

**CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?**

1. Why did Scripture find it necessary to record all of the miracles that Elisha performed?
2. Why were the four lepers described in Kings II Chapter 7 not allowed to enter the city of Samaria? Who were they?
3. What important halachic principle is derived from the incident of the lepers entering the camp of Aram?
4. Dogs ate the corpse of Jezebel but amazingly left whole her skull, feet and palms of her hands. Why?
5. Why did Jehu destroy the Temple of Baal but yet left intact the sanctuaries containing the golden calves?

This and much more will be addressed in the sixth lecture of this series:  
**"Elisha and the Fall of the House of Omri".**

To derive maximum benefit from this lecture, keep these questions in mind as you listen to the lecture and read through the outline. Go back to these questions once again at the end of the lecture and see how well you answer them.

PLEASE NOTE: This outline and source book were designed as a powerful tool to help you appreciate and understand the basis of Jewish History. Although the lectures can be listened to without the use of the outline, we advise you to read the outline to enhance your comprehension. Use it, as well, as a handy reference guide and for quick review.

**This lecture is dedicated to the merit and honor of the Brin Family**

THE EPIC OF THE ETERNAL PEOPLE  
Presented by Rabbi Shmuel Irons

Series XVII Lecture #6

ELISHA AND THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF OMRI

I. War and Famine

A.

וּמֶלֶךְ אֲרָם הָיָה נֹלְחֵם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּזְעַץ אֶל עַבְדָּיו לֵאמֹר אֵל מְקוֹם פְּלָנִי אֶלְמָנִי תַחְנַנְתִּי: וַיִּשְׁלַח אִישׁ הָאֶל-לֵהִיִּם אֶל מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל לֵאמֹר הֲשֹׁמֵר מַעְבַּר הַמְּקוֹם הַזֶּה כִּי שָׁם אֲרָם נֹחַתִּים: וַיִּשְׁלַח מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל הַמְּקוֹם אֲשֶׁר אָמַר לוֹ אִישׁ הָאֶל-לֵהִיִּם וְהִזְהִירוּ וְנִשְׁמַר שָׁם לֹא אַחַת וְלֹא שְׂתִיִּם: וַיִּסְעַר לֵב מֶלֶךְ אֲרָם עַל הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וַיִּקְרָא אֶל עַבְדָּיו וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם הֲלוֹא תִגִּידוּ לִי מִי מִשְׁלָנוּ אֵל מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶחָד מֵעַבְדָּיו לֹא אֲדַנִּי הַמֶּלֶךְ כִּי אֲלִישָׁע הַנְּבִיא אֲשֶׁר בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל יִגִּיד לְמֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵת הַדְּבָרִים אֲשֶׁר תִּדְבַּר בַּחֲדָר מִשְׁכַּבְּךָ: וַיֹּאמֶר לְכוּ וּרְאוּ אֵיכָה הוּא וְאֲשַׁלַּח וְאֶקְחָהוּ וַיִּגַּד לוֹ לֵאמֹר הִנֵּה בְדַתָּן: וַיִּשְׁלַח שָׁמָּה סוּסִים וָרֶכֶב וַחֲמִיל כָּבֵד וַיָּבֹאוּ לִילָה וַיִּקְפוּ עַל הָעִיר: וַיִּשְׁכַּם מִשְׁרַת אִישׁ הָאֶל-לֵהִיִּם לָקוּם וַיֵּצֵא וְהִנֵּה חֵיל סוּבָב אֵת הָעִיר וְסוּס וָרֶכֶב וַיֹּאמֶר נַעֲרוּ אֵלָיו אֵהָה אֲדַנִּי אֵיכָה נַעֲשָׂה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל תִּירָא כִּי רַבִּים אֲשֶׁר אַתָּנוּ מֵאֲשֶׁר אוֹתָם: וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אֲלִישָׁע וַיֹּאמֶר ד' פָּקַח נָא אֶת עֵינָיו וַיִּרְאֶה וַיִּפְקַח ד' אֶת עֵינָיו הַנֶּעֱרַר וַיִּרָא וְהִנֵּה הָהָר מְלֵא סוּסִים וָרֶכֶב אֵשׁ סְבִיבַת אֲלִישָׁע: וַיִּרְדּוּ אֵלָיו וַיִּתְפַּלֵּל אֲלִישָׁע אֶל ד' וַיֹּאמֶר הֲךָ נָא אֵת הַגּוֹי הַזֶּה בְּסַנּוּרִים וַיִּכַּם בְּסַנּוּרִים כָּדָבָר אֲלִישָׁע: וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אֲלִישָׁע לֹא זֶה הַדֶּרֶךְ וְלֹא זֶה הָעִיר לְכוּ אַחֲרַי וְאוֹלִיכָה אִתְּכֶם אֶל הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר תִּבְקְשׁוּן וַיִּלְךְ אוֹתָם שְׁמֵרוֹנָה: וַיְהִי כַבָּאִם שְׁמֵרוֹן וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלִישָׁע ד' פָּקַח אֶת עֵינָי אֵלָה וַיִּרְאוּ וַיִּפְקַח ד' אֶת עֵינֵיהֶם וַיִּרְאוּ וְהִנֵּה בַתּוֹךְ שְׁמֵרוֹן: וַיֹּאמֶר מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶל אֲלִישָׁע כְּרֵאתוֹ אוֹתָם הֲאֵפָה אֵפָה אֲבִי: וַיֹּאמֶר לֹא תִכֶּה הָאֲשֶׁר שְׁבִית בַּחֲרָבָךְ וּבִקְשָׁתְךָ אֵתָהּ מִכָּה שִׁים לָחֵם וּמִים לִפְנֵיהֶם וַיִּאֲכְלוּ וַיִּשְׁתּוּ וַיִּלְכוּ אֶל אֲדַנְיָהִם: וַיִּכְרַה לָהֶם כְּרָה גְדוֹלָה וַיִּאֲכְלוּ וַיִּשְׁתּוּ וַיִּשְׁלַחֵם וַיִּלְכוּ אֶל אֲדַנְיָהִם וְלֹא יָסְפוּ עוֹד גְּדוּדֵי אֲרָם לְבֹא בְּאַרְץ יִשְׂרָאֵל: מַלְכִים ב' ו-ח-כג

Then the king of Aram fought against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of G-d sent to the king of Israel, saying, Beware that you pass not such a place; for there the Arameans have come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of G-d told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. - Therefore the heart of the king of Aram was very troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said to them, Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bed chamber. And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and bring him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he there horses, and chariots, and a great army; and they came by night, and surrounded the city. - And the servant of the man of G-d had risen early, and gone out, and behold, an army surrounded the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? And he answered, Fear not; for those who are with us are more than those who are with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, L-rd, I pray you, open his eyes, that he may see. And the L-rd opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire around Elisha. And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed to the L-rd, and said, Strike this people, I pray you, with blindness. And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. And Elisha said to them, This is not the way, nor is this the city; follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek. And he

led them to Samaria. And it came to pass, when they came to Samaria, that Elisha said, L-rd, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the L-rd opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria. And the king of Israel said to Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I strike them? shall I strike them? And he answered, You shall not strike them. Would you strike those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Place bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master. And he prepared a great feast for them; and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the bands of Aram came no more to the land of Israel. **Kings II 6:8-23**

B.

וַיְהִי אַחֲרֵי כֵן וַיִּקְבֹּץ בֶּן הַדָּד מֶלֶךְ אֲרָם אֶת כָּל מַחֲנֵהוּ וַיַּעַל וַיִּצַר עַל שְׁמֶרוֹן: וַיְהִי רָעַב גָּדוֹל בְּשְׁמֶרוֹן וַהֲנֵה צָרִים עָלֶיהָ עַד הַיּוֹת רֹאשׁ חֲמוֹר בְּשִׁמְנַיִם כֶּסֶף וּרְבַע הַקֵּב דְּבִיּוֹנִים בַּחֲמֹשֶׁה כֶּסֶף: וַיְהִי מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל עֹבֵר עַל הַחֲמָה וְאִשָּׁה צָעֲקָה אֵלָיו לֵאמֹר הוֹשִׁיעָה אֲדֹנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵל יוֹשִׁיעָה ד' מֵאִיִן אוֹשִׁיעָךְ הַמֶּן הַגֶּרֶן אוֹ מִן הַיֶּקֶב: וַיֹּאמֶר לָהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ מַה לָּךְ וַתֹּאמֶר הָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת אָמְרָה אֵלַי תְּנֵי אֶת בְּנֶךָ וְנֹאכְלֶנּוּ הַיּוֹם וְאֶת בְּנֵי נֹאכַל מִחֶר: וְנִבְשַׁל אֶת בְּנֵי וְנֹאכְלֵהוּ וְאָמַר אֵלֶיהָ בַּיּוֹם הָאֶחָד תְּנֵי אֶת בְּנֶךָ וְנֹאכְלֶנּוּ וַתַּחֲבֵא אֶת בְּנָהּ: וַיְהִי כִשְׁמַע הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶת דְּבָרֵי הָאִשָּׁה וַיִּקְרַע אֶת בְּגָדָיו וְהוּא עֹבֵר עַל הַחֲמָה וַיִּרְא הָעָם וַהֲנֵה הִשָּׁק עַל בְּשָׂרוֹ מִבַּיִת: וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה יַעֲשֶׂה לִי אֱ-לֹהִים וְכֹה יוֹסֵף אִם יַעֲמַד רֹאשׁ אֱלִישָׁע בֶּן שָׁפַט עָלָיו הַיּוֹם: וְאֱלִישָׁע יֹשֵׁב בְּבֵיתוֹ וְהַזְקֵנִים יֹשְׁבִים אִתּוֹ וַיִּשְׁלַח אִישׁ מִלְּפָנָיו בְּטָרִם יָבֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶלָּו וְהוּא | אָמַר אֵל הַזְקֵנִים הֲרֵאִיתֶם כִּי שָׁלַח בֶּן הַמֶּרְצַח הַזֶּה לְהַסִּיר אֶת רֹאשִׁי רָאוּ | כִּבֵּא הַמֶּלֶךְ סָגְרוּ הַדְּלֹת וּלְחַצְתֶּם אִתּוֹ בַּדְּלֹת הַלּוֹא קוֹל רַגְלֵי אֲדֹנָיו אַחֲרָיו: עוֹדְנוּ מִדְּבַר עִמָּם וַהֲנֵה הַמֶּלֶךְ יָרַד אֵלָיו וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה זֹאת הִרְעָה מֵאֵת ד' מַה אוֹחִיל לָד' עוֹד: מַלְכִים בּוֹ-כַד-לַג

And it came to pass after this, that Ben-Hadad, king of Aram, gathered all his army, and went up, and besieged Samaria. And there was a great famine in Samaria; and, behold, they besieged it, - until a donkey's head was sold for eighty pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a qab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman to him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. And he said, If the L-rd does not help you, from where shall I help you? From the threshing floor, or from the wine press? And the king said to her, What ails you? And she answered, This woman said to me, Give your son, that we may eat him today, and we will eat my son tomorrow. And we boiled my son, and ate him; and I said to her on the next day, Give your son, that we may eat him; and she had hid her son. And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he tore his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth inside upon his flesh. Then he said, G-d do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day. - But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him; but before the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, Do you see you how this son of a murderer has sent to take away my head? Look, when the messenger comes, close the door and hold him fast at the door. - Is not the sound of his master's feet behind him? And while he still talked with them, behold, the messenger came down to him; and he said, Behold, this evil is of the L-rd. Why should I wait for the L-rd any longer? **Kings II 6:24-33**

C.

(1) וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלִישָׁע שְׁמַעוּ דְּבַר ד' כֹּה | אָמַר ד' כָּעֵת | מִחֶר סָאָה סִלְתַּת בְּשָׁקֶל וְסֹאֲתִים שְׁעָרִים בְּשָׁקֶל בְּשַׁעַר שְׁמֶרוֹן: וַיַּעַן הַשְּׁלִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לְמֶלֶךְ נִשְׁעַן עַל יָדוֹ אֶת אִישׁ הָאֱ-לֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר הִנֵּה ד' עֹשֶׂה אַרְבּוֹת בְּשָׁמַיִם הִיְהִיָּה הַדְּבַר הַזֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר הַנִּכְּה רֵאָה בְּעֵינֶיךָ וּמִשָּׁם לֹא תֹאכַל: וְאַרְבַּעָה אֲנָשִׁים הָיוּ מִצָּרְעִים פָּתַח הַשַּׁעַר וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל רֵעֵהוּ מַה אֲנַחְנוּ יֹשְׁבִים פֹּה עַד מָתָנוּ: אִם אָמְרוּ נִבּוֹא הָעִיר וְהָרַעַב בָּעִיר

וּמְתַנּוּ שֵׁם וְאִם יִשְׁבְּנוּ פֹה וּמְתַנּוּ וְעַתָּה לָכוּ וּנְפֹלֶה אֶל מַחְנֵה אָרֶם אִם יַחֲיֵנוּ נַחֲיָה וְאִם יָמִיתֵנוּ וּמְתַנּוּ: וַיִּקְוּמוּ בְּנִשְׁף לְבוֹא אֶל מַחְנֵה אָרֶם וַיָּבֹאוּ עַד קִצְהַ מַחְנֵה אָרֶם וַהֲנִה אֵין שֵׁם אִישׁ: וְד' הַשְּׁמִיעַ | אֶת מַחְנֵה אָרֶם קוֹל רֶכֶב קוֹל סוּס קוֹל חֵיל גְּדוֹל וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל אַחֵיו הִנֵּה שָׂכַר עָלֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל אֶת מַלְכֵי הַחֲתִים וְאֶת מַלְכֵי מִצְרַיִם לְבוֹא עָלֵינוּ: וַיִּקְוּמוּ וַיִּנְסוּ בְּנִשְׁף וַיַּעֲזְבוּ אֶת אֶהְלֵיהֶם וְאֶת סוּסֵיהֶם וְאֶת חֲמִרֵיהֶם הַמַּחְנֵה כַּאֲשֶׁר הִיא וַיִּנְסוּ אֶל נַפְשָׁם: וַיָּבֹאוּ הַמִּצְרָעִים הָאֵלֶּה עַד קִצְהַ הַמַּחְנֵה וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל אֶהֶל אֶחָד וַיֹּאכְלוּ וַיִּשְׂתּוּ וַיִּשְׂאוּ מִשֶׁם כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב וּבַגְדִים וַיִּלְכוּ וַיִּטְמְנוּ וַיִּשְׁבוּ וַיָּבֹאוּ אֶל אֶהֶל אֶחָד וַיִּשְׂאוּ מִשֶׁם וַיִּלְכוּ וַיִּטְמְנוּ: וַיֹּאמְרוּ אִישׁ אֶל רֵעֵהוּ לֹא כֵן | אֲנַחְנוּ עֹשִׂים הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה יוֹם בְּשֻׁרָה הוּא וְאֲנַחְנוּ מַחֲשִׂים וְחִכֵּינוּ עַד אוֹר הַבֶּקֶר וּמִצְאָנוּ עוֹזֵן וְעַתָּה לָכוּ וּנְבֹאָה וּנְגִידָה בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיָּבֹאוּ וַיִּקְרְאוּ אֶל שַׁעֲרֵי הָעִיר וַיִּגִּידוּ לָהֶם לֵאמֹר בָּאנוּ אֶל מַחְנֵה אָרֶם וַהֲנִה אֵין שֵׁם אִישׁ וְקוֹל אָדָם כִּי אִם הַסּוּס אֲסוּר וְהַחֲמוֹר אֲסוּר וְאֶהְלִים כַּאֲשֶׁר הֵמָּה: וַיִּקְרְאוּ הַשְּׁעָרִים וַיִּגִּידוּ בֵּית הַמֶּלֶךְ פְּנִימָה: וַיָּקָם הַמֶּלֶךְ לִילָה וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל עַבְדָּיו אֲנִידָה נָא לָכֶם אֶת אֲשֶׁר עָשׂוּ לָנוּ אָרֶם יָדְעוּ כִּי רַעֲבִים אֲנַחְנוּ וַיִּצְאוּ מִן הַמַּחְנֵה לְהַחֲבִיב בְּשֻׁרָה לֵאמֹר כִּי יִצְאוּ מִן הָעִיר וּנְתַפְּשֵׁם חַיִּים וְאֶל הָעִיר נָבֹא: וַיַּעַן אֶחָד מֵעַבְדָּיו וַיֹּאמֶר וַיִּקְחוּ נָא חֲמֹשֶׁה מִן הַסּוּסִים הַנִּשְׂאָרִים אֲשֶׁר נִשְׂאָרוּ בָּהֶם כְּכֹל הַמּוֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲשֶׁר תָּמוּ וּנְשַׁלְּחָה וּנְרָאָה: וַיִּקְחוּ שְׁנֵי רֶכֶב סוּסִים וַיִּשְׁלַח הַמֶּלֶךְ אַחֲרָיו מַחְנֵה אָרֶם לֵאמֹר לָכוּ וּרְאוּ: וַיִּלְכוּ אַחֲרֵיהֶם עַד הַיַּרְדֵּן וַהֲנִה כָּל הַדְרֹךְ מְלֵאָה בַּגְּדִים וְכֹלִים אֲשֶׁר הִשְׁלִיכוּ אָרֶם בַּחֲפֹזִים וַיִּשְׁבוּ הַמְּלָאכִים וַיִּגְדוּ לַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיִּצֵא הָעָם וַיָּבִזוּ אֶת מַחְנֵה אָרֶם וַיְהִי סָאָה סֶלֶת בְּשֶׁקֶל וְסָאָתִים שְׁעָרִים בְּשֶׁקֶל כְּדָבָר ד': וְהַמֶּלֶךְ הִפְקִיד אֶת הַשְּׁלִישׁ אֲשֶׁר נִשְׁעַן עַל יָדוֹ עַל הַשְּׁעָרִים וַיִּרְמְסוּהוּ הָעָם בְּשַׁעֲרֵי וַיִּמַּת כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבָר אִישׁ הָאֵל—לֵהִים אֲשֶׁר דָּבָר בְּרַדְתָּ הַמֶּלֶךְ אֱלֹהֵינוּ: וַיְהִי כְּדָבָר אִישׁ הָאֵל—לֵהִים אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ לֵאמֹר סָאָתִים שְׁעָרִים בְּשֶׁקֶל וְסָאָה סֶלֶת בְּשֶׁקֶל יְהִיָּה כְּעַת מִחֵר בְּשַׁעֲרֵי שְׁמֶרוֹן: וַיַּעַן הַשְּׁלִישׁ אֶת אִישׁ הָאֵל—לֵהִים וַיֹּאמֶר וַהֲנִה ד' עֲשֵׂה אַרְבוֹת בְּשָׁמַיִם הִיְהִיָּה כְּדָבָר הַזֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר הַנָּךְ רָאָה בְּעֵינַיִךְ וּמִשֶׁם לֹא תֹאכַל: וַיְהִי לוֹ כֵּן וַיִּרְמְסוּ אֹתוֹ הָעָם בְּשַׁעֲרֵי וַיִּמַּת: מַלְכִים ב זיא-כ

Then Elisha said, Hear the word of the L-rd; Thus said the L-rd, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. - Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of G-d, and said, Behold, if the L-rd would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, you shall see it with your eyes, but shall not eat of it. - And there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; - and they said one to another, Why should we sit here until we die? If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there; and if we sit still here, we die also. And therefore come, and let us go over to the camp of the Arameans; if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. - And they rose up in the twilight, to go to the camp of the Arameans; and when they came to the outer edge of the camp of Aram, - behold, there was no man there. For the L-rd had made the camp of the Arameans hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, the noise of a great army; and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. Therefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their donkeys, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. And when these lepers came to the outer edge of the camp, - they went into one tent, and ate and drank, and carried from there silver, and gold, and garments, and went and hid it; and returned, and entered into another tent, and carried there also, and went and hid it. Then they said one to another, We do not well; this day is a day of good news, and we hold our peace; if we remain till the morning light, punishment will come upon us; now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household. And they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city; and they told them, saying, We came to the camp of the Arameans, and, behold, there was no man there, nor voice of man, but horses tied, and donkeys tied, and the tents as they were. And he - called the gatekeepers; and they told it to the king's house inside. And the king arose in the night, and said to his

servants, I will now tell you what the Arameans have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they are gone from the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, When they come from the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city. - And one of his servants answered and said, Let some take, I beg you, five of the horses that remain, which are left in the city, behold, they are as all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; behold, I say, they are even as all the multitude of the Israelites that have perished; and let us send and see. - They took therefore two chariot horses; - and the king sent after the camp of the Arameans, saying, Go and see. And they went after them to the Jordan; and, lo, all the way was full of garments and utensils, which the Arameans had cast away in their haste. And the messengers returned, and told the king. And the people went out, and plundered the tents of the Arameans. And a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the L-rd. And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to be in charge of the gate; and the people trampled upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of G-d had said, who spoke when the king came down to him. And it came to pass as the man of G-d had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria; And that lord answered the man of G-d, and said, And, behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, you shall see it with your eyes, but shall not eat of it. And so it happened to him; for the people trampled upon him in the gate, and he died. **Kings II 7:1-20**

(2) אמר רבא א"ר יוחנן, ואמרי לה אמר רב חסדא אמר ר' יוחנן: ספק חי ספק מת אין מתרפאין מהן, ודאי מת מתרפאין מהן. מת, האיכא חיי שעה לחיי שעה לא חיישינן. ומנא תימרא דלחיי שעה לא חיישינן? דכתיב: (מלכים ב' ז) אם אמרנו נבוא העיר והרעב בעיר ומתנו שם, והאיכא חיי שעה אלא לאו לחיי שעה לא חיישינן. עבודה זרה כו:

Said Rava in the name of R. Yohanan [some say R. Hisda in the name of R. Yohanan]: In the case where it is doubtful whether [the patient] will live or die, we must not allow [idolators] to heal; but if he will certainly die, we may allow them to heal. "Die [etc.]"? Surely there is still the life of the hour [to be considered]? The life of the hour is not to be considered. What authority have you for saying that the life of the hour is not to be considered? The scriptural words (Kings II 7:4), "If we say: we will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there." Now there is the life of the hour [which they might forfeit]! This implies that the life of the hour is not to be considered. **Avodah Zarah 27b**

(3) וארבעה אנשים היו מצרעים פתח השער אמר רבי יוחנן: גחזי ושלשה בניו. סנהדרין קז:

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate. (Kings II 7:3) R. Yohanan said: They were Gehazi and his three sons. **Sanhedrin 107b**

## II. The Final Days of the House of Omri

### A.

(1) ואלישע דבר אל האשה אשר החזיה את בנה לאמר קומי ולכי את וביתך וגורי באשר תגורי כי קרא ד' לרעב וגם בא אל הארץ שבע שנים: ותקם האשה ותעש כדבר איש הא-להים ותלך היא וביתה ותגר בארץ פלשתים שבע שנים: ויהי מקצה שבע שנים ותשב האשה מארץ פלשתים ותצא לצעק אל המלך אל ביתה ואל שדה: והמלך מדבר אל גחזי נער איש הא-להים לאמר ספרה נא לי את כל הגדלות אשר עשה אלישע: ויהי הוא מספר למלך את אשר החזיה את המת והנה האשה אשר החזיה את בנה צעקת אל המלך על ביתה ועל שדה ויאמר גחזי אדני המלך זאת האשה וזה בנה אשר החזיה

אֵלִישָׁע: וַיִּשְׁאַל הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאִשָּׁה וַתִּסְפֹּר לוֹ וַיִּתֵּן לָהּ הַמֶּלֶךְ סָרִיס אֶחָד לְאָמֹר הֲשִׁיב אֶת כָּל אֲשֶׁר לָהּ וְאֵת כָּל תְּבוּאוֹת הַשָּׂדֶה מִיּוֹם עֲזָבָה אֶת הָאָרֶץ וְעַד עַתָּה: מַלְכִים ב ח:א-ו

(Then) spoke Elisha to the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go you and your household, and sojourn wherever you can sojourn; for the L-rd has called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years. - And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of G-d; and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. - And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went out to cry to the king for her house and for her land. - And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of G-d, saying, Tell me, I beg you, all the great things that Elisha has done. And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life. And when the king asked the woman, she told him. And the king appointed to her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now. **Kings II 8:1-6**

(2) וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֶמְרָנָה אֵלִיָּה הִנֵּה חָרַדְתָּ | אֲלִינִי אֶת כָּל הַחֲרָדָה הַזֹּאת מִה לַעֲשׂוֹת לָךְ הִישָׁר לְדַבֵּר לָךְ אֶל הַמֶּלֶךְ אוֹ אֶל שָׂר הַצָּבָא וַתֹּאמֶר בְּתוֹךְ עַמִּי אֲנִי יֹשֶׁבֶת: מַלְכִים ב ד:יג

And [Elisha] said to [Gehazzi], Say now to [the Shunemmite], Behold, you have been careful to take all this trouble for us. What is to be done for you? Would you be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the army? And she answered, I live among my own people. **Kings II 4:13**

B.

(1) וַיֹּאמֶר ד' אֵלָיו לָךְ שׁוּב לְדַרְכֶּךָ מִדְּבַרְהָ דְמִשְׁק וּבֵאתָ וּמְשַׁחְתָּ אֶת חֲזָאֵל לְמֶלֶךְ עַל אֲרָם: וְאֵת יְהוּא בֶן נִמְשִׁי תִמְשַׁח לְמֶלֶךְ עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאֵת אֵלִישָׁע בֶּן שָׁפָט מֵאֲבֵל מְחוּלָה תִמְשַׁח לְנָבִיא תַחְתֶּיךָ: מַלְכִים א יט:טו

And the L-rd said to him, Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you come, anoint Hazael to be king over Aram; And Jehu the son of Nimshi shall you anoint to be king over Israel; and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shall you anoint to be prophet in your place. **Kings I 19:15-16**

(2) וַיָּבֵא אֵלִישָׁע דְּמִשְׁק וּבֶן הַדָּד מֶלֶךְ אֲרָם חָלָה וַיִּגַּד לוֹ לְאָמֹר בָּא אִישׁ הָאֵל-לְהִים עַד-הֵנָּה: וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ אֶל חֲזָאֵל קַח בְּיָדְךָ מִנְחָה וְלֵךְ לְקַרְאֵת אִישׁ הָאֵל-לְהִים וְדַרְשֵׁתָּ אֶת ד' מֵאוֹתוֹ לְאָמֹר הֲאֶחֱיָה מִחֲלִי זֶה: וַיֵּלֶךְ חֲזָאֵל לְקַרְאֵתוֹ וַיִּקַּח מִנְחָה בְּיָדוֹ וְכָל טוֹב דְּמִשְׁק מִשָּׂא אַרְבָּעִים גָּמַל וַיָּבֵא וַיַּעֲמֵד לְפָנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר בְּנֶךְ בֶּן הַדָּד מֶלֶךְ אֲרָם שְׁלַחְנִי אֵלֶיךָ לְאָמֹר הֲאֶחֱיָה מִחֲלִי זֶה: וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלָיו אֵלִישָׁע לָךְ אֶמְרָ לוֹ חִיָּה תַחֲיָה וְהָרֵאנִי ד' כִּי מוֹת יָמוּת: וַיַּעֲמֵד אֶת פָּנָיו וַיִּשָּׂם עַד בֶּשׂ וַיִּכַּךְ אִישׁ הָאֵל-לְהִים: וַיֹּאמֶר חֲזָאֵל מִדּוּעַ אֲדָנִי בָכָה וַיֹּאמֶר כִּי יָדַעְתִּי אֵת אֲשֶׁר תַּעֲשֶׂה לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל רָעָה מִבְּצָרֵיהֶם תִּשְׁלַח בָּאֵשׁ וּבַחֲרִיָּהֶם בַּחֲרֹב תַּהַרְגֵם וְעַלְלֵיהֶם תִּרְטֹשׁ וְהָרֵתֵיהֶם תִּבְקַע: וַיֹּאמֶר חֲזָאֵל כִּי מָה עֹבְדֶךָ הַכֶּלֶב כִּי יַעֲשֶׂה הַדָּבָר הַגָּדוֹל הַזֶּה וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלִישָׁע הָרֵאנִי ד' אֶתְךָ מֶלֶךְ עַל אֲרָם: וַיֵּלֶךְ | מֵאֵת אֵלִישָׁע וַיָּבֵא אֶל אֲדָנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ מָה אָמַר לָךְ אֵלִישָׁע וַיֹּאמֶר אָמַר לִי חִיָּה תַחֲיָה: וַיְהִי מִמְּחֲרָת וַיִּקַּח הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּטְבֹּל בַּמַּיִם וַיִּפְרֹשׂ עַל פָּנָיו וַיָּמָת וַיִּמְלֹךְ חֲזָאֵל תַּחְתָּיו: מַלְכִים ב ה:ז-טו

And Elisha came to Damascus; and Ben-Hadad the king of Aram was sick; and it was told him, saying, The man of G-d has come here. And the king said to Hazael, Take a gift in your hand, and go, meet the man of G-d, and inquire of the L-rd by him, saying, Shall I recover of this disease? And Hazael went to meet him, and took gifts with him, of every good thing of

Damascus, forty camels' burden, and came and stood before him, and said, Your son Ben-Hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, Shall I recover of this disease? And Elisha said to him, Go, say to him, You may certainly recover; - but the L-rd has told me that he shall surely die. - And he fixed his gaze steadfastly, until (he was ashamed) he could no longer hold out; and the man of G-d wept. And Hazael said, Why does my lord weep? And he answered, Because I know the evil that you will do to the people of Israel; their fortresses will you set on fire, and their young men will you kill with the sword, and will dash their children, and rip up their women with child. And Hazael said, But what is your servant, who is but a dog, that he should do this (great) terrible thing? And Elisha answered, The L-rd has told me that you shall be king over Aram. And he departed from Elisha, and came to his master; who said to him, What did Elisha say to you? And he answered, He told me that you should surely recover. And it came to pass on the next day, that he took a thick cloth, and dipped it in water, and spread it on his face, so that he died; and Hazael reigned in his place. **Kings II 8:7-15**

C.

ובשנת חמש ליורם בן אחאב מלך ישראל ויהושפט מלך יהודה מלך יהורם בן יהושפט מלך יהודה: בן שלשים ושתים שנה היה במלכו ושמנה שנים מלך בירושלם: וילך בדרך | מלכי ישראל כאשר עשו בית אחאב כי בת אחאב היתה לו לאשה ויעש הרע בעיני ד': ולא אבה ד' להשחית את יהודה למען דוד עבדו כאשר אמר לו לתת לו ניר ולבניו כל הימים: בימיו פשע אדום מתחת יד יהודה ומלכו עליהם מלך: ויעבר יורם צעירה וכל הרכב עמו ויהי הוא קם לילה ויפה את אדום הסביב אליו ואת שרי הרכב וינס העם לאהליו: ויפשע אדום מתחת יד יהודה עד היום הזה אז תפשע לבנה בעת ההיא: ויתר דברי יורם וכל אשר עשה הלא הם כתובים על ספר דברי הימים למלכי יהודה: וישכב יורם עם אבתיו ויקבר עם אבתיו בעיר דוד וימלך אחזיהו בנו תחתיו: מלכים ב ח:טז-כד

And in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Jehoshaphat (being then) king of Judah, - Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. Thirty two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab; for the daughter of Ahab was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the L-rd. Yet the L-rd would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give to him and to his children a lamp for all time. - In his days Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah, and set up a king over themselves. - And Joram went over to Zair, and all the chariots with him; and he rose by night, and defeated the Edomites who surrounded him, and the captains of the chariots; and the people fled to their tents. - (Yet) Edom revolted from under the hand of Judah to this day. - Then Libnah revolted at the same time. And the rest of the acts of Joram, and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? And Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and Ahaziah his son reigned in his place. **Kings II 8:16-24**

D.

בשנת שתים עשרה שנה ליורם בן אחאב מלך ישראל מלך אחזיהו בן יהורם מלך יהודה: בן עשרים ושתים שנה אחזיהו במלכו ושנה אחת מלך בירושלם ושם אמו עתליהו בת עמרי מלך ישראל: וילך בדרך בית אחאב ויעש הרע בעיני ד' כבית אחאב כי חתן בית אחאב הוא: וילך את יורם בן אחאב למלחמה עם חזאל מלך ארם ברמת גלעד ויכו ארמים את יורם: וישב יורם המלך להתרפא ביזרעאל מן המכים אשר יכהו ארמים ברמה בהלחמו את חזאל מלך ארם ואחזיהו בן יהורם מלך יהודה ירד לראות את יורם בן אחאב ביזרעאל כי חלה הוא: מלכים ב ח:כה-כט

In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign. Twenty two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign; and he reigned

one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel. And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the L-rd, as did the house of Ahab; for he was the [son of the] son-in-law of the house of Ahab. - And he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Aram in Ramoth-Gilead; and the Arameans wounded Joram. And king Joram went back to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Arameans had given him at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick. **Kings II 8:25-29**

E.

וַאֲלִישֶׁע הַנְּבִיא קָרָא לְאֶחָד מִבְּנֵי הַנְּבִיאִים וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ חַגֵּר מִתְּנִיךָ וְקַח פֶּךָ הַשֶּׁמֶן הַזֶּה בְּיָדְךָ וְלֶךְ רָמַת גִּלְעָד: וּבֹאֵת שָׁמָּה וּרְאֵה שָׁם יְהוּא בֶן יְהוֹשָׁפָט בֶּן נִמְשִׁי וּבֹאֵת וְהִקְמַתוּ מִתּוֹךְ אָחָיו וְהִבִּיֵאת אֹתוֹ חֲדָר בְּחֲדָר: וְלִקְחָתָּ פֶךָ הַשֶּׁמֶן וַיִּצְקֶתָ עַל רֹאשׁוֹ וְאָמַרְתָּ כֹּה אָמַר ד' מִשְׁחָתִיךָ לְמֶלֶךְ אֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל וּפְתַחַת הַדְּלֶת וּנְסָתָה וְלֹא תַחֲכֶה: וַיֵּלֶךְ הַנְּעָר הַנְּעָר הַנְּבִיא רָמַת גִּלְעָד: וַיָּבֹא וְהִנֵּה שְׂרֵי הַחֵיל יֹשְׁבִים וַיֹּאמֶר דָּבָר לִי אֵלֶיךָ הַשֵּׁר וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּא אֵל מִי מִכְּלָנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלֶיךָ הַשֵּׁר: וַיָּקָם וַיָּבֹא הַבַּיְתָה וַיִּצַק הַשֶּׁמֶן אֵל רֹאשׁוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ כֹּה אָמַר ד' אֶ-לֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל מִשְׁחָתִיךָ לְמֶלֶךְ אֵל עִם ד' אֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וְהִפִּיתָ אֵת בֵּית אַחְזָב אֲדֹנָיךָ וּנְקַמְתִּי דָמָי | עַבְדֵי הַנְּבִיאִים וְדָמֵי כָל עַבְדֵי ד' מִיַּד אִיזְבָּל: וְאָבַד כָּל בֵּית אַחְזָב וְהִכְרַתִּי לְאַחְזָב מִשְׁתֵּינן בְּקִיר וְעִצּוֹר וְעִזּוֹב בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל: וּנְתַתִּי אֵת בֵּית אַחְזָב כְּבֵית יִרְבֶּעַם בֶּן נִבְט וּכְבֵית בַּעֲשָׂא בֶן אַחְזִיה: וְאֵת אִיזְבָּל יֹאכְלוּ הַכְּלָבִים בְּחֶלֶק יִזְרְעֵאל וְאִין קָבֵר וַיִּפְתַּח הַדְּלֶת וַיָּנֶס: וַיְהוּא יָצָא אֵל עַבְדֵי אֲדֹנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ הַשְּׁלוּ מְדוּעַ בָּא הַמִּשְׁגָּע הַזֶּה אֵלֶיךָ וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵיהֶם אַתֶּם יָדַעְתֶּם אֵת הָאִישׁ וְאֵת שִׁחוֹ: וַיֹּאמְרוּ שְׂקֵר הַגֵּד נָא לָנוּ וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּזֵאת וְכֹזֵאת אָמַר אֵלַי לְאֹמֶר כֹּה אָמַר ד' מִשְׁחָתִיךָ לְמֶלֶךְ אֵל יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּמְהָרוּ וַיִּקְחוּ אִישׁ בְּגָדוֹ וַיִּשְׂימוּ תַחְתּוֹ אֵל גָּרֶם הַמַּעֲלוֹת וַיִּתְקְעוּ בַשּׁוֹפָר וַיֹּאמְרוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּא: מַלְכִים ב ט:א-יג

And Elisha the prophet called one of the sons (disciples) of the prophets, - and said to him, Gird up your loins, and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-Gilead; And when you come there, look out there Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi, and go in, and make him arise up from among his brothers, and take him to an inner chamber; Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, Thus said the L-rd, I have anointed you king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and do not wait. And the young man, namely the young man, the prophet, - went to Ramoth-Gilead. And when he came, behold, the captains of the army were sitting; and he said, I have an errand to you, O captain. And Jehu said, To which of us? And he said, To you, O captain. And he arose, and went into the house; and he poured the oil on his head, and said to him, Thus said the L-rd G-d of Israel, I have anointed you king over the people of the L-rd, over Israel. And you shall strike the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the L-rd, at the hand of Jezebel. For the whole house of Ahab shall perish; and I will cut off from Ahab any who urinate against the wall, and he who is shut up and left in Israel; And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah; And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, and there shall be none to bury her. - And he opened the door, and fled. Then Jehu came out to the servants of his lord; and one said to him, Is all well? Why did this madman come to you? - And he said to them, you know the man, and his way of talking. - And they said, That is not true; tell us now. And he said, Thus and thus he spoke to me, saying, Thus said the L-rd, I have anointed you king over Israel. Then they hurried, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with the shofar, saying, Jehu is king! **Kings II 9:1-13**



F.

(1) וַיִּתְקַשֶּׁר יְהוּא בֶן יְהוֹשָׁפָט בֶּן-נִמְשִׁי אֶל יוֹרָם וַיּוֹרֵם הָיָה שֹׁמֵר בְּרַמַּת גִּלְעָד הוּא וְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל מִפְּנֵי חֲזָאֵל מֶלֶךְ אַרָם: וַיָּשָׁב יְהוֹרָם הַמֶּלֶךְ לְהִתְרַפֵּא בַּיַּזְרְעֵאל מִן הַמַּכִּים אֲשֶׁר יָכְהוּ אַרְמִים בַּהֲלַחְמוֹ אֶת חֲזָאֵל מֶלֶךְ אַרָם וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּא אִם יֵשׁ נַפְשְׁכֶם אֵל יֵצֵא פְּלִיט מִן הָעִיר לְלַכְתָּ לְהַגִּיד בַּיַּזְרְעֵאל: וַיִּרְכַּב יְהוּא וַיֵּלֶךְ יַזְרְעֵאלָהּ כִּי יוֹרָם שָׁכַב שָׁמָּה וַאֲחֻזִּיָּה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה יָרַד לְרֵאוֹת אֶת יוֹרָם: וְהַצִּפָּה עֲמַד עַל הַמַּגְדָּל בַּיַּזְרְעֵאל וַיֵּרָא אֶת שַׁפְעֵת יְהוּא בָּבָאוּ וַיֹּאמֶר שַׁפְעֵת אָנֹכִי רָאָה וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹרָם קַח רֶכֶב וּשְׁלַח לְקַרְאֲתָם וַיֹּאמֶר הַשְּׁלוֹ: וַיֵּלֶךְ רֶכֶב הַסּוּס לְקַרְאֲתוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה אָמַר הַמֶּלֶךְ הַשְּׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּא מָה לָּךְ וּלְשָׁלוֹ סֹב אֶל אַחֲרָי וַיִּגַּד הַצִּפָּה לְאָמַר בֹּא הַמֶּלֶךְ עַד הֵם וְלֹא שָׁב: וַיִּשְׁלַח רֶכֶב סוּס שְׁנַי וַיָּבֵא אֱלֹהִים וַיֹּאמֶר כֹּה אָמַר הַמֶּלֶךְ שְׁלוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּא מָה לָּךְ וּלְשָׁלוֹ סֹב אֶל אַחֲרָי: וַיִּגַּד הַצִּפָּה לְאָמַר בֹּא עַד אֲלֵיהֶם וְלֹא שָׁב וְהַמְּנַהֵג כַּמְּנַהֵג יְהוּא בֶן נִמְשִׁי כִּי בִשְׁגָעוֹן יִנְהַג: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹרָם אֶסֶר וַיֹּאסֶר רֶכְבוֹ וַיֵּצֵא יְהוֹרָם מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַאֲחֻזִּיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה אִישׁ בְּרֶכְבוֹ וַיֵּצְאוּ לְקַרְאֵת יְהוּא וַיַּמְצְאֵהוּ בַּחֲלֻקַּת נְבוֹת הַיַּזְרְעֵאלִי: וַיְהִי כַּרְאוֹת יְהוֹרָם אֶת יְהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר הַשְּׁלוֹ יְהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר מָה הַשְּׁלוֹ עַד זְנוּנֵי אֵיזֹבָל אָמַרְךָ וּכְשַׁפְיָה הַרְבִּיּוֹת: וַיַּהֲפֹךְ יְהוֹרָם יָדָיו וַיִּנָּס וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל אַחֻזִּיָּהוּ מִרְמָה אַחֻזִּיָּה: וַיְהוּא מֵלֵא יָדוֹ בַקֶּשֶׁת וַיִּךְ אֶת יְהוֹרָם בֵּין זְרָעָיו וַיֵּצֵא הַחֲצִי מִלְּבוֹ וַיִּכְרַע בְּרֶכְבוֹ: וַיֹּאמֶר אֶל בַּדְּקָר שְׁלֹשׁוֹ שָׂא הַשְּׁלֻכְהוּ בַּחֲלֻקַּת שְׂדֵה נְבוֹת הַיַּזְרְעֵאלִי כִּי זָכַר אָנֹכִי וְאַתָּה אֶת רֶכְבִּים צְמָדִים אַחֲרָי אַחָאָב אָבִיו וְד' נִשְׂא עָלָיו אֶת הַמִּשְׂא הַזֶּה: אִם לֹא אֶת דְּמֵי נְבוֹת וְאֶת דְּמֵי בְנָיו רְאִיתִי אָמַשׁ נָאִם ד' וְשְׁלַמְתִּי לָךְ בַּחֲלֻקָה הַזֹּאת נָאִם ד' וְעַתָּה שָׂא הַשְּׁלֻכְהוּ בַּחֲלֻקָה כַּדָּבָר ד': וַאֲחֻזִּיָּה מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה רָאָה וַיִּנָּס דֶּרֶךְ בֵּית הַגֶּן וַיִּרְדֹּף אַחֲרָיו יְהוּא וַיֹּאמֶר גַּם אַתּוֹ הִכְהוּ אֶל הַמְּרַכְבָּה בַּמַּעֲלָה גוֹר אֲשֶׁר אֶת יְבָלְעָם וַיִּנָּס מִגְדוֹ וַיָּמַת שָׁם: וַיִּרְכְּבוּ אֹתוֹ עַבְדָּיו יְרוּשָׁלַיִם וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ בַּקְּבֻרָתוֹ עִם אֲבֹתָיו בְּעִיר דּוֹד: וּבִשְׁנַת אַחַת עָשְׂרֵה שָׁנָה לְיוֹרָם בֶּן אַחָאָב מֶלֶךְ אַחֻזִּיָּה עַל יְהוּדָה: וַיָּבֹא יְהוּא יַזְרְעֵאלָהּ וַאֲיֹזָבֵל שָׁמְעָה וַתִּשָּׂם בַּפּוֹךְ עֵינֶיהָ וַתִּיטֵב אֶת רֹאשָׁהּ וַתִּשְׁקֶף בְּעַד הַחֲלוֹן: וַיְהוּא בָּא בְשַׁעַר וַתֹּאמֶר הַשְּׁלוֹ זְמַרִי הֲרַג אֲדָנָיו: וַיִּשָּׂא פָּנָיו אֶל הַחֲלוֹן וַיֹּאמֶר מִי אֲתִי מִי וַיִּשְׁקִיפוּ אֵלָיו שְׁנַיִם שְׁלֹשָׁה סְרִיסִים: וַיֹּאמֶר שְׁמִטוּהָ וַיִּשְׁמְטוּהָ וַיִּזְ מַדְמָה אֶל הַקִּיר וְאֵל הַסּוּסִים וַיִּרְמְסֵנָה: וַיָּבֵא וַיֹּאמֶר וַיִּשֶׁת וַיֹּאמֶר פָּקְדוֹ נָא אֶת הָאֲרוּרָה הַזֹּאת וְקַבְּרוּהָ כִּי בַת מֶלֶךְ הִיא: וַיִּלְכוּ לְקַבְּרָהּ וְלֹא מִצְאוּ כֹה כִּי אִם הַגִּלְגָּל וְהַרְגָּלִים וְכַפּוֹת הַיָּדִים: וַיָּשָׁבוּ וַיִּגִּידוּ לוֹ וַיֹּאמֶר דָּבָר ד' הוּא אֲשֶׁר דָּבָר בְּיַד עַבְדוֹ אֲלֵיהֶם הַתְּשִׁבִי לְאָמַר בַּחֲלֻקַּת יַזְרְעֵאל יֹאכְלוּ הַכְּלָבִים אֶת בֶּשֶׂר אֵיזֹבָל: וְהִיתָה נְבֻלַת אֵיזֹבָל כַּדָּמָן עַל פְּנֵי הַשָּׂדֶה בַּחֲלֻקַּת יַזְרְעֵאל אֲשֶׁר לֹא יֹאמְרוּ זֹאת אֵיזֹבָל: מַלְכִים ב טִי-לז

And Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. And Joram was guarding Ramoth-Gilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Aram. But king Joram had returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Arameans had given him, when he fought with Hazael king of Aram. And Jehu said, If this is your mind, then let none go out nor escape from the city to go to tell it in Jezreel. - And Jehu rode in a chariot, and went to Jezreel; for Joram lay there. And Ahaziah king of Judah came down to see Joram. And there stood a watchman on the tower in Jezreel, and he spied the company of Jehu as he came, and said, I see a company. And Joram said, Take a horseman, and send to meet them, and let him say, Is it peace? And there went one on horseback to meet him, and said, Thus said the king, Is it peace? And Jehu said, What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me. And the watchman told, saying, The messenger came to them, but he does not return. Then he sent out a second on horseback, which came to them, and said, Thus said the king, Is it peace? And Jehu answered, What have you to do with peace? Turn behind me. And the watchman told, saying, He came to them, and does not return; and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he drives furiously. And Joram said, Make ready. And his chariot was made ready. And Joram king of Israel and Ahaziah king of Judah went out, each in his chariot, and they went out against Jehu, and met him in the property of Naboth the Jezreelite. - And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, Is it peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the harlotries of

your mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many? And Joram turned his hands, and fled, and said to Ahaziah, Treachery, O Ahaziah! And Jehu drew a bow with his full strength, and struck Jehoram between his arms, and the arrow pierced his heart, and he sank down in his chariot. Then said Jehu to Bidkar his captain, Take up, and throw him in the plot of ground of the field of Naboth the Jezreelite; for remember how, when I and you rode together after Ahab his father, the L-d pronounced this burden upon him; Surely I have seen yesterday the blood of Naboth, and the blood of his sons, said the L-rd; and I will requite you in this plot, said the L-rd. And therefore take him and throw him in the plot of ground, according to the word of the L-rd. But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Strike him also in the chariot. And they did so at the ascent to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there. And his servants carried him in a chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his sepulcher with his fathers in the city of David. And in the eleventh year of Joram the son of Ahab began Ahaziah to reign over Judah. And when Jehu came to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and adorned her head, and looked out from a window. And as Jehu entered the gate, she said, Is it peace, you Zimri, who murdered his master? - 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) officers. And he said, Throw her down. And they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses; and he trampled her under foot. And when he came in, he ate and drank, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her; for she is a king's daughter. - And they went to bury her; but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. And they returned, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the L-rd, which he spoke by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the territory of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel; And the carcass of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the territory of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel. **Kings II 9:14-37**

(2) אנו למדין לאבלים מאיזבל שהיתה ביתה סמוך לשוק וכל מת שהיה עובר בשוק היתה יוצאת מתוך ביתה ומכה בכפי ידיה ומקוננת בפיה ומהלכת עשרה צעדות וכל חתן שהיה עובר בשוק היתה יוצאה מתוך ביתה ומצלצלת בכפי ידיה ומקלסת בפיה ומהלכת עשר צעדות ונתנבא עליה אליהו זכור לטוב הכלבים יאכלו את איזבל בחלק יזרעאל והאברים שהיו גומלי חסד לא שלטו הכלבים בהם שנ' וילכו לקברה ולא מצאו בה וכו' פרקי דברי אליעזר פרק י"ז

We learn about the importance of comforting the mourners from Jezebel. Her house was close to the marketplace and whenever a body would be carried through the marketplace [on its way for burial], the procession would begin from her house. She would clap her hands [as a sign of sorrow], dirges would issue forth from with her mouth, and she would walk ten steps [as part of the funeral procession]. [In addition,] every bridegroom who would go through the market [on his way to the marriage ceremony] would begin [his procession] from her house. She would clap with her hands, [as part of the musical accompaniment,] praises would issue forth from her mouth, and she would walk ten steps, [as part of the wedding procession]. Although Eliyahu, of blessed memory, prophesied that the dogs would consume Jezebel in the territory of Jezreel, the dogs had no power over those limbs that displayed kindness [to the mourners and bridegrooms], as its says (Kings II 9:35), "And they went to bury her; but they found no more of her than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands." **Midrash Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer Chapter 17**

## III. The Destruction of the House of Ahab and the Cult of Baal

## A.

וְלֹאֲחָאֵב שִׁבְעִים בָּנִים בְּשִׁמְרוֹן וַיִּכְתֹּב יְהוּא סְפָרִים וַיִּשְׁלַח שִׁמְרוֹן אֶל שְׂרֵי יִזְרְעֵאל הַזְּקֵנִים וְאֶל הָאֲמָנִים אַחָאֵב לֵאמֹר: וְעַתָּה כָּבֵא הַסֵּפֶר הַזֶּה אֵלֵיכֶם וְאִתְּכֶם בְּנֵי אֲדֹנֵיכֶם וְאִתְּכֶם הָרֶכֶב וְהַסּוּסִים וְעִיר מִבְּצֹר וְהַנְּשִׁק: וּרְאִיתֶם הַטּוֹב וְהַיָּשָׁר מִבְּנֵי אֲדֹנֵיכֶם וְשִׁמְתֶם עַל כֶּסֶף אָבִיו וְהִלַּחְמוּ עַל בֵּית אֲדֹנֵיכֶם: וַיִּרְאוּ מְאֹד מְאֹד וַיֹּאמְרוּ הִנֵּה שְׁנֵי הַמְּלָכִים לֹא עֲמָדוּ לִפְנֵינוּ וַאֲיֵךְ נַעֲמֵד אֲנַחְנוּ: וַיִּשְׁלַח אֲשֶׁר עַל הַבַּיִת וְאֲשֶׁר עַל הָעִיר וְהַזְּקֵנִים וְהָאֲמָנִים אֶל יְהוּא | לֵאמֹר עֲבָדֶיךָ אֲנַחְנוּ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר תֹּאמַר אֵלֵינוּ נַעֲשֶׂה לֹא נִמְלִיךְ אִישׁ הַטּוֹב בְּעֵינֶיךָ עֲשֵׂה: וַיִּכְתֹּב אֵלֵיהֶם סֵפֶר | שְׁנֵית לֵאמֹר אִם לִי אַתֶּם וְלִקְלִי | אַתֶּם שְׁמַעִים קְחוּ אֶת רֵאשֵׁי אֲנָשֵׁי בְנֵי אֲדֹנֵיכֶם וּבֹאוּ אֵלַי כְּעֵת מָחָר יִזְרְעֵאלָהּ וּבְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ שִׁבְעִים אִישׁ אֶת גְּדֻלֵי הָעִיר מְגִדָּלִים אוֹתָם: וַיְהִי כָּבֵא הַסֵּפֶר אֵלֵיהֶם וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת בְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּשְׁחֲטוּ שִׁבְעִים אִישׁ וַיִּשְׁיִמוּ אֶת רֵאשֵׁיהֶם בְּדוּדִים וַיִּשְׁלְחוּ אֵלָיו יִזְרְעֵאלָהּ: וַיָּבֵא הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיִּגְדֹּ לוֹ לֵאמֹר הִבִּיאוּ רֵאשֵׁי בְנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּאמַר שִׁימוּ אִתְּם שְׁנֵי צְבָרִים פֶּתַח הַשַּׁעַר עַד הַבָּקָר: וַיְהִי בַבֶּקֶר וַיֵּצֵא בַבֶּקֶר וַיֵּצֵא וַיַּעֲמֵד וַיֹּאמַר אֵל כָּל הָעָם צַדִּיקִים אַתֶּם הִנֵּה אֲנִי קִשְׁרָתִי עַל אֲדֹנָי וְאֶהְרָגְהוּ וּמִי הִכָּה אֶת כָּל אֱלֹהֵי: דַּעוּ אַפּוֹא כִּי לֹא יִפְלֵ מִדְּבַר ד' אֲרָצָה אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר ד' עַל בֵּית אַחָאֵב וְד' עֲשֵׂה אֶת אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר בְּיַד עֲבָדוֹ אֵלֵיהֶם: וַיֵּךְ יְהוּא אֶת כָּל הַנְּשִׂאָרִים לְבֵית אַחָאֵב בְּיִזְרְעֵאל וְכָל גְּדֻלּוֹ וּמִידְעָיו וְכֹהֲנָיו עַד בִּלְתֵּי הַשָּׂאִיר לוֹ שְׂרִיד: וַיִּקֶּם וַיָּבֵא וַיִּלְךְ שִׁמְרוֹן הוּא בֵּית עֶקֶד הָרָעִים בְּדָרְךָ: וַיְהוּא מִצָּא אֶת אַחֵי אַחֲזִיָּהּ מֶלֶךְ יְהוּדָה וַיֹּאמַר מִי אַתֶּם וַיֹּאמְרוּ אַחֵי אַחֲזִיָּהּ אֲנַחְנוּ וַנִּרְדֵּ לְשִׁלּוֹ בְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ וּבְנֵי הַגְּבִירָה: וַיֹּאמַר תִּפְשׂוּם חַיִּים וַיִּתְּפְשׂוּם חַיִּים וַיִּשְׁחָטוּם אֵל בּוֹר בֵּית עֶקֶד אַרְבַּעִים וּשְׁנַיִם אִישׁ וְלֹא הִשָּׂאִיר אִישׁ מֵהֶם: וַיִּלְךְ מִשָּׁם וַיִּמְצָא אֶת יְהוֹנָדָב בֶּן רֶכֶב לְקִרְאָתוֹ וַיְבָרְכֵהוּ וַיֹּאמַר אֵלָיו הֲיִשׁ אֶת לְבָבְךָ יִשָּׁר כַּאֲשֶׁר לְבָבִי עִם לְבָבְךָ וַיֹּאמַר יְהוֹנָדָב יִשׁ וַיִּשׁ תִּנָּה אֶת יָדְךָ וַיִּתֵּן יָדוֹ וַיַּעֲלֵהוּ אֵלָיו אֶל הַמֶּרְכָּבָה: וַיֹּאמַר לָכֵה אֹתִי וְרֹאֵה בְּקִנְאָתִי לְד' וַיִּרְכְּבוּ אֹתוֹ בְּרֶכֶבוֹ: וַיָּבֵא שִׁמְרוֹן וַיֵּךְ אֶת כָּל הַנְּשִׂאָרִים לֹאֲחָאֵב בְּשִׁמְרוֹן עַד הַשְּׂמִידוֹ כְּדִבַּר ד' אֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר אֶל אֵלֵיהֶם: מַלְכִים ב' יֵא-יז

And Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote letters, and sent to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, - to the elders, and to those who brought up Ahab's children, saying, And as soon as this letter comes to you, seeing your master's sons are with you, and there are with you chariots and horses, a fortified city also, and armor; Select the best and fittest of your master's sons, and set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house. - But they were very much afraid, and said, Behold, two kings could not stand before him; how then shall we stand? And he who was over the house, and he who was over the city, the elders also, and the guardians of the children, sent to Jehu, saying, We are your servants, and will do all that you shall bid us; we will not make any king; do that which is good in your eyes. Then he wrote a letter a second time to them, saying, If you are mine, and if you will listen to my voice, take the heads of your master's sons, and come to me to Jezreel by tomorrow this time. And the king's sons, being seventy persons, were with the notables of the city, who were bringing them up. And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent them to him to Jezreel. And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until the morning. And it came to pass in the morning, that he went out, and stood, and said to all the people, You are just men; behold, I conspired against my master, and killed him; but who killed all these? - Know now that there shall fall to the earth nothing of the word of the L-rd, which the L-rd spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the L-rd has done that which He spoke by His servant Elijah. And Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men, and his kinfolks, and his priests, until he left him none remaining. And he arose and departed, and came to Samaria. And as he was at the shepherd's meeting house in the way, Jehu met with the brothers of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, Who are you? And they answered, We are the brothers of Ahaziah; and we go down to

greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen. And he said, Take them alive. And they took them alive, and killed them at the pit of the meeting house, forty two men; and he did not leave any of them. - And when he had departed from there, he came across Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him; - and he greeted him, and said to him, Is your heart right, as my heart is with your heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it is, give me your hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot. And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the L-rd. And they (made him ride) drove him in his chariot. And when he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed him, according to the saying of the L-rd, which he spoke to Elijah. **Kings II 10:1-17**

B.

וַיִּקְבֹּץ יְהוּא אֶת כָּל הָעָם וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם אַחֲזָב עִבְד אֶת הַבַּעַל מֵעַט יְהוּא יַעֲבֹדְנוּ הָרְבָה: וְעַתָּה כָּל נְבִיאֵי הַבַּעַל כָּל עֲבָדָיו וְכָל כַּהֲנָיו קְרָאוּ אֵלַי אִישׁ אֶל יַפְקֹד כִּי זָבַח גָּדוֹל לִי לַבַּעַל כָּל אֲשֶׁר יַפְקֹד לֹא יִחְיֶה וַיְהִי עֲשֵׂה בְעַקְבָּה לְמַעַן הָאֲבִיד אֶת עֲבָדֵי הַבַּעַל: וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּא קִדְשׁוּ עֲצָרָה לַבַּעַל וַיִּקְרָאוּ: וַיִּשְׁלַח יְהוּא בְּכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיָּבִאוּ כָּל עֲבָדֵי הַבַּעַל וְלֹא נִשְׂאָר אִישׁ אֲשֶׁר לֹא בָא וַיָּבִאוּ בֵּית הַבַּעַל וַיִּמְלֵא בֵּית הַבַּעַל פֶּה לְפֶה: וַיֹּאמֶר לְאֲשֶׁר עַל הַמְּלִתָּחָה הוֹצֵא לְבוּשׁ לְכָל עֲבָדֵי הַבַּעַל וַיֵּצֵא לָהֶם הַמְּלָבוּשׁ: וַיָּבִיא יְהוּא וַיהוֹנָדָב בֶּן רִכְבַּ בֵּית הַבַּעַל וַיֹּאמֶר לְעֲבָדֵי הַבַּעַל חַפְשׁוּ וּרְאוּ פָּן יֵשׁ פֶּה עִמָּכֶם מֵעֲבָדֵי ד' כִּי אִם עֲבָדֵי הַבַּעַל לְבָדֶם: וַיָּבִאוּ לַעֲשׂוֹת זְבָחִים וְעֵלוֹת וַיְהִי שֵׁם לוֹ בַּחוּץ שְׁמֹנִים אִישׁ וַיֹּאמֶר הָאִישׁ אֲשֶׁר יִמְלֹט מִן הָאֲנָשִׁים אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְבִיא עַל יְדֵיכֶם נַפְשׁוֹ תַּחַת נַפְשׁוֹ: וַיְהִי כַכֵּלָתוֹ | לַעֲשׂוֹת הָעֵלָה וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוּא לְרָצִים וְלִשְׁלֹשִׁים בָּאוּ הַכּוֹם אִישׁ אֶל יֵצֵא וַיָּכּוּם לְפִי חָרֵב וַיִּשְׁלְכוּ הָרָצִים וְהַשְּׁלֹשִׁים וַיִּלְכוּ עַד עִיר בֵּית הַבַּעַל: וַיֵּצֵאוּ אֶת מִצְבוֹת בֵּית הַבַּעַל וַיִּשְׂרְפוּהָ: וַיִּתְּצוּ אֶת מִצְבַּת הַבַּעַל וַיִּתְּצוּ אֶת בֵּית הַבַּעַל וַיִּשְׁמְהוּ לְמַחְרָאוֹת [לְמוֹצָאוֹת] עַד הַיּוֹם: וַיִּשְׁמַד יְהוּא אֶת הַבַּעַל מִיִּשְׂרָאֵל: רַק חֲטָאֵי יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן נִבְטָ אֲשֶׁר הֲחֻטֵּא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא סָר יְהוּא מֵאַחֲרֵיהֶם עַגְלֵי הַזֹּהֵב אֲשֶׁר בֵּית אֵל וְאֲשֶׁר בְּדָן: מַלְכִים ב ייח-כט

And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, Ahab served Baal a little; but Jehu shall serve him much. - And therefore call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be missing; for I have a great sacrifice to make to Baal; whoever shall be missing, he shall not live. But Jehu did it with cunning in order to destroy the worshippers of Baal. And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it. And Jehu sent through all Israel; and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. And they came to the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to the other. And he said to him who was in charge of the wardrobe, Bring out garments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them out garments. And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, to the house of Baal, and said to the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that none of the servants of the L-rd should be here with you, but the worshippers of Baal only. And when they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings, Jehu stationed eighty men outside, and said, If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escape, he who lets him go, his life shall be for the life of him. And it came to pass, as soon as he had finished offering the burnt offering, - that Jehu said to the guard and to the captains, Go in, and kill them; let none come out. And they struck them with the edge of the sword; and the guard and the captains threw them out, and went to the city of the house of Baal. And they brought out the images from the house of Baal, and burned them. And they broke down the pillar of Baal, and broke down the house of Baal, and made it a latrine to this day. Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel. - But from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, Jehu departed not from after them, namely, the golden calves who were in Beth-El, and who were in Dan. **Kings II 10:18-29**

## IV. The House of Jehu

## A.

וַיֹּאמֶר ד' אֵל יְהוָה יַעַן אֲשֶׁר הִטִּיבְתָּ לַעֲשׂוֹת הַיֵּשֶׁר בְּעֵינַי כְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר בְּלִבִּי עָשִׂיתָ לְבֵית אַחָאָב בְּנֵי רַבְעִים יֵשְׁבוּ לָךְ עַל כִּסֵּא יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיְהוּא לֹא שָׁמַר לְלַכֵּת בְּתוֹרַת ד' אֶל-לֵהי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּכֹל לִכְבוֹ לֹא סָר מֵעַל חַטָּאוֹת יִרְבְּעָם אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל: בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם הִחֵל ד' לְקַצּוֹת בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּכַּם חֲזָאֵל בְּכֹל גְּבוּל יִשְׂרָאֵל: מִן הַיַּרְדֵּן מִזְרַח הַשָּׁמֶשׁ אֶת כָּל אֶרֶץ הַגִּלְעָד הַגָּדִי וְהַרְאוּבֵנִי וְהַמְנַשִּׁי מִעֲרֵעַר אֲשֶׁר עַל נַחַל אַרְנֹן וְהַגִּלְעָד וְהַכְּפֹשֶׁן: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי יְהוּא וְכָל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְכָל גְּבוּרָתוֹ הַלּוֹא הֵם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּשְׁכַּב יְהוּא עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּקְבְּרוּ אֹתוֹ בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן וַיִּמְלֹךְ יְהוֹאָחָז בְּנוֹ תַּחְתָּיו: וְהַיָּמִים אֲשֶׁר מָלַךְ יְהוּא עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁמֹנֶה שָׁנָה בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן: מַלְכִים ב' יל-לו

And the L-rd said to Jehu, Because you have done well in doing that which is right in My eyes, and have done to the house of Ahab according to all that was in My heart, your sons of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. But Jehu did not take heed to walk in the Torah of the L-rd G-d of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin. In those days the L-rd began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael struck them in all the borders of Israel; From the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, and the Reubenites, and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the river Arnon, and Gilead and Bashan. - And the rest of the acts of Jehu, and all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Jehu slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place. And the time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty eight years. **Kings II 10:30-36**

## B.

בְּשָׁנַת עֶשְׂרִים וּשְׁלֹשׁ שָׁנָה לְיוֹאָשׁ בֶּן אַחֲזִיָּהוּ מָלַךְ יְהוּדָה מָלַךְ יְהוֹאָחָז בֶּן יְהוּא עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן שְׁבַע עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינַי ד' וַיִּלְךְ אַחַר חַטָּאוֹת יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן נְבָט אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל לֹא סָר מִמֶּנָּה: וַיַּחַר אֵף ד' בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּתְּנֵם בְּיַד חֲזָאֵל מָלַךְ אֲרָם וּבִיד בֶּן הֶדֶד בֶּן חֲזָאֵל כָּל הַיָּמִים: וַיַּחַל יְהוֹאָחָז אֶת פְּנֵי ד' וַיִּשְׁמַע אֵלָיו ד' כִּי רָאָה אֶת לַחֲץ יִשְׂרָאֵל כִּי לַחֲץ אִתָּם מָלַךְ אֲרָם: וַיִּתֵּן ד' לְיִשְׂרָאֵל מוֹשִׁיעַ וַיִּצְאוּ מִתַּחַת יַד אֲרָם וַיֵּשְׁבוּ בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּאַהֲלֵיהֶם כְּתַמּוּל שְׁלֹשׁוֹם: אַךְ לֹא סָרוּ מִחַטָּאוֹת בֵּית יִרְבְּעָם אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּהַ הָלָךְ וְגַם הָאֲשֶׁרָה עֲמָדָה בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן: כִּי לֹא הִשְׁאִיר לְיְהוֹאָחָז עִם כִּי אִם חֲמִשִּׁים פָּרָשִׁים וְעֶשְׂרֵה רֶכֶב וְעֶשְׂרֵת אֲלָפִים רַגְלִי כִּי אֲבָדָם מָלַךְ אֲרָם וַיִּשְׁמַם כְּעַפְּרָ לְדָשׁ: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי יְהוֹאָחָז וְכָל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְגְבוּרָתוֹ הַלּוֹא הֵם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּשְׁכַּב יְהוֹאָחָז עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּקְבְּרוּהוּ בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן וַיִּמְלֹךְ יוֹאָשׁ בְּנוֹ תַּחְתָּיו: בְּשָׁנַת שְׁלֹשִׁים וּשְׁבַע שָׁנָה לְיוֹאָשׁ מָלַךְ יְהוּדָה מָלַךְ יְהוֹאָשׁ בֶּן יְהוֹאָחָז עַל יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן שֵׁשׁ עָשָׂרָה שָׁנָה: וַיַּעַשׂ הָרַע בְּעֵינַי ד' לֹא סָר מִכָּל חַטָּאוֹת יִרְבְּעָם בֶּן נְבָט אֲשֶׁר הִחֲטִיא אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל בְּהַ הָלָךְ: וַיִּתֵּר דְּבָרֵי יוֹאָשׁ וְכָל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְגְבוּרָתוֹ אֲשֶׁר נִלְחַם עִם אֲמַצְיָה מָלַךְ יְהוּדָה הַלּוֹא הֵם כְּתוּבִים עַל סֵפֶר דְּבָרֵי הַיָּמִים לְמַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: וַיִּשְׁכַּב יוֹאָשׁ עִם אֲבֹתָיו וַיִּרְבְּעָם יָשָׁב עַל כִּסְאוֹ וַיִּקְבְּר יוֹאָשׁ בְּשֹׁמְרוֹן עִם מַלְכֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: מַלְכִים ב' יג-א-יג

In the twenty third year of Joash, the son of Ahaziah king of Judah, Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which made Israel sin; he did not depart from them; And the anger of the L-rd was kindled against Israel, and he delivered them to the hand of Hazael king of Aram, and to the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days. And Jehoahaz prayed to the L-rd, and the L-rd listened to him; for he saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Aram oppressed them. And the L-rd gave Israel a savior, - so that they went out from under the hand of the Arameans; and the people of Israel

lived in their tents, as formerly. Nevertheless they departed not from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, but walked in them; and there remained the Ashera also in Samaria. And there was not left to Jehoahaz an army of more than fifty horsemen, and ten chariots, and ten thousand foot soldiers; for the king of Aram had destroyed them, and had made them like the dust at threshing. And the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, and all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Jehoahaz slept with his fathers; and they buried him in Samaria; and Joash his son reigned in his place. In the thirty seventh year of Joash king of Judah began Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the L-rd; he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin; but he walked in them. And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? And Joash slept with his fathers; and Jeroboam sat upon his throne; and Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. **Kings II 13:1-13**

C.

(1) וְאֵלִישָׁע חָלָה אֶת חָלְיוֹ אֲשֶׁר יָמוּת בּוֹ וַיֵּרֶד אֵלָיו יוֹאָשׁ מֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּבֶךְ עַל פָּנָיו וַיֹּאמֶר אָבִי אָבִי רַכֵּב יִשְׂרָאֵל וּפָרְשָׁיו: וַיֹּאמֶר לוֹ אֵלִישָׁע קַח קֶשֶׁת וַחֲצִים וַיִּקַּח אֵלָיו קֶשֶׁת וַחֲצִים: וַיֹּאמֶר | לְמֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל הֲרַכֵּב יָדָךְ עַל הַקֶּשֶׁת וַיִּרְכַּב יָדָיו וַיִּשֶׂם אֵלִישָׁע יָדָיו עַל יְדֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ: וַיֹּאמֶר פָּתַח הַחַלּוֹן קִדְמָה וַיִּפְתַּח וַיֹּאמֶר אֵלִישָׁע יְרֵה וַיִּזֹּר וַיֹּאמֶר חֵץ תִּשׁוּעָה לְד' וְחֵץ תִּשׁוּעָה בְּאָרֶם וְהַכִּיתָ אֶת אָרֶם בְּאֶפֶק עַד כְּלָה: וַיֹּאמֶר קַח הַחֲצִים וַיִּקַּח וַיֹּאמֶר לְמֶלֶךְ יִשְׂרָאֵל הִן אַרְצָה וַיִּן שְׁלֹשׁ פְּעָמִים וַיַּעֲמֵד: וַיִּקְצַף עָלָיו אִישׁ הָאֶל-לְהִים וַיֹּאמֶר לְהַכּוֹת חֲמֵשׁ אוֹ שֵׁשׁ פְּעָמִים אִזְ הַכִּיתָ אֶת אָרֶם עַד כְּלָה וְעַתָּה שְׁלֹשׁ פְּעָמִים תִּכֶּה אֶת אָרֶם: וַיָּמָת אֵלִישָׁע וַיִּקְבְּרוּהוּ וַיִּגְדּוּדֵי מוֹאָב יָבֹאוּ בְּאֶרֶץ כְּבָא שְׁנָה: וַיְהִי הֵם | קִבְּרִים אִישׁ וְהֵנָּה רָאוּ אֶת הַגְּדוּד וַיִּשְׁלִיכוּ אֶת הָאִישׁ בְּקִבְרֵי אֵלִישָׁע וַיִּלְךְ וַיִּגַּע הָאִישׁ בְּעֵצֵי מוֹת אֵלִישָׁע וַיְחִי וַיִּקָּם עַל רַגְלָיו: וַחֲזָאֵל מֶלֶךְ אָרֶם לָחַץ אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל כָּל יְמֵי יְהוֹאָחָז: וַיִּחַץ ד' אֶתֶם וַיִּרְחַמֶם וַיִּפֶן אֲלֵיהֶם לְמַעַן בְּרִיתוֹ אֶת אֲבָרְהָם יִצְחָק וַיַּעֲקֹב וְלֹא אָבָה הַשְׁחִיתֶם וְלֹא הִשְׁלִיכֶם מֵעַל פָּנָיו עַד עַתָּה: וַיָּמָת חֲזָאֵל מֶלֶךְ אָרֶם וַיִּמְלֹךְ בֶּן הַדָּד בְּנוֹ תַחְתָּיו: וַיָּשֶׁב יְהוֹאָשׁ בֶּן יְהוֹאָחָז וַיִּקַּח אֶת הָעָרִים מִיַּד בֶּן הַדָּד בֶּן חֲזָאֵל אֲשֶׁר לָקַח מִיַּד יְהוֹאָחָז אָבִיו בְּמַלְחָמָה שְׁלֹשׁ פְּעָמִים הִכְהוּ יוֹאָשׁ וַיָּשֶׁב אֶת עָרֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: מַלְכִים ב יגיד-כה

And Elisha had fallen ill with the sickness of which he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and its horsemen. And Elisha said to him, Take a bow and arrows. And he took for himself a bow and arrows. And he said to the king of Israel, Put your hand upon the bow. And he put his hand upon it; and Elisha put his hands upon the king's hands. And he said, Open the window eastward. And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot. And he shot. And he said, The arrow of the L-rd's deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Aram; for you shall strike the Arameans in Aphek, till you have consumed them. - And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, Strike upon the ground. And he struck three times, and stopped. And the man of G-d was angry with him, and said, You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Aram till they had been consumed; whereas now you shall strike Aram only three times. - And Elisha died, and they buried him. - And the bands of the Moabites invaded the land at the coming in of the year. And it came to pass, as they - were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men; - and they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha; and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet. - But Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. And the L-rd was gracious to them, and had compassion on them, and turned towards them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither has He till now cast them away from His presence. And Hazael king of Aram died; and Ben-Hadad his son reigned in his place. And

Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again from the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael the cities, which he had taken from the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times did Joash beat him, and recovered the cities of Israel. **Kings II 13:14-25**

(2) אמר ר' חמא בר חנינא: גדולים צדיקים במיתתן יותר מבחייהן, שנאמר: (מלכים ב' י"ג) ויהי הם קוברים איש והנה ראו [את] הגדוד וישליכו את האיש בקבר אלישע וילך ויגע האיש בעצמות אלישע ויחי ויקם על רגליו. אמר ליה רב פפא לאביי: ודילמא לקיומי ביה ברכתא דאליהו, דכתיב: (מלכים ב' ב') ויהי נא פי שנים ברוחך אלי אמר ליה: אי הכי, היינו דתניא: על רגליו עמד ולביתו לא הלך? אלא במה איקיים? כדאמר ר' יוחנן: שריפא צרעת נעמן שהיא שקולה כמת, שנאמר: (במדבר י"ב) אל נא תהי כמת. חולין ז:

R. Hanina b. Hama said: The righteous are more powerful after death than in life, for it is written (Kings II 13:21), "And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band; and they cast the man into the sepulcher of Elisha; and when the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet." Said R. Papa to Abaye: Perhaps [the restoration to life was] to fulfil Elijah's blessing, as it is written (Kings II 2:9), "Let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me!" He replied: If so, why has it been taught: He stood upon his feet but walked not to his home? Wherein, then, was Elijah's blessing fulfilled? As R. Yohanan has said: He healed the leprosy of Naaman, leprosy being the equivalent of death, as it is written (Numbers 12:12), "Let her not, I pray, be as one dead." **Hulin 7b**

TIMELINE (ACCORDING TO THE GAON OF VILNA)

<u>DATE</u> (סדר עולם)	<u>KINGS OF JUDAH</u>	<u>KINGS OF ISRAEL</u>
835 BCE - ב' תתקכ"ה	Solomon שלמה	Solomon שלמה
795 BCE - ב' תתקס"ה	Rehoboam רחבעם	Jeroboam ירבעם בן נבט
778 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ב	Abijam אבִיָּם	
775 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ה	Asa אָסָא	
774 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ו		Nadab נָדָב בֶּן יִרְבֵּעַם
773 BCE - ב' תתקפ"ז		Baasha בַּעֲשָׂא בֶּן אֶחְזִיָּהּ
750 BCE - ג' י'		Elah אֵלָה בֶּן בַּעֲשָׂא
749 BCE - ג' י"א		Zimri זִמְרִי
749 BCE - ג' י"א		Omri עֲמֹרִי
738 BCE - ג' כ"ב		Ahab אַחָאָב בֶּן עֲמֹרִי
734 BCE - ג' כ"ו	Jehoshaphat יְהוֹשָׁפָט	
717 BCE - ג' מ"ג		Ahaziah אַחְזִיָּהוּ בֶּן אַחָאָב
716 BCE - ג' מ"ד		Jehoram יְהוֹרָם בֶּן אַחָאָב
709 BCE - ג' נ"א	Jehoram יְהוֹרָם	
705 BCE - ג' נ"ה	Ahaziah אַחְזִיָּהוּ	
704 BCE - ג' נ"ו	Athaliah עֲתַלְיָהוּ בַת אַחָאָב	