MAIN THOUGHT In order to fulfill the Word of the Lord to Elijah, Jehu and Jehoiada, a priest of Judah, put to the sword all of Ahab’s wicked dynasty and all those who worshiped Baal – the god of Jezebel.

JEHU’S SWORD (10:1-36).

HE KILLED THE SEVENTY SONS OF AHAB (1-10).
• God foretold the following events to Elijah (1 Kings 21:20–21, 23, 25, 29).
• Repeated by Elisha’s student to Jehu (9:7-8), Jehu had the seventy royal princes of Ahab and Jezebel beheaded in obedience to God (6-7).

HE KILLED THE FORTY-TWO RELATIVES OF KING AHAZIAH OF JUDAH (11-14).
• However, Jehu expanded his purge to include anyone connected with Ahab’s house – chief men, friends, and priests (11).
• Unexplainably, he took the life of not only King Ahaziah of Judah but 42 of his relatives who were coming to visit. They had not yet heard the news!
• God condemned this unauthorized expansion of killing (Hos. 1:4).

HE KILLED ALL THE MINISTERS OF BAAL (15-28).
• With the help of godly Jehonadab the Recabite (Jer. 35:18-19), Jehu assembled all the prophets, ministers, and priests of Baal under false pretenses and killed them all (25).
• He tore down the temple to Baal; the sacred stone became a latrine (26-27).

HIS SUMMARY (29-36).
• While he purged Israel of Baal, the golden calves remained.
• Because of his mixed record, punishment would be delayed until the fourth generation (Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah -- 15:12).
• Jehu was the best of the worst of 19 wicked kings. His dynasty lasted nearly 100 years – the longest of Israel.
• During his reign attrition set in slowly reducing his kingdom.
• He did not serve the Lord WHOLEHEARTEDLY – he sent mixed messages to God and others (Num. 32:11-12; 2 Chron. 25:2; Eph. 6:7).
• He is the picture of the carnal Christian – one foot in the desert and the other in the promised land. He was saved “so as by fire” (1 Cor. 3:15 KJV).

JEHOIADA’S SWORD (11:1-21).
• Wicked ATHALIAH, daughter of Jezebel and wife of slain Ahaziah King of Judah, reigned over Judah 7 years after her husbands death.
• She executed the entire royal family except hidden baby JOASH (21).
• In time, JEHOIADA the priest planned an elaborate coup to kill Athalial.
• Her death, the end of the line of Ahab and Jezebel, insured the continued DAVIDIC DYNASTY in Judah through JOASH. It was a close call indeed.