesus' life when he was called to combat the devil, death and hell he wrestled with God in the garden. Jesus was known as a man of prayer. His father David too was a man of prayer and seeking after God. So too in his early days, Solomon had asked for wisdom to lead the people of God. Solomon was overwhelmed with the task that was at hand. Solomon led the people in worship and sacrifice.

Jehu lived in a different time. He was of course as we will see a man of action. The Lord had chosen well of course for the Lord had created Jehu for this purpose. Still Jehu had an obligation to God. It was the LORD that anointed him. He did not seem too perplexed 困惑 by the message given to him. Jehu as we will see will dole the wrath of God with zeal and a certain relish 滋味. But let us stand with him a moment, for that is as long as he stands and contemplates; merely a minute. There is no time of seeking after the Lord. There is no sadness for his king and master Jehoram is there. We think of David's sorrow for Saul and Jonathon. We think also of Samuel's deep sorrow for Saul too. This is a great tragedy beloved. But Jehu seems rather unmoved by it all.

As mentioned we do not see him now on his hands and knees asking the Lord for wisdom or guidance. We see that the whole environment of Israel is poisoned. Commander is not much different than king in this respect. There is no thanksgiving or solemnity 严肃. He hears the word and perhaps as a good soldier hears not so much a calling as a man who simply will obey orders as they are given. But the seeds for the demise of the house of Jehu have been sown.

When Jehu walked out the man laughed. "What did this madman have to say to you?" There you have it! This is the respect that the servants of God who brought the Word received. They call him the crazy man who brings peals 串串 of laughter. But this is always the way when Christ is rejected. Did God really say! Come on! Who could believe such drive! 胡说! How can anyone take these messengers seriously? And beloved we are seeing it around us. Christian institutions of worship and education are closing and falling away. When grace is rejected the end cannot be far away.

Still these men seem rather tickled that one of their own is king. Not one of them wants to check into the matter. There is among these commanders no loyalty at all to Jehoram. When God is not respected, then respect in the covenant community slowly dwindles 缩小. But Jehoram was weak. We can imagine that taxation since the days of the droughts 旱灾 all the way back to Ahab had been severe. Grace removed, war also must have had demanded higher taxes. Yes these were men of war but they were also citizens who left family and home to fight not to defend them but that territory might be kept. The words of Samuel keep sounding throughout the ages. A King will tax, take your best, take your sons and daughter and make life more difficult. Jehoram ruled as a king of the world ruled. The commanders now rejoice.

There was no throne there so they made a makeshift 代用品 throne of their coats. They honored Jehu and so Jehu received the honor without giving glory to God. The commanders were ready for a new time of bloodshed and were loyal. There on the battlefield the shout went up: "Jehu is King!" Yes the Lord had anointed Jehu as king and a brutal day in the history of Israel was about to begin. Jehu in time would exercise the judgment of God and in time would forsake the Lord.

They honored Jesus too when He came into Jerusalem. Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord they cried. But when the grace of God who has appeared to all men came, they rejected him and the cries turned to "Crucify Him!" Our Lord and Savior too was given a special calling to bring the righteousness of God to bear. His was a bitter death on the cross because of His zeal for the Lord and the Lord's love for us! He came to bring and to do the Word of God. In Jehu we come to understand the calling that Christ received. In the prophets we come to understand the nature of that calling. In the Word we come to understand that our God is good to those who love him. But let us also hear and understand: Woe to the people who reject that love and mercy of God. Let us follow our good shepherd with confidence and loyalty seeking from God the wisdom to live before his face in obedience and righteousness. For the Lord is coming! Come quickly! Maranatha! Amen.