

## **Auburn Baptist Church**

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# **The House of Ahab Part 5: Where Does It End?**

Our study of The House of Ahab is showing us that the ancient Kingdom of Israel is a foreshadow or example of our own modern nation of America. Many of the same events that occurred in ancient Israel have occurred and are continuing to occur in our country today.

Not only do Ancient Israel and Modern America mimic each other in an overall national sense, but even our leaders are following the same pattern. Specifically, we saw that when Ancient Israel found itself under the reign on the house of Ahab the nation began a swift and deep decent into apostasy. In modern America, we too began to see a swift and deep decent into apostasy under the leadership of a specific political dynasty: the Clintons.

What was interesting was how closely the ancient king of Israel, Ahab, and the modern President, Bill Clinton, mirrored each other in character, will, actions, and influence. Then last week we saw that the same could be said about their respective wives: Queen Jezebel and First Lady Hillary Clinton, as well as our national enemies and how they were dealt with. (If you have missed any of the previous teachings in this series you can pick up a copy of them from the vestibule table or download and print them from our website: [www.auburnbaptist.net](http://www.auburnbaptist.net).)

The patterns continue, and I will just highlight a few more and not go into great detail because we could be here for months to come if I did.

- The length of the reign of Ahab 22 years. The length of Bill Clinton reign from the time he became governor of Arkansas until the end of his second term as President was 22 years.
- When Ahab died, Jezebel continued to wield power herself and through her sons. When Clinton's Presidency ended, Hillary continued in power by becoming a US Senator and later Secretary of State.
- Ahab and Jezebel's son, Joram would ascend the throne and continue the legacy of his parents. The Clinton's had an heir that would ascend the place of power in their stead and continue their policies and legacy of defiance to God - Barak Obama.
- While Joram is still on the throne another king will be anointed, a warrior, someone who had been in the camp of Ahab and Jezebel but who would be brash and reckless and powerful in his own right as well as being ready and willing to take the power away from the corrupt family in the name of nationalism and the defense of Israelite cultural values. This man was named Jehu. He was a military commander whom was anointed by a prophet from God to succeed Joram as king. Guess who his modern-day counterpart is - President Donald Trump.

There are many, many more similarities between the House of Ahab and the political machinations which occurred in America during the last generation. Connections between the scandals of the Clinton era and the scandal of the vineyard of Naboth in 1 Kings. Connections between the timing of the length of rule of ancient kings and the beginning and ending of political power in the Clinton and Obama presidencies. Connections between Jehu and his race to take the throne of Israel away from the Ahab dynasty and Trump's race to take the presidency of America away from the Clinton/Obama dynasty. There are even connections between whom Trump chose as a running mate and an ancient holy man named Jehonadab.

If you want to see these connections in detail you will find them in Rabbi Jonathon Cahn's book, *The Paradigm*. But today I want to discuss where all this leads. Where does it end? We know that America is following in the footsteps of ancient Israel, does all this parallelism mean that we are going to end up just like them, under God's wrath, scattered to the four corners of the earth with no national identity to call our own? Where are we today in this cycle and where will we end up?

## **I. WHERE ARE WE TODAY?**

Let's see if we can answer these questions. If we were living in Ancient Israel under the continuum of this foreshadow we would presently be under the reign of King Jehu, the warrior king. What was his reign like? What occurred while he was on the throne of Israel?

Jehu was a man who was used by God to bring an end to the house of Ahab. He killed both King Joram and witnessed the death of Queen Jezebel. He cut off the priests of Baal and tore down their temple. He would be a controversial figure. The bible would commend him for overcoming the foremost evil of his day, but he would also be rebuked in Scripture for the bloodiness of his means. He was the radical persona that was needed to bring an end to the evil that had invaded ancient Israel, and it is questionable if someone less brash, less radical could have done so. At the same time not everything he did could be commended. His reformation only went half-way.

**"Yet Jehu was not careful to keep the law of the Lord, the God of Israel, with all his heart. He did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam, which he had cause Israel to commit" 2 Kings 10:31.**

Jehu was wholehearted in his war against Baal. But he was less whole hearted in following God. He cleansed the land of Baal worship. But he didn't depart from the sins of Jeroboam.

Jeroboam was the first king of Israel after it split in half. Because he ruled the northern kingdom which did not contain Jerusalem or the Holy Temple he set up two golden calves in two cities in northern Israel for people to worship, so they didn't have to travel to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. It was idolatry. It was a false religion/a corruption of the worship of the one true God of Israel.

But whereas Baal was a foreign god brought into their land, the worship of the golden calves was a homegrown idolatry that came from within. It was part of their culture. The calves were actually symbols of the northern kingdom's independence from the southern kingdom. They were

symbols of nationalism and pride. Yes, they were ungodly and immoral, but they were familiar and not of foreign nature.

So, Jehu opposed the deep evil of the house of Ahab but walked in a path of compromise in line with Israel's long-term drift from God. During his reign he would have conflicts with the surrounding nations that would reduce Israel's borders and diminish the nation. Israel's apostasy was slowed during his reign but not reversed. Their short-term danger was averted, but their long-term danger was not.

So what purpose did the reign of Jehu serve? He was God's answer to stopping the swift severe judgment of a nation overwhelmed by evil. He was God's instrument to destroy evil and slow his people's descent and provide for the chance of spiritual revival and a cultural returning to God.

One bible commentator wrote of him this way:

"He is exactly one of those men whom we are compelled to recognize, not for what is good or great in themselves, but as instruments for destroying evil, and preparing the way for good."

## **II. PRESIDENT TRUMP**

I believe this is a very apt description of President Donald Trump and our nation today. If it wasn't for Trump's defeat of Clinton in the last presidential race, America's fate would have been sealed. Trump's presidency is serving to halt the quick descent into evil and judgment that we were experiencing.

He entered Washington DC, with the mission of Jehu, to purge the nation's leadership of corruption and, in his own words, to "drain the swamp." The first thing he would do upon entering the capital city and assuming the presidency was to begin undoing the practice of killing unborn children. He reversed the executive orders first put in place by Clinton and then again by Obama, which had wiped away the safeguards concerning abortion.

Trump has opposed the deep evil of the Clinton/Obama dynasties that were leading our nation away from God, but he isn't exactly promoting the return to God. Just like his predecessor he is promoting nationalism and a return to the familiar cultural foundations of America as reflected in his pledge to "make America great again." But just as in ancient Israel, nationalism is just another form of idolatry. It's just a more familiar one.

Under Trump we have seen America's descent into apostasy slowed down but not completely reversed. Just as with Jehu, Trump has not returned our nation back to God, but he is providing us with the chance to do so. His presidency halted the sealing of our national apostasy and opened the door wide for evangelical leaders and believers to impact this nation to return to God. He may not have provided the return to God we need, but he has provided for the opportunity for that return. He has given us a period of time in which to call to the Lord as many as would come.

Jehu's reign would provide a window for revival in ancient Israel, but the revival that should have come through that window never did. Though the decent had slowed, the people never turned back to God. They were given many opportunities; they were provided with multiple warnings of approaching judgment that could only been averted through national repentance. But they not only rejected the opportunity to repent, they also rejected the warnings of judgment as well. And when the judgement came, it would wipe the nation off the face of the earth.

What about America? A nation that has especially known God but now stands in defiance of His ways stands in danger of His judgment, that is was this whole foreshadow, this whole paradigm or template has been telling us. Jehu's reign was not the final one for the northern kingdom, but because they did not take the opportunity that his reign provided to return to the Lord, they would ultimately continue down the spiral of apostacy to destruction.

We have been given the chance, through the presidency of Donald Trump, to halt our own national descent into apostacy. God has allowed this brash, radical man to momentarily halt and slow our descent. He has given us warning after warning and call after call to repent and return to Him. What are we going to do about it?

Will we seize the reprieve we have been given and breath a sigh of relief that judgment hasn't yet fallen in our lifetime, or will we become the Elijah's of our time? Will we be men and woman of faith with great confidence and boldness and courage and a stubborn hope that will not yield in spite of all that is arrayed against us. Will we epitomize self-sacrifice for the sake of calling as many people to the Master as we possible can while we still have the time?

We have been given this moment, the window of time in the history of our nation. We have been placed here during this time not just to witness it but to be God's light, His servants, His soldiers, His voice calling to lost of our nation that God saves. Will we like Elijah boldly face our world and challenge them,

**"How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him," 1 Kings 18:21.**

The time for a decision as to whom to follow must be settled once and for all. The line in the sand has been drawn. **"Choose you this day whom you will serve."** For today is the only day it can be decided. We have no promise of tomorrow. We do not know how long this window will remain open. Today is the day of salvation, and the moment is now.