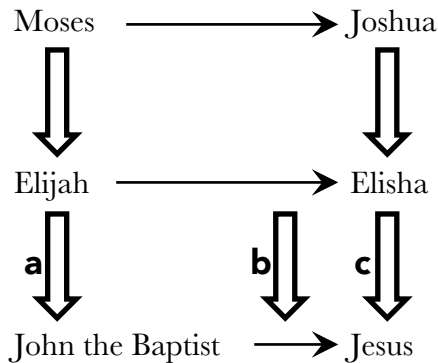


The assassin

(2 Kings 8-10)

Jesus is Elisha



1 Kings 19	Luke 3
Elijah is dismayed by the apostasy of Israel and calls for their repentance	John the Baptist is dismayed by the apostasy of Israel and calls for their repentance (vv7-14)
Elijah is told that his successor (Elisha) will bring judgment	John announces that his successor (Jesus) will come to 'burn with unquenchable fire' (v17)
Elijah is persecuted by Jezebel, wife of King Ahab	John is persecuted by Herodias, wife of King Herod (vv18-19)
Elijah anoints Elisha to begin his ministry	John baptises Jesus to begin his ministry (vv21-22)

Elisha brings salvation first

We expected Elijah to bring judgment. Instead comes bringing salvation!
 We expected Jesus to bring judgment. Instead he comes bringing salvation!

But then the promised judgment comes (of course)

Elisha brings judgement

Elisha anoints the first assassin, Hazeal, but with tears (2 Kings 8:7-15)

Elisha anoints the second assassin, Jehu, with a promise of total destruction (2 Kings 9:1-13)

It reminds us of someone else...

... who was also anointed as **King**
 (e.g. John 1:41, cf. 2 Kings 9:3, 6)

... whose path was also paved with people's cloaks (e.g. Mark 11:7, cf. 2 Kings 9:13)

... whose also foretold terrible judgment on God's enemies, with tears (Luke 19:41-44, cf. 2 Kings 8:11)

	Memorable details	RECURRING THEME: Apostates change sides to join Jehu's 'remnant'	RECURRING THEME: God's word fulfilled
Joram and Ahaziah killed (9:14-29)	The repetition underlines Joram's desperate but futile search for reassurance: 'is it peace' (v17, v18, v19, v22). Jehu's answer comes in v22: there can be no peace where there is apostasy.	Joram's messengers on horseback now ride behind Jehu (vv18-20)	In 1 Kings 21:17-24, Elijah had promised that Ahab would be killed at the vineyard of Naboth, his victim, and that all his male descendants would be 'cut off'. Elisha reminded Jehu of this in 2 Kings 9:7-8, and now he orders that Joram be killed in the same place as his father 'in accordance with the word of the LORD' (2 Kings 9:25-26).
Jezebel killed (9:30-37)	Echoing her son, Jezebel asks 'is it peace?' but from her reference to Zimri (cf. 1 Kings 16:9-20) we infer she knows otherwise. She beautifies herself (v30) but soon all that's left of her is 'the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands' (v35); even the fingers have been chewed off by dogs.	Two or three eunuchs from Jezebel's household, throw her out the window in response to Jehu's cry, 'Who is on my side? Who?' (vv32-33).	In 1 Kings 21:23, the LORD said 'the dogs shall eat Jezebel within the walls of Jezreel'. They do. It seems that Jehu has forgotten this prophecy and orders her burial, but God arranges events so his word comes to pass. (2 Kings 9:34-37)
Ahab's other sons killed (10:1-17)	The horrific image of heads shipped in baskets (v7) and piled high either side of the city gate (v8) is intended to lodge in our minds. There is a repeated emphasis on the totality of the judgment: 'all who remained... none remaining... he spared none of them... all who remained' (vv11,14,17).	The 'rulers of the city ... the elders... the guardians of the sons of Ahab' (v1) surrender to Jehu: 'we are your servants, and we will do all that you tell us' (v5). In response to his command, they assassinate their wards, and he pronounces them 'innocent' (v9), literally 'right'	'Jehu struck down all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had wiped them out, according to the word of the LORD that he has spoke to Elijah' (v17)
Prophets of Baal killed (10:18-27)	As above, there is a repeated emphasis on the totality of the judgment: 'all the prophets of Baal, all his worshippers, and all his priests, let none be missing' (v18); 'the house of Baal was filled' (v21); 'all the worshippers of Baal' (v22). The author saves the best detail 'til last: they turn Baal's temple into a toilet (v27).	Jehonadab, is a little different. From the start his heart is true to Jehu (v15) and he co-orchestrates the plot against the prophets of Baal. (He is commended at length in Jeremiah 35)	

It's gruesome. But God says that it's right (10:30).

Application

Don't doubt that judgment is coming (cf. Acts 17:31)

Make the most of the period of salvation before judgement (cf. 2 Peter 3:8-9)

Don't get caught up with those on whom God's judgment is coming (8:16-29)

[Jehoram] walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done	<i>for</i> the daughter of Ahab was his wife (8:18)	“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them” (Ephesians 5:6-7)
[Ahaziah] also walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did what was evil in the sight of the LORD	<i>for</i> he was son-in-law to the house of Ahab. (8:27)	

Postscript – Elisha brings life even in death

2 Kings 13:14-25

Again, it reminds us of someone else...

If you enjoyed these seminars...

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