Singapore Bible College Shanyo Huishu Awo

Wednesday-March-2020 Message 1 of 2

15 Minutes

**God’s Sovereignty over Baal**

***2 Kings 9:30–10:36***

**Topic:** Sovereignty

**Subject:** How do we get rid of idols in our life?

**Complement:** Get rid of idols by surrendering to God’s will and His sovereignty.

**Purpose:** The listeners will… (Complete this with the desired listener response)

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| **Intro:**   1. Arose interest | How many of you struggle to overcome an idol in your life? We have been hearing from various preachers how Israel struggled to overcome the idolatry within the nation. We consider ourselves Christian and one day we all will be a minister of God teaching and preaching the Word of God to the people. But when we start speaking of worshipping idols most of us do not consider ourselves as idol worshippers.  Throughout the Bible, we notice that the main struggle people faced was idolatry. Israelites had a hard time overcoming idols. They are more prevalent today and it is getting worse. So, what is the idol in your life? And how many of us struggle to overcome the idol in our life? We all know that idolatry is a sin and that is the second commandment in the Bible. So, we need to know and understand the consequences of worshipping the idols or creating idols in our heart. An idol is anything we put before God in our heart. It could be a job, an activity, a person (Wife or girlfriend) or even ourselves. So how do we prevent the idol from drawing us away from God? |
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| 2. Raise  Need | Do you have the rights to protect your church from false teaching?  As 1 Peter 5:8 reminded us we as the church of Christ should always be on guard against the snare of sin and Satan and the world around us.  Otherwise, if we are not watchful, we are liable to every sin and temptation. Matthew 7:15-20 also reminded every believer in Christ to be watchful of the false prophets.  What does the Bible say about idolatry? In 1 Cor 10:14, Paul reminded every one of us to flee from the idolatry. Furthermore, Colossians 3:5 conveys importance to all the followers of Christ to have proper conduct of one’s life. In other words, we should be aware not to create our idols in our life which will bring dishonour to God’s name. |
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| 3. Theme | How do we get rid of idols in our life? |
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| 4. Bkgrd. | 1 and 2 Kings are written in two separate books, but they were originally written as one book telling a unified story that continues from the book of Samuel that came before it. In the book of Kings, David unified the tribes of Israel into the kingdom and God promised that from his line would come a Messianic king who would establish God’s kingdom over the nations and fulfil the promise made to Abraham. The book of Kings tells the story of the long line that came after David. None of them lived up to that promise due to their insistence on worshipping idols, so chaos reigned in the Jewish nations. |
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| 5. Text | Our narrative is 2 Kings 9:30-10:36. |
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| 6. Preview | Today we are going to learn three ways of how to get rid of idols in our life from 2 Kings 9:30-10:17. |
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| T, MPI, | Let us read 2 Kings 9:30-10:17, The first way to get rid of idols in our life is to… **Remember that God has power over idols. Never forget that wood and stone are puny compared to the LORD.** |
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| 9:30-10:17 | God’s judgment of Ahab’s descendants for their rebellions to the will of God in worshipping the Idol rather than God |
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| Explain  (Recap) | We see that narrative has concentrated upon the worship of Baal since 1 Kings 16:29. Let recap quickly what we have heard from our previous preacher. When Elijah departed the earth, he left a few things undone that Elisha had to finish. In 1 Kings 19:15-17, the Lord tells Elijah to anoint Elisha to take his place, (which he did 1 Kings19:19-21), to anoint Jehu as king over Israel which had not been done. Further, Elijah predicts Ahab and Jezebel will die a painful death in 1 Kings 21:17-24.  Ahab indeed perishes as the prophecy was foretold (1 Kings 22:37-28). But Jezebel is still alive, and the Ahab linage remains. Thus, Jehu must become the king of Israel to wipe out the descendants of Ahab completely.  Chapter 9 opens up with Elisha appointing one of the sons of the prophets to go out looking for Jehu and to anoint Jehu as Jehu as the king of Israel which he did in 2 Kings 9:5-6. Soon as Jehu was anointed as a king over Israel the first person, he murdered was King Joram son of Ahab followed by the murder of king Ahaziah of Judah. |
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| T, SP, “A” | In today’s passage, we will see God’s judgment of Ahab’s descendants for their rebellions to the will of God in worshipping the Idol rather than Yahweh. |
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| 9:30-10:1-17 | “Jehu kills Jezebel and Jehu kills Ahab’s family” |
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| Explain | In the following verses, the wicked Queen Jezebel over Israel would be killed next. When Jehu arrived at Jezebel’s tower, she locked herself up in a tower, put on makeup, fixed her hair and waited for Jehu by her window. She knew that her life was drawing near to death, so she did these things to look like a queen and die like a queen. When Jehu arrived, she sarcastically asked if he had come in peace. She then insulted Jehu by calling him Zimri. Zimri was the fifth king of Israel whose reign lasted only seven days (1 Kings 16:8-20). But Jehu wasted no time. He identifies two or three eunuchs, so Jehu commanded them to throw down from the window and they obeyed him. They were willing to betray her and throw her down, so she landed on the street and died as the horses trampled her.  Can you imagine your trusted friend betraying you when your life is in danger? What would be your reaction? Jezebel was very confident that no one could enter her fortress since it was a well-guarded palace. But this was not the case. Remember our life on earth is uncertain. Anything can happen to us and it will under God’s will and purpose. The fun part is not yet over. Satisfied that she was dead, Jehu went into her palace to eat and drink. |
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| T | So to get rid of idols in our life we must remember that God has power over idols. Now the second way to get rid of idols in our life is to… |
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| MPII,  SP “A” | **Remember that there will be a consequence for idol worship.**  Know that false worship has horrible results. In this case in our text, God used Jehu to destroy the priests and worshippers of Baal in Israel. This is seen in 2 Kings 10:18-28. So, let us open our Bible to 2 Kings 10:18-28, I will read for you… |
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| 10:18-28 | “Jehu Kills the Priests of Baal” |
