

Charge!

Taken from 2 Kings 9-10

Foundation

As you begin today, ask God to examine your heart and show you where you run on automatic pilot—fueled by your own emotions and enthusiasm. Ask Him to help you bring your heart under His control so it won't have mastery over you.



Have you ever gotten caught up in your own enthusiasm for a certain cause, only to later discover you left God out of the picture?

"Are you Jehu?" the young man from the school of prophets asked.

The commander of King Joram's army looked up and replied, "Yes, I am he."

"I have a message for you," the prophet said.

Jehu got up from where he had been sitting with his fellow officers at Ramoth Gilead and followed the young prophet into the house. When the door closed, the prophet pulled out a flask of oil and anointed Jehu's head, announcing, "The Lord, the God of Israel, declares this: 'You are now anointed king over the Lord's people. You are commanded to destroy those in King Ahab's family, for I am bringing about justice for the innocent blood of My prophets and servants that was spilled by Jezebel.'"

The young prophet gave his proclamation, anointed Jehu, then fled from the house as instructed by Elisha. Jehu was left standing there, surprised, yet excited

at the message he had been given. Trying to push aside his own thoughts and mounting zeal, Jehu left the room to rejoin the others outside.

“What did that madman want?” the others asked curiously. They had seen the young prophet open the door and run out.

“Oh, nothing. You know how strange he can be sometimes,” Jehu said, trying to brush off the encounter.

The men looked at each other, not believing Jehu’s words. They could tell by the look on Jehu’s face that something strange and important had happened.

“That’s not true!” they responded in unison. “Tell us!”

In hushed tones, Jehu excitedly told them what the prophet had done.

“Our king is Jehu!” they declared, and quickly spread their cloaks at his feet. They proclaimed it further by blowing their trumpets, leaving no doubt that a new king had been anointed. The men again shouted, “Jehu is our king!”

Jehu looked at his men and could tell he had their support. This gave him all the more drive to get on with the task at hand.

“If you’re truly committed to this change, be sure not to let anyone in this city leave to warn those in Jezreel,” he urged.

Jehu wanted to catch King Joram off guard. He knew the king was at his palace in Jezreel, trying to recover from an injury received in battle. After his fellow officers nodded in agreement, Jehu set off with his troops. “This is a job I can really get into!” he whispered to himself.

“There are troops heading toward us!” one of the lookouts in Jezreel shouted.

King Joram commanded that a horseman immediately ride out to learn if they came in peace.

When the horseman reached the troops led by Jehu, he assured the messenger all was fine and told him to fall in behind and ride the rest of

Ramoth Gilead was an important fortress city on the east side of the Jordan River. King Joram was injured in battle while trying to take it back from the Arameans.

the way in with them. When the horseman didn't immediately return to the palace, King Joram sent out another. The same thing happened.

"The horseman made it to them safely but he's staying to ride with them!" the lookout reported. He then strained to see who was driving the chariot. "Whoever is steering the chariot is bearing down on us like a man possessed. It looks like Jehu!"

Because of an unwise treaty, King Jehoshaphat of Judah gave his son in marriage to the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel! Her name was Athaliah, and she became the mother of King Ahaziah. (You can read more about them in Faith Factor OT under the lessons for 2 Chronicles called: "Friend...or Foe?" and "Excuse Me—Is This Yours?")

Upon hearing it was the commander of his troops, King Joram and visiting King Ahaziah got into their chariots and set out to head him off. Although King Joram was recovering from an injury, he was concerned something might have happened at Ramoth Gilead that he needed to know about. He was right.

"Jehu," King Joram said upon reaching him, "do you come with news of peace?" The king couldn't help but notice the unusual look in Jehu's eyes.

"How is peace possible," Jehu replied, "when your mother Jezebel's worship of idols and reliance on witchcraft are all around us?"

King Joram, realizing the intent of Jehu's accusations, turned to flee, shouting, "Treason! Treason!" but Jehu aimed his bow, released the arrow, and killed King Joram. When King Ahaziah of Judah saw this, he also tried to escape but was chased down and killed as well. Jehu headed into Jezreel.

Hearing that Jehu had killed her son, King Joram, Queen Jezebel waited at her window, still feeling secure

in the power she held.

"Is anyone there willing to help me?" Jehu shouted, looking up at the window where Jezebel stood.

Several servants silently gazed at Jehu.

"Toss her out!" Jehu commanded—and they did.

Once Queen Jezebel was killed, Jehu then set about destroying the rest of the family of Ahab, just as God commanded him to do.

Footwork

Jehu killed the family of Ahab as God commanded, but open your Bible to 2 Kings 10:11 and read it. This verse tells us some things Jehu did that God didn't command. What does it say? (Hint: Look for the words "as well as" and read what follows.) Now, turn to 10:28-31 and read that. Although Jehu did what God asked, he also got carried away. Jehu did too much of his own thing (what God did *not* command) and not enough of what God *did* command.



It's an easy thing to follow the lead of your own enthusiasm—and a dangerous one as well. Be careful not to charge ahead of God, letting your passions and zeal dictate the actions you take. They will only take you in one direction, and that is off the mark from where God wants you to be. The next time your passions scream, "Charrge!" will you plow full speed ahead with your zeal at the wheel, or will you put the brakes on and allow God to do the driving?