

**ELIJAH AND ELISHA (2)**  
**2 Kings 9:1-13, 30-37; 10:1-19; 13:14-21**

**Memory Verse:** *Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord* (Romans 12:11 NIV).

**Background Helps:**

This week's readings consist of (1) the story of zealous Jehu (2 Kings 10:16) eradicating Baal worship in the northern kingdom of Israel. Jehu, who was anointed king of Israel, thus fulfilled the LORD's word given to the prophet Elijah: see 1 Kings 19:15-17; 1 Kings 21:17-24, 28-29; 2 Kings 9:1-10; 10:10, 17; and (2) the final incidents in the life and ministry of Elisha: 2 Kings 9:1-3; 13:14-21.

In your preparation for this lesson be sure to read the final pages of *Faith in the Face of Apostasy* by Raymond B. Dillard, pages 147-154.<sup>1</sup> These pages cover only the final scenes in Elisha's life and ministry, not the story of King Jehu. Why does King Joash call Elisha, "the chariots of Israel and its horsemen" (13:14)? Compare 2 Kings 2:11; 6:17; 13:14, and read Dillard's comments on pages 85-86, 129-130, and 148-149.

**Lesson Helps:**


This week's memory verse goes along with the story of Jehu wiping out Baal worship in Israel, in fulfillment of Elijah's prophecies of judgment against the house of King Ahab. Assuming you make 2 Kings 9–10 the focus of your lesson, a possible aim might be: My students will learn about the zeal of Jehu in fulfilling God's word to Elijah, so that they will be zealous in serving the Lord. Here's a possible lesson plan:


1. Hook. Find an illustration of a contemporary Christian worker (a missionary? a pastor? a "layperson"?) demonstrating zeal in serving the Lord. Introduce the memory verse.
2. Book. (1) Review the earlier prophecies of Elijah concerning God's coming judgment on the house of Ahab (see Background Helps above). (2) Study the zeal of Jehu in carrying out the prophecies of Elijah in 2 Kings 9 – 10. (In contrast notice the lack of zeal of King Joash of Israel in 13:14-19.) (2) Do a parallel study of the zeal of Saul (Paul) in the New Testament, first persecuting the church (Acts 8:3; 9:1-2; Gal. 1:13-14; Phil 3:6) and then, after his conversation, proclaiming the gospel of Christ (Acts 9:20-22; Gal. 1:23; Phil. 3:7ff.).
3. Look. Reintroduce the memory verse and discuss specific ways in which we as Christians can serve the Lord with zeal, for example, in fulfilling the Great Commission or using our spiritual gifts, etc.
4. Took. Guide each class member to make a decision as to how they will serve the Lord with zeal this week.

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<sup>1</sup> Raymond B. Dillard, *Faith in the Face of Apostasy* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing Company, 1999).

**Home Assignment:**

 Read Malachi 3:1; 4:1-6; Luke 1:5-17, 57-58, 67-80; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:19-28; Matthew 11:2-15; Mark 6:14-29.

 Memorize Matthew 11:11 ESV.