

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 05 Dec..... 1Kings 1-4..... What Money Can't Buy
- 2) 12 Dec..... 1Kings 5-9a..... Why Prayer Deserves Priority
- 3) 19 Dec..... Mat 1-2..... Worship the King of Kings
- 4) 26 Dec..... 1Kings 9b-11..... Where Compromise Takes You
- 5) 02 Jan..... 1Kings 12-16a..... Anatomy of a Grave Decision
- 6) 09 Jan..... 1Kings 16b-22..... A Hill on Which to Stand
- 7) 16 Jan..... 2Kings 21-23..... Building a Culture for Life
- 8) 23 Jan..... 2Kings 1-5..... Sick of Greed?
- 9) 30 Jan..... 2Kings 6-8..... Right Not to Remain Silent
- 10) 06 Feb..... 2Kings 9-10..... Danger! Unbridled Passion**
- 11) 13 Feb..... 2Kings 11-17..... U-Turn Here – and Now!
- 12) 20 Feb..... 2Kings 18-20..... Got to Have Hope
- 13) 27 Feb..... 2Kings 23-25..... Keep Hope Alive

**INTRODUCTION**

- Jehu (not a nice guy) is anointed the new King of Israel, and receives a command from God to slay Ahab's household completely, beginning with Ahab's son, King Joram
- Jehu passionately executes this extermination command, and even slays Ahaziah, King of Judah, who was Ahab's G'son and Joram's nephew. Ahaziah's mom was Athaliah, Ahab's daughter. Jesus possibly had Jezebel blood in Him
- Jezebel also meets her fate and gets eaten by dogs
- These tough, difficult passages on killing the wicked along with their family, friends, and progeny do not apply to us, but we do get a glimpse of God's holiness and the passion people have to obey God when it matches their interests

Passage	Comments
2Kings 9:1-13	<p><b>Jehu anointed the new King of Israel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jehu was one of the "captains" or commanding generals of King Joram's army. King Joram was wounded in battle and was healing up in Jezreel</li> <li>• Elisha sends one of the 'sons of the prophets' to anoint Jehu the next king of Israel (N. Kingdom)</li> <li>• Jehu went from a loyal follower to a conniving murderer to accomplish God's command</li> <li>• God can use the wicked to accomplish His will</li> </ul>
9:14-29	<p><b>Jehu Assassinates Kings Joram and Ahaziah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judah's King Ahaziah was visiting his uncle, King Joram, as he was healing from his wounds</li> <li>• vv25-26. Jehu ironically has King Joram's body tossed into the field of Naboth where Ahab's troubles started (recall Jezebel had Naboth killed so Ahab can acquire his property, cf 1Kings 21)</li> <li>• King Ahaziah is mortally wounded, but dies later</li> </ul>
Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should soldiers show the same compassion and mercy on the battlefield as they would at home?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Not necessarily! God allows the government and military to take a stronger response to evil</li> <li>♦ They don't carry the sword in vain .... <b>Rom 13:3,4</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Also, <b>see page 2</b> for a response to God being a infanticidal, genocidal, ... malevolent bully</li> </ul>
Cultural Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingdoms were ruled by families, so if you didn't want competition later on, the ruling family had to be wiped out – bloodline and friends</li> </ul>
9:30-37	<p><b>Jezebel takes a leap of faith and is eaten by dogs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv30-31. Jezebel dolls herself up for the occasion and smarts off to Jehu by calling him Zimri, who only reigned 7 days after assassinating King Elah</li> <li>• vv32-35. Jehu found some eunuchs who had the guts to toss Jezebel out the window</li> </ul>

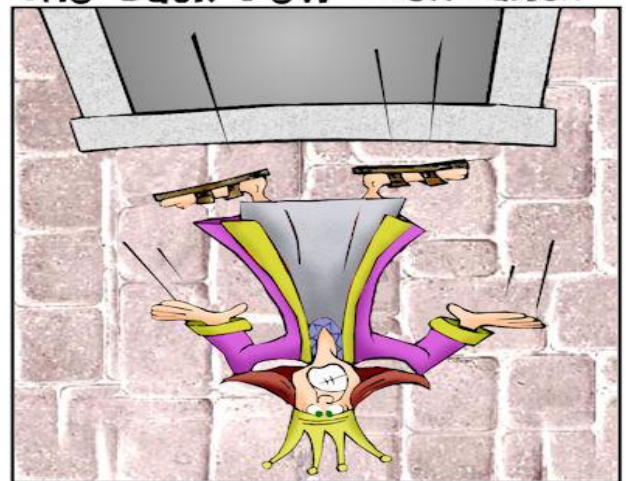
Passage	Comments
10:1-11	<p><b>Jehu Slays Ahab's Friends, Family &amp; Progeny</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv7-11. The killing is not over yet. 70 of Ahab's sons and all his friends and priests are wiped out</li> </ul>
10:12-14	<p><b>Jehu Slays Ahaziah's Relatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did Jehu go too far with killing King Ahaziah's relatives from Judah? After all, they were paying a kindly visit to the sick. <b>BUT</b> God's command was to wipe out all of Ahab's family ..... 9:8</li> </ul>
10:15-17	<p><b>Jehu Meets a Rechabite</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeremiah 35 records how the Rechabites shall not lack a man to stand before God forever for their trustworthiness; and Jehu picks up Jehonadab, the son of Rechab to ride with him in his chariot and witness his destruction of all that is Ahab's</li> <li>• A conservative Rechabite riding with Jehu and approving of his activities would be seen as giving credibility to his kingship. This would be akin to receiving Sarah Palin's approval today</li> </ul>
10:18-28	<p><b>Jehu Employs Deceit To Lure His Next Victims</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baal worship was the linchpin of Israel's fall</li> <li>• As noted many times before, the only way to reverse a nation from wickedness is by total or near-total annihilation (e.g., pre-flood world, Sodom &amp; Gomorrah, Canaanites, and now Israel)</li> <li>• Jehu enticed Baal worshippers to join him for a "mother-of-all" feasts for Baal, and he slew them</li> </ul>
10:29-36	<p><b>Would've, Could've, Should've</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jehu was passionate to serve God, up to a point</li> <li>• God even blessed Jehu for caring out His orders</li> <li>• <b>BUT</b>, Jehu 'was not careful' to fully obey God' and therefore, God 'cut off portions from Israel'</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS:**

- We are not commanded to slay the wicked, but are we as passionate to serve God as the wicked are to be wicked?

**NEXT WEEK:** 2Kings 11-17. Elisha dies and Assyria overruns the northern kingdom of Israel and disburses them

**The Back Pew – Jeff Larson**



In stark contrast to Elijah's exit to Heaven on a Chariot of Fire, Jezebel is thrown from her window, trampled by horses and eaten by dogs. **2 Kings 9:30-37**

Christians aren't the only ones who find it hard to explain how God seems to be harsh, cruel and brutal at times.

In his book, *The God Delusion*, Richard Dawkins, a renowned atheist and evolutionist, made the following statement:

*"The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."*

Since Dawkins is an atheist and an evolutionist, why does it matter to him what God is like. From an atheistic/evolutionary view point there are no morals, and there are no right ways or wrong ways to do things. A typical atheistic/evolutionary view point is 'might makes right,' 'he who has the gold rules,' 'only the strong survive,' and 'dog eat dog.'

But, to help provide an answer to those who ask us for the reason of hope that's in us, let's begin by stating the definitions of the terms used by Dawkins and finding biblical suppositions and justifications for them:

<b>Definitions</b>	<b>Misogynistic</b> .....	Hatred of women
	<b>Homophobic</b> .....	Biased against homosexuals
	<b>Infanticidal</b> .....	Practice of killing newborn infants
	<b>Genocidal</b> .....	Deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group
	<b>Filicidal</b> .....	Kills one's own son/children
	<b>Pestilential</b> .....	Kills/injures with pestilence
	<b>Megalomaniacal</b> .....	An obsession with grandiose or extravagant things or actions
	<b>Sadomasochistic</b> .....	Enjoys inflicting physical or mental suffering on others
	<b>Capriciously</b> .....	Impulsive or whimsical rather than acting by necessity or reason
	<b>Malevolent</b> .....	Malicious behavior, having or exhibiting ill will; wishing harm to others

**Below are some biblical suppositions and justifications for possibly why Dawkins believes the way he does, and the answers which God provides for the difficult passages we see in Scripture**

Issue	Possible Justification from Dawkins' Perspective	Biblical Response
<b>Filicidal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deut 21:18-21 – Death to stubborn and rebellious sons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lev 11:45 – 'For I am the LORD...your God; you shall be holy, for I am holy.'</li> <li>Lev 25:2,23 – The land and the people of Israel belong to God</li> <li>Deut 29:29 – Secret things belong onto God</li> <li>Deut 32:4 – For all His ways are just; He is a God of faithfulness and without injustice, He is righteous and upright</li> <li>Is 55:8-9 – "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.</li> <li>Lev 18; Deut 8:4; 12:31; 18:14 – God wanted to "utterly" destroy the 7 nations of Canaan (even their animals) for their horrific sins – immorality, homosexuality, bestiality, murder, adultery, child sacrifice, sorcery (cf Deut 20:16,17; Josh 6:21)</li> <li>Lev 26:18,24 – Punished 7x signifies completeness</li> </ul>
<b>Genocidal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex 23:23 – God will "utterly" destroy the inhabitants of the land of Israel</li> <li>Deut 2:34; 3:3,6-8 – Israelites annihilated the Amorites – men, women &amp; children; but spared the animals</li> </ul>	
<b>Homophobic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lev 18:22 – Men are not to lie sexually with men</li> </ul>	
<b>Jealous and proud of it</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex 34:14 ... you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God</li> <li>Nahum 1:2 – A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;</li> </ul>	
<b>Megalomaniacal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psalm 57:5 – Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Your glory be above all the earth.</li> </ul>	
<b>Misogynistic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lev 27:4,5 – Women are worth less than men</li> </ul>	
<b>Petty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lev 24:10-16 Death for cursing</li> <li>Num 15:32-36 Death for gathering wood on the Sabbath</li> </ul>	
<b>Racist</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deut 7:6; 14:2 – God chose Israel above all others</li> </ul>	
<b>Vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Num 31:1-18 – God had Israel annihilate the Midianites for their malicious activities toward them (cf Num 22-25)</li> </ul>	
<b>Capriciously malevolent bully</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lev 18; 26:14-38; Deut 7:1 – These passages address the issues on the left. God charged the Israelites not to follow in the sins of the 7 nations of Canaan (Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites, Girgashites) – whom God wanted "utterly" destroyed – with no pity (Deut 7:16; Josh 11:20)</li> </ul>	
<b>Infanticidal</b>		
<b>Pestilential</b>		
<b>Sadomasochistic</b>		
<b>Unforgiving control freak</b>		
<b>Unjust</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lev 26:18,24 – 'And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.'</li> </ul>