

~JEZREEL 4 (335)

(Jez're-el) [God Will Sow Seed, Jezreelite, Jez're-el-ite]

.. Hosea's Prophecy

- A city on the border of Issachar's territory.
- It was for Issachar that the fourth lot came out, for the sons of Issachar by their families. (Joshua 19:17)
- And their boundary came to be to Jezreel and Chesulloth and Shunem. (Joshua 19:18)
- Today Jezreel is identified with Zer'in, Tel Yizre'el, located about 11 kilometers (7 miles) North-Northeast of Jenin, En-gannim. Just to the Southeast lies a crescent-shaped ridge of limestone hills traditionally identified with Mount Gilboa.
- During the latter half of the Tenth Century B.C.E, Jezreel served as the royal residence for Israel's King Ahab and his successor Jehoram, although Samaria was the actual capital of the northern kingdom.
- And it came about in the meantime that the heavens themselves darkened up with clouds and wind and a great downpour began to occur. And Ahab kept riding and made his way to Jezreel. (1 Kings 18:45)
- And the very hand of Yehowah proved to be upon Elijah, so that he girded up his hips and went running ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. (1 Kings 18:46)
- And it came about after these things that there was a vineyard that happened to belong to Naboth the Jezreelite, which was in Jezreel, beside the palace of Ahab the king of Samaria. (1 Kings 21:1)
- So Jehoram the king returned to get healed at Jezreel from the wounds that the Syrians got to inflict upon him at Ramah when he fought Hazael the king of Syria. As for Ahaziah the son of Jehoram the king of Judah, he went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, for he was sick. (2 Kings 8:29)

- In the vineyard of Naboth near the palace at **Jezreel**, the prophet Elijah uttered Yehowah's judgment against the house of Ahab.
- And Yehowah's word came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying; (**1 Kings 21:17**)
- Rise up, go down to meet Ahab the king of Israel, who is in Samaria. There he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. (**1 Kings 21:18**)
- And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; Have you murdered and also taken possession? And you must speak to him, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours. (**1 Kings 21:19**)
- And Ahab proceeded to say to Elijah; Have you found me, O enemy of mine? To which he said; I have found you. For the reason that you have sold yourself to do what is bad in the eyes of Yehowah. (**1 Kings 21:20**)
- Here I am bringing calamity upon you, and I shall certainly make a clean sweep after you and cut off from Ahab anyone urinating against a wall and the helpless and worthless one in Israel. (**1 Kings 21:21**)
- And I shall certainly constitute your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the offense with which you have offended and then caused Israel to sin. (**1 Kings 21:22**)
- And also as regards Jezebel Yehowah has spoken, saying; The very dogs will eat up Jezebel in the plot of land of **Jezreel**. (**1 Kings 21:23**)
- Anyone of Ahab's that is dying in the city the dogs will eat up, and anyone dying in the field the fowls of the heavens will eat up. (**1 Kings 21:24**)
- Without exception no one has proved to be like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, whom Jezebel his wife egged on. (**1 Kings 21:25**)
- And he went acting very detestably by going after the dungy

idols, the same as all that the Amorites had done, whom Yehowah drove out from before the sons of Israel. (**1 Kings 21:26**)

- And it came about that as soon as Ahab heard these words, he proceeded to rip his garments apart and to put sackcloth upon his flesh, and he went on a fast and kept lying down in sackcloth and walking despondently. (**1 Kings 21:27**)
- And Yehowah's word came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying; (**1 Kings 21:28**)
- Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself on my account? For the reason that he has humbled himself because of me, I shall not bring the calamity in his own days. In the days of his son I shall bring the calamity upon his house. (**1 Kings 21:29**)
- The prophecy was fulfilled. Jehu slew Ahab's son King Jehoram and then had his corpse thrown into the tract of Naboth's field. Ahab's wife Jezebel became food for the scavenger dogs of **Jezreel** when she was dropped from a window at Jehu's command.
- The heads of Ahab's 70 sons, executed by their caretakers in Samaria, were piled up in two heaps at the gate of **Jezreel**. None of Ahab's distinguished men, acquaintances, and priests at **Jezreel** escaped.
- And it came about that as soon as Jehoram saw Jehu, he immediately said; Is there peace, Jehu? But he said; What peace could there be as long as there are the fornications of Jezebel your mother and her many sorceries? (**2 Kings 9:22**)
- At once Jehoram made a turn with his hands, that he might flee, and said to Ahaziah; There is trickery, Ahaziah! (**2 Kings 9:23**)
- And Jehu himself filled his hand with a bow and proceeded to shoot Jehoram between the arms, so that the arrow came out at his heart, and he collapsed in his war chariot. (**2 Kings 9:24**)
- He now said to Bidkar his adjutant; Lift him up, throw him into the tract of the field of Naboth the **Jezreelite**, for remember. I and you were riding teams behind Ahab his father, and Yehowah himself lifted up this pronouncement against him. (**2 Kings 9:25**)

- **Certainly the blood of Naboth and the blood of his sons I saw yesterday, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I shall certainly repay you in this tract of land, is the utterance of Yehowah. So now, lift him up, throw him into the tract of land according to the word of Yehowah. (2 Kings 9:26)**
- **And Ahaziah the king of Judah himself saw it and took to flight by the way of the garden house. Later Jehu went in pursuit of him and said, Him also! Strike him down! So they struck him down while in the chariot on the way up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he continued his flight to Megiddo and got to die there. (2 Kings 9:27)**
- **Then his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and so they buried him in his grave with his forefathers in the City of David. (2 Kings 9:28)**
- **And it was in the eleventh year of Jehoram the son of Ahab that Ahaziah had become king over Judah. (2 Kings 9:29)**
- **At length Jehu came to **Jezreel**, and Jezebel herself heard of it. And she proceeded to paint her eyes with black paint and do her head up beautifully and to look down through the window. (2 Kings 9:30)**
- **And Jehu himself came in by the gate. She now said; Did it go all right with Zimri the killer of his lord? (2 Kings 9:31)**
- **At that he raised his face toward the window and said; Who is with me? Who? Immediately two or three court officials looked down at him. (2 Kings 9:32)**
- **So he said; Let her drop! Then they let her drop, and some of her blood went spattering upon the wall and upon the horses, and he now trampled upon her. (2 Kings 9:33)**
- **After that he came on in and ate and drank and then said; You men, please, take care of this accursed one and bury her, for she is the daughter of a king. (2 Kings 9:34)**
- **When they went to bury her, they did not find anything of her but the skull and the feet and the palms of the hands. (2 Kings 9:35)**
- **When they returned and told him, he went on to say; It is the**

word of Yehowah that he spoke by means of his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying; In the tract of land of **Jezreel** the dogs will eat the flesh of Jezebel. (2 Kings 9:36)

- And the dead body of Jezebel will certainly become as manure upon the face of the field in the tract of land of **Jezreel**, that they may not say; This is Jezebel. (2 Kings 9:37)
- Consequently the one who was over the house and the one who was over the city and the older men and the caretakers sent to Jehu, saying; We are your servants, and everything that you say to us we shall do. We shall not make anyone king. What is good in your own eyes do. (2 Kings 10:5)
- At that he wrote them a second letter, saying; If you belong to me, and it is my voice that you are obeying, take the heads of the men that are sons of your lord and come to me tomorrow at this time at **Jezreel**. Now the sons of the king, seventy men, were with the distinguished men of the city that were bringing them up. (2 Kings 10:6)
- And it came about that as soon as the letter came to them, they went taking the sons of the king and slaughtering them, seventy men, after which they put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at **Jezreel**. (2 Kings 10:7)
- Then the messenger came in and told him, saying; They have brought the heads of the sons of the king. So he said; Put them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning. (2 Kings 10:8)
- And it came about in the morning that he proceeded to go out. Then he stood still and said to all the people; You are righteous. Here I myself conspired against my lord, and I got to kill him, but who struck down all these? (2 Kings 10:9)
- Know, then, that nothing of Yehowah's word will fall unfulfilled to the earth that Yehowah has spoken against the house of Ahab, and Yehowah himself has done what he spoke by means of his servant Elijah. (2 Kings 10:10)
- Moreover, Jehu went on to strike down all who were left over of the house of Ahab in **Jezreel** and all his distinguished men and his acquaintances and his priests, until he had let no survivor of

his remain. (2 Kings 10:11)

· Hosea's Prophecy

- The words of Yehowah to;
- And Yehowah went on to say to him; Call his name **Jezreel**, for yet a little while and I must hold an accounting for the acts of bloodshed of **Jezreel** against the house of Jehu, and I must cause the royal rule of the house of Israel to cease. (Hosea 1:4)
- Regarding the acts of bloodshed of **Jezreel**, are not to be understood as referring to Jehu's destroying Ahab's ungodly house. Jehu was used as Yehowah's instrument in executing divine judgment.
- However, it may well be that the wrong motivations that were behind Jehu's continuing to let calf worship remain also caused him to make himself guilty of bloodshed.
- Consequently Yehowah said to Jehu; For the reason that you have acted well in doing what is right in my eyes, and according to all that was in my heart you have done to the house of Ahab, sons themselves to the fourth generation will sit for you upon the throne of Israel. (2 Kings 10:30)
- And Jehu himself did not take care to walk in the Law of Yehowah the God of Israel with all his heart. He did not turn aside from the sins of Jeroboam with which he caused Israel to sin. (2 Kings 10:31)
- The prophetic name **Jezreel**, by which Yehowah instructed Hosea to call his son by Gomer, pointed to a future accounting against the house of Jehu.
- God would sow seed in that he would cause a scattering of it. The accounting against Jehu's house came when Jehu's great-great-grandson Zechariah, after ruling for six months, was murdered and the assassin Shallum seized the throne.
- In the thirty-eighth year of Azariah the king of Judah, Zechariah the son of Jeroboam became king over Israel in Samaria for six months. (2 Kings 15:8)
- And he went on doing what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, just as

his forefathers had done. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, with which he caused Israel to sin. (2 Kings 15:9)

- Then Shallum the son of Jabesh conspired against him and struck him down at Ibleam and put him to death and began to reign in place of him. (2 Kings 15:10)
- Thus ended the dynasty of Jehu. About 50 years later, in 740 B.C.E, when the northern kingdom fell to Assyria and its inhabitants were exiled, the royal rule of the house of Israel ceased completely.
- At that time the bow of Israel, that is, its military strength, was definitely broken. The prophecy had indicated that this would take place in the Low Plain of Jezreel, perhaps because the Assyrians gained a decisive victory there.
- And Yehowah went on to say to him; Call his name Jezreel, for yet a little while and I must hold an accounting for the acts of bloodshed of Jezreel against the house of Jehu, and I must cause the royal rule of the house of Israel to cease. (Hosea 1:4)
- And it must occur in that day that I must break the bow of Israel in the low plain of Jezreel. (Hosea 1:5)
- However, through his prophet Hosea, Yehowah also pointed to a favorable meaning of Jezreel. By regathering the remnant of Israel and Judah and then bringing his people back to their land, Yehowah would sow seed, causing them to increase in numbers there.
- And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will certainly be collected together into a unity and will actually set up for themselves one head and go up out of the land, because great will be the day of Jezreel. (Hosea 1:11)
- And it must occur in that day that I shall answer, is the utterance of Yehowah, I shall answer the heavens, and they, for their part, will answer the earth. (Hosea 2:21)
- And the earth, for its part, will answer the grain and the sweet wine and the oil, and they, for their part, will answer Jezreel God will sow seed. (Hosea 2:22)
- And I shall certainly sow her like seed for me in the earth, and I

will show mercy to her who was not shown mercy, and I will say to those not my people; You are my people. And they, for their part, will say; You are my God. ([Hosea 2:23](#))

- **I will whistle for them and collect them together, for I shall certainly redeem them, and they must become many, just like those who have become many. ([Zechariah 10:8](#))**
- **And I shall scatter them like seed among the peoples, and in the distant places they will remember me, and they must revive with their sons and return. ([Zechariah 10:9](#))**
- **And I must bring them back from the land of Egypt, and from Assyria I shall collect them together, and to the land of Gilead and Lebanon I shall bring them, and no room will be found for them. ([Zechariah 10:10](#))**