

OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY MEETING WORKBOOK

Assigned chapters:

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-22 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

*** w11 11/15 p. 3 Jehu Champions Pure Worship ***

Jehu Champions Pure Worship

JEHU was a champion of pure worship. In carrying out this role, he was energetic, prompt, relentless, zealous, and courageous. Jehu manifested qualities that we would do well to imitate. Jehu received a commission when the nation of Israel was in a bad state. The country was under the wicked influence of Jezebel, widow of Ahab and mother of the ruling king, Jehoram. She promoted the Baal cult at the expense of Jehovah's worship, killed God's prophets, and corrupted the people with her "fornications" and "sorceries." (2 Ki. 9:22; 1 Ki. 18:4, 13) Jehovah decreed the elimination of the whole house of Ahab, including Jehoram and Jezebel. Jehu was to spearhead that action.

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[(2 Kings 8:4, 5) 4 Now the king was speaking to Ge-ha'zi the attendant of the man of the true God, saying: "Relate to me, please, all the great things that E-li'sha has done." 5 Just as he was relating to the king how he had restored the dead one to life, the woman whose son he had restored to life came to the king, appealing for her house and her field. At once Ge-ha'zi said: "My lord the king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom E-li'sha restored to life."

*** w73 4/15 pp. 249-250 God Resurrected a Nation ***

God Resurrected a Nation

IN THE year 607 B.C.E. Jerusalem was destroyed and a great number of the surviving Jews were dragged off into Babylonian exile. The Jewish nation was practically dead. The majority of the exiles had no hope of living again as a united nation in their God-given land. The land of Babylon appeared to be the burial place of their na-

tion. Would Jehovah God resurrect the dead nation?

Such a resurrection would not be too difficult for the Almighty God to perform. Earlier he had empowered the faithful prophets Elijah and Elisha to raise the dead to life. (1 Ki. 17:17-24; 2 Ki. 4:32-37; 8:4, 5; Heb. 11:35) So it should come as no surprise that Jehovah God, in a vision, revealed to the prophet Ezekiel that he would revive the dead nation.

(2 Kings 8:12) 12 Haz'a-el asked: "Why is my lord weeping?" He replied: "Because I know what harm you will do to the people of Israel. Their fortified places you will set on fire, their choice men you will kill with the sword, their children you will dash to pieces, and their pregnant women you will rip open."

*** w15 12/15 p. 15 The 2013 Revision of the New World Translation ***

Why are the expressions "sons of Israel" and "fatherless boys" now translated "Israelites" and "fatherless children"? In Hebrew, the masculine gender or the feminine gender usually identifies whether the reference is to a male or to a female. However, some masculine terms may include both males and females. For example, the context of some verses suggests that "the sons of Israel" included both men and women, so this expression is now usually rendered "the Israelites."—Ex. 1:7; 35:29; 2 Ki. 8:12.

(2 Kings 8:15) 15 But the next day, Haz'a-el took a coverlet, dipped it in water, and held it over his face until he died. And Haz'a-el became king in his place.

*** it-2 p. 908 Shalmaneser ***

Inscriptions Concerning Hazael and Jehu. In fulfillment of Jehovah's prophecy through Elisha, Hazael, the chamberlain of King Ben-hadad of Damascus, killed his master and became king, probably toward the close of the reign of King Jehoram (c. 917-905 B.C.E.). (2Ki 8:7-15) An inscription of Shalmaneser III confirms this, stating: "Hadadezer [Adad-idri, evidently Ben-hadad II of Damascus] (himself) perished. Hazael, a commoner (lit.: son of nobody), seized the throne." Conflicts with Hazael are mentioned in Shalmaneser's 18th and 21st years, with the Assyrian gaining victories but never being able to take Damascus.—Ancient Near Eastern Texts, p. 280.

(2 Kings 9:5) 5 When he arrived, the army chiefs were seated there. He said: "I have a message for you, O chief." Je'hu asked: "For which one of us?" He said: "For you, O chief."

*** w11 11/15 p. 3 Jehu Champions Pure Worship ***

The Scriptures introduce Jehu as he sat with military chiefs when the Israelites were fighting the Syrians at Ramoth-gilead. Jehu was a high-ranking officer, if not the commander of Israel's army.