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 18Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much. 19Now therefore, call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. Let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu acted deceptively, with the intent of destroying the worshipers of Baal. 20And Jehu said, "Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it. 21Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. So they came into the temple of Baal, and the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other. 22And he said to the one in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out vestments for them. 23Then Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the temple of Baal, and said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search and see that no servants of the Lord are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal." 24So they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had appointed for himself eighty men on the outside, and had said, "If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escapes, whoever lets him escape, it shall be his life for the life of the other." 25Now it happened, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, "Go in and kill them; let no one come out!" And they killed them with the edge of the sword; then the guards and the officers threw them out, and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal. 26And they brought the sacred pillars out of the temple of Baal and burned them. 27Then they broke down the sacred pillar of Baal, and tore down the temple of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day. 28Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel. 29However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan. 30And the Lord said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." 31But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin.

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1. A call to worship

- a. Jehu devised a plan to destroy Baal worship
 - a1. 1 Kn. 18 Baal worship was closely linked with Jezebel & thus, Ahab
 - a2. Jehu saw the destruction of Baal as part of the removal of Jezebel's influence in the land
- b. Jehu sent out a decree throughout the land
 - a1. He proclaimed that he would demonstrate his devotion to Baal far greater than Ahab's
 - a2. He called all priests, prophets, & devotees of Baal to come to Baal's temple in Samaria for a big celebration
 - a3. Any who did not answer the call to come would be executed
- c. Jehu & his friend Jehonadab would lead off the worship
 - a1. Jehu gave them a special robe to wear so they could be recognized as priests of Baal
 - a2. Jehu clears the room of all worshippers of God

2. A zeal revealed

- a. After Jehu opens up the ceremony he & Jehonadab step outside where 80 soldiers had surrounded the temple

- b. After making his offering, Jehu stepped outside to allow the service to continue
 - a1. He instructs the soldiers to enter & kill everyone
 - a2. If anyone escaped, that soldier would die in the place of the one who had escaped
 - a3. The soldiers enter & kill everyone
- c. The furnishings of the temple were removed & destroyed
- d. The temple was torn down & the pieces were burned
- e. As a final public disgrace to Baal, the land on which the temple was built was made a city dump
- f. Jehu wanted to show Jehonadab his zeal for the Lord

3. A zeal concealed

- a. Jehu has a big *however* besmudging his name
- b. Jehu destroyed Baal worship, but kept the worship of Jeroboam's golden calves intact
 - a1. He did not follow God's Law with a whole heart
 - a2. His zeal to serve God only extended to eliminating the house of Ahab & Baal worship promoted by Jezebel
- c. Due to Jehu's obedience in destroying the House of Ahab 4 generations of his offspring would sit on the throne as the 4th dynasty of the kings of Israel
- d. Due to Jehu's bloodlust & idolatry, his line would come to a ruinous end
 - a1. As predicted by Elisha, Hazael brutally took the trans-Jordan part of Israel
 - b1. Gilead of Gad, Reuben, & ½ Manasseh were removed from Israel permanently
 - b2. Hazael severely afflicted Jehu for his alliance with Assyria
 - a2. The Nineveh stela records that Shalmaneser II of Assyria extracted tribute from Jehu
 - a3. 722 BC the Assyrians conquered Israel & removed them from the land, leaving only the poor, who were mixed with Elamites to make Samaritans
- e. Jehu had served God for selfish reasons
 - a1. Hos. 1:3-4 the Lord stated that he would avenge the bloodletting of Jehu's household
 - a2. Mt. 23 one is not doing right unless what is done is for the right reason, & with complete devotion
 - a3. Jehu could not on the one hand destroy Baalism & then worship the Golden Calf (all idols are bad)
- f. We can't select which commands we want to obey