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| Explain | As we have seen these verses, Jehu summoned all the Baal prophets, ministers and priests to a special worship service. This gathering is parallel to Elijah’s calling together all the Baalists in 1 Kings 18. Jehu threatened to kill any Baalist who did not come to worship, so once all the Baalists were gathered together in a room, Jehu instructed eight people to go inside the room and kill all the worshippers when he gave the command. At the appointed time Jehu gives the order, and all the Baalists were killed. Further, the secret stone of Baal which represent Baal’s presence in the temple is destroyed by the fire. This worship centre was originally built by King Ahab. We see that in 1 Kings 16:32. So, Jehu, wiped out all the Baalists in Israel. So, we see that what Elijah had begun, Jehu finished.  Hence, from this verse, we learn that worshipping the idols will lead us to God’s punishment and His judgment. |
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| APP | How do we get rid of idols in our life?  Firstly, **remember that God has power over idols.**  Secondly, **remember that there will be a consequence for idol worship.** |
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| ILL  (Idols in life) | What is one idol that you are struggling with?  An idol is anything we put before God in our heart. It could be a job, an activity, a person (wife or girlfriend) or even ourselves.  How many of you think that a *material possession* is your idol in life? We believe that **being obsessed with material possessions is to have the primary focus of our minds and motivations being on material things**. This includes people’s motivations to work hard and achieve certain goals. How many of you think that doing well in school is your idol? Because too much into studies can draw us further away from God. When we give too much importance to studies rather than God this in itself becomes the idol in our heart, because when we do this, we forget to give time to God and our career becomes our priority rather than God. Hence, our relationship with God slips away.  Let us take a look at some of the common idols people create in their life. In my country of India, a *romantic relationship* has become the major issue within our Christian community.  Back in India, a guy name Sundar was a good friend of mine. He fell in love with a Hindu girl name Puja. Later in the long-term relationship due to his love for her, Sundar gave up the faith of Christianity and became Hindu. He thought that once he marries her, he will be very happy and content. But this was not the case. After one year of marriage they got a divorce. As a disciple of Christ, we should never replace Christ with our relationship or the idol in our life. |
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| T | So, what results from being faithful to the sovereign will of God? |
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| MPIII  SP, “A” | God blesses those faithful to his sovereign will. Wonderful results come from trusting God’s plan as best! God rewarded Jehu for his obedience to the will of God but Jehu’s unfaithfulness to God’s led to God’s judgment over Israel. |
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| 10:29-36 | “Israel’s Decline” |
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| Explain | Despite his attack against Baalism, Jehu did not lead the nation into separatist Yahwism. He allowed the worship instituted by Jeroboam to continue. However, Jehu indeed acted as an instrument of God to bring judgment to Omni’s dynasty. But we see that Jehu did not completely operate on Elijah’s prophecy. Rather, he was like Assyria, Syria and Babylon, which God used as an instrument to punish the Israelites for their disobedience. Israel was now back to where it was before Ahab and Jezebel assumed leadership. But due to Jehu’s obedience to the will of God, God promised him that his descendants would sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation. Due to Jehu’s continued support of the cult of Jeroboam, Israel’s regional power continued to decline. God continued to use Hazael the Syrian king to punish Israel for their disobedience.  Hence, God will reward those who are loyal to Him but the wicked one will be penalized.  Therefore, be faithful in doing the will of God. |
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| ILL  (Drug Addicted man) | I will like to share the testimonies of two drug-addicted man. For some people, drugs and alcohol can be their idol which keeps them away from God. Back in Bangalore, Mr. John was a seminary student. But he was addicted to drugs and steroids. My pastor always spent time with him in prayer and did long-term counselling for John but despite all of my pastor’s effort and care for him, John was not able to overcome his idol in his life, knowing what he was doing was wrong. This led him to an unexpected and painful death. He fell off the train on his way home after his graduation due to a drug overdose. So, as Christians, we should be motivated that God will surely judge evil.  But another drug addict named Yurkhan was able to overcome drugs and came to know Jesus as his Saviour and redeemer.  From this testimony I would you all to understand that we all have our idols to overcome, but how we deal with them or overcome them is important. If you fail to follow the sovereign will of God even after it was revealed to you, remember that you are accountable before God. |
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| Big T | So, how do we overcome the idol within us? |
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| MI | The way we get rid of idols is by surrendering to God’s will and His sovereignty. |
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| R- MPI-III | Today, we have learned about three ways of how to get rid of idols in our life: Firstly, remember that God has power over idols, Secondly, see that there are consequences for idol worship, and finally, recognize that God blesses those who are faithful to the sovereign will of God. |
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| APP  (Awareness) | Beware of your idols in life: It is wonderful that as Christians we can have a personal relationship with our Lord. We don’t need a mediator. Nor is He represented by idols. However, sometimes we set up idols in our heart that get in the way of our relationship with Him. |
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| APP  (Encouragement) | Let us learn to be faithful in following the sovereignty will of God in each one of our lives knowing that we all are accountable before God. We should find comfort in God, because God is ultimately going to judge evil and He is going to do it righteously, because He is righteous, holy and a just God, hence we are to honour Him by bringing glory to His name. Let us keep in our mind that God rewards the faithful one. |
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| Pray | Shall we pray…. Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity that once again you remind us about the idol, and also thank you for reminding us of thy sovereign will in each one of our lives. Help us to be faithful in serving you and in following thy footsteps every day of our life. Amen!!!!!!! |

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just before this passage?

### In 1 Kings 19:16, Elijah had been commanded by God to anoint Jehu as the king over Israel but had failed to do so. Chapter 9 opens up with Elisha fulfilling the mission Elijah was not able to complete.

### Jehu was anointed as a king over Israel by the prophet sent by Elisha (2 Kings 9:6).

### Soon after Jehu was anointed as a king by the prophet sent by Elisha, Jehu carried out his first mission by killing king Joram son of King Ahab and King Ahaziah son of Jehoram.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### First and Second Kings explain how and why Israel lost the land it fought so hard to win in Joshua and worked so hard to organize in Judges 1, and 2 Samuel.

### These books focus on Israel’s successes and failures.

### This passage explains the destruction of Baal worshippers and putting an end to the Kingship of Ahab’s family line.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### 1 and 2 kings are written in two separate books, but they were originally written as one book telling a unified story that continues from the book of Samuel that came before it. In the book of Kings, David unified the tribes of Israel into the kingdom and God promised that from his line would come a Messianic king who would establish God’s kingdom over the nations and fulfil the promise made to Abraham.

### The book of Kings tells the story of the long line that came after David. None of them lived up to that promise, so there were chaos and disorder among the Jewish nations.

# Sources Used

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4. House, Paul R. *1, 2 Kings*. The new American commentary v. 8. Nashville, Tenn: Broadman & Holman, 1995.

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# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

### What is the role of Jehu in 2 Kings 9:30-10:36?

= His role was to destroy the pagan worshippers from Israel which was also the prophecy made by Elijah.

### What was Elijah’s prophecy on Jezreel’s dead?

= The prediction that no one will be able to recognize Jezebel’s corpse and she will die a painful death (1 Kings 21:23).

### Who puts an end to the rule of Ahab and Jezebel’s kingdom?

= Jehu but an end to the reigning members of the house of Ahab

### What is the significance of Jezebel getting dressed up?

= She did this so to let Jehu know that she will die like a queen as Jezebel knows

her time has come.

### How did Jezebel attempt to show that she was not intimidated by Jehu? (9:30-31)

= Jezebel puts on makeup, fixed her hair, and waits for Jehu by her window.

### How did Jehu manage to destroy Jezebel without lifting a hand against her? (9:32-33)

= Her eunuchs killed by throwing her down the window.

### How was Jezebel buried?

= As Elijah prophesied. Dogs ate her flesh so that only a skull, feet and hands remained; She was scattered on the field of Jezreel by dogs. (Kings 9:36)

### How were Ahab's descendants destroyed?

= All 70 sons were beheaded and piled in two heaps at the entrance of the city gate. Ahab's relatives living in Jezreel were next. As an added plus, Ahab's political friends were killed, as were his personal friends and priests. (2 Kings 10)

### Did God destroy Jehu's line over this sin?

= No. God let Jehu's descendants rule Israel to the 4th generation because of his obedience in destroying Ahab's family. ( 2 Kings 10:30)

### Who succeeded Jehu?

= His son, Jehoahaz. ( 2 Kings 10:35)

### All the while, what sin did Jehu latch onto?

= Idol worship of golden calves at Bethel and Dan, which Jeroboam introduced to Israel. (2 Kings 10:29)

### Was Jehu devoted to God?

= Yes. He was passionate about destroying Ahab's line, fulfilling Elijah's prophecy and every trace of Baal worship in all Israel. (2 Kings 10:16-17)

### How many years did Jehu reign?

= Twenty- eight years (v 36)

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

# 1. The way Jehu responded to God’s will is by destroying the idolatrous worshipper of Baal so that God’s people will not be corrupted by the pagan worshippers.

2. The way God demonstrated His superiority over Baal was by using Jehu to destroy the Baal worshippers so that God’s people will not be corrupted by the pagan religious practices in Israel.

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**God’s Sovereignty over Baal**

***2 Kings 9:30-10:36***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

**Exegetical Idea (CPT): The way God showed himself over Baal was by destroying the Baal worshippers in Israel through Jehu.**

# I. The way God demonstrated His superiority over Baal was by destroying Ahab’s family line (9:30-10:17).

## Jehu put an end to the reign of the wicked Queen of Israel by murdering Jezebel. (vs 30-37)

## Jehu assassinated the entire household of Ahab’s family (vs 1-17)

# II. The way God demonstrated His superiority over Baal was by killing the Baal worshipers, priests and the house of Baal in Israel. (10:18-28)

## Jehu summoned all of Israel’s prophets, ministers, and priests of Baal. (vs18-24)

## Jehu completed what Elijah has instituted by destroying the Baal worshippers in Israel. (vs 25-28)

# III. The way God demonstrated His superiority over Baal was by punishing Israelites because of Jehu’s unfaithfulness to the will of God. (10:29-36)

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will know how to get rid of idols in their life.

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: How many of you struggle to overcome the idol in your life?

### Need: Do you have any idols?

### Subject: How do we get rid of idols in our life?

### Background: 1 and 2 Kings record a great deal of idolatry that can show us how to resolve it.

### Preview: Today we are going to learn *three ways* to get rid of idols in our life from the book of 2 Kings.

### Text: In Today’s narrative of 2 Kings 9:30-10:36, we will see God’s sovereignty over Baal.

(Let us read 2 Kings 9:30-10:17, The first way to get rid of idols in our life is to… ….)

# I. Remember that God has power over idols (9:30-10:17).

[God will bring judgment upon the idol worshippers]

## God’s judgment of Ahab’s descendants for their rebellions to the will of God in worshipping the Idol rather than God (9:30-10:17)

## Be comforted and motivated that God will judge evil.

(We have seen God’s judgment upon Ahab’s family for their unfaithfulness to God, now we will focus on, the second way to get rid of idols in our life is to………)

# II. Remember that there will be a consequence for idol worship (10:18-28)

[Worshipping the idols will lead us to God’s punishment]

## God used Jehu to destroy the Priests and worshippers of Baal in Israel. (vs 18-28)

## Get rid of idols in your life.

### ILL: Materials possessions

### ILL: Romantic Relationships

### ILL: Studies is important but do not let this hinder your relationship with God.

(So, what are the results of being faithful to the will of God?)

# III. God blesses those who are faithful to the sovereign will of God (10:29-36)

[God will reward to those who are loyal to Him but the wicked one will be penalized]

## God rewarded Jehu for his obedience to the will of God but Jehu’s unfaithfulness to God’s will lead to God’s judgment over Israel. (vs 29-36)

## Be faithful in obeying the will of God.

(So, how do we overcome the idol within us………)

# Conclusion

### The way we get rid of idols is by surrendering to God’s will and His sovereignty (MI).

### Exhortation: Let us learn to be faithful in following the will of God in each one of our lives knowing that we all are accountable before God.

### Application

#### Be faithful to the will of God

#### Beware of your own idol in your life

ILL: Do not replace God with our romantic relationship in our life.

ILL: Do not let the material position affect the relationship with God in our life.

#### We should find comfort in God, because God is ultimately going to judge evil and He is going to do it righteously, because He is righteous, holy and a just God, hence we are to honour Him by bringing glory to His name.

#### God Rewards the faithful one