

Is it Peace?

“Is it peace?” What a question! The question is asked five times in the scriptures, and they are all directed to Jehu the son of Nimshi.

Jehu was a fearsome warrior. He killed Joram, the son of Ahab and Jezebel, as well as Joram’s nephew, Ahaziah the king of Judah. In addition, Jehu had seventy sons of Ahab slain. Jehu’s purge of the lineage of Ahab was fierce.

When king Joram and king Ahaziah were together in Jezreel, Jehu rode in his chariot and went to Jezreel. When the watchman spied the company of Jehu, he said, “I see a company. And Joram said, Take a horseman, and send to meet them and let him say, Is it peace?” So the horseman went out to meet Jehu, and said, “Thus saith the king, Is it peace? And Jehu said, What hast thou to do with peace? Turn thee behind me” i.e., get in line behind me. Upon the news of the report, the king sent another messenger, who, when he came to Jehu, said, “Thus saith the king, Is it peace?” To which Jehu replied, “What hast thou to do with peace? Turn thee behind me.” As the watchman reports the happenings, he said, “and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously.”

As a result, Joram and Ahaziah made ready their chariots, and went out to meet Jehu, and when they came to him, Joram said, “Is it peace, Jehu?” and Jehu said, “What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?” In that day, Joram and Ahaziah were slain.

From thence, Jehu proceeded to Jezreel. As Jehu entered the gates, Jezebel said, “Is it peace, thou Zimri, thy master’s murderer? And he lifted up his face to the window and said, Who is on my side? Who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trod her under foot” (2 Kings 9).

The prophet Isaiah said, “There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked” (Isaiah 57:21).