
YOUR KINGDOM'S LEGACY

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INTRODUCTION:

How are you going to be remembered? What kind of lasting influence will you have exerted when it comes time to leave this world? What will your spiritual legacy be within your family and the church?

Definition: *legacy* “(1) a gift of property, as money, by will; a bequest, (2) anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor, (3) the office, function, or commission of a legate” (Webster’s New Universal Unabridged Dictionary).

Our obvious focus is on the second, “anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor.”

DISCUSSION:

I. O.T. KINGS

A. Saul (1 Sam. 13:8-14)

1. Saul defended his actions with three arguments:
 - i. He blamed his action on other people
 - ii. He blamed Samuel
 - iii. He said that the circumstances compelled him to offer the sacrifice
2. Samuel’s response
 - i. Saul had acted foolishly
 - ii. He had failed to keep the commandment of the Lord
 - iii. His failure to obey meant his kingdom would not endure
3. His legacy – His sons would not reign, his family would not rule again.

B. Rehoboam

1. His legacy – The man perhaps most responsible for bringing about the division of the children of Israel.

C. Jeroboam

1. His legacy – Introduced the practice of idolatry into the religious lives of the 10 northern tribes, the ultimate results being the destruction of the northern kingdom by the Assyrians in approx. 721 BC.

II. JEHONADAB

A. 2 Kings 10 (A thumbnail sketch introducing the chapter)

1. Jehu, the 10th king of Israel, first appeared as an officer in the bodyguard of Ahab. He was present at the dramatic encounter between Ahab and Elijah in the vineyard of Naboth. He was probably present at the battle of Ramoth-Gilead when Ahab was killed.
2. Ahaziah replaced Ahab but reigned for a short time. His brother, Jehoram, followed him.

3. Jehoram determined to take back Ramoth-Gilead where his father was killed some 14 years earlier when Jehu was a general in his army.
4. Jehoram succeeds but is seriously wounded. He went to the city of Jezreel to recover. Jehu and his fellow officers were left in charge of Ramoth-Gilead.
5. Elisha sent a messenger to Ramoth-Gilead to anoint Jehu as king of Israel with the task of utterly destroying the house of Ahab.
6. Jehu went to Jezreel and killed Jehoram. He also had Jehoram's nephew, Ahaziah king of Judah, killed.
7. He turned his attention to Jezebel, the queen mother, and had her killed.
8. Ahab had 70 descendants living in Samaria. Jehu ordered the elders of that city to behead them all and send the heads to him. They do this by using baskets.
9. On the way from Jezreel to Samaria, Jehu encountered 42 relatives of Ahaziah. He had them taken captive and killed later.

B. 2 Kings 10:15-16 (Jehonadab)

1. God would use this man, and the tremendous influence he exercised in his life, his incredible legacy, to teach an object lesson to the nation of Judah 270 years after his death.
2. Jer. 35:1-2 – Jeremiah commanded to test the obedience of the Rechabites.
3. The Rechabites would not drink the wine and the reason why is given in verses 6-11...Jehonadab!
4. For at least 270 years this Rechabites had faithfully followed the instruction of this distant ancestor.
5. Application was then made to Judah in verse 12-17 of their failure to follow the example of giving such respect and obedience when it came to their relationship with God.

CONCLUSION:

Lessons to be learned from Jehonadab:

1. Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; Heb. 12:9-11
2. 2 Jn. 4 – “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.”
3. We must be such an example, such a force of morality and righteousness, that generations to follow will remember that we served the Lord to the best of our abilities.
4. To build such a lasting, spiritual legacy, we must do it now.

Questions:

1. What is a legacy and must it be a material possession?
2. If we were to attempt to trace the beginning of Saul's decline as king of Israel, where would you place it?
3. How did Saul seek to defend himself to Samuel at Gilgal?
4. What was Samuel's response and how does it relate to Saul's legacy?
5. In the minds of most Bible students, what is the lasting legacy of Rehoboam?
6. What is the lasting legacy of Jeroboam?
7. What was Jehu's relationship to Ahab?
8. How was Jehu used to fulfill God's prophecy concerning the continued existence of Ahab and his house?
9. How are we introduced to Jehonadab?
10. How was Jehonadab used by God to teach an object lesson to the citizens of Judah?
11. What is the remarkable thing about this man's legacy?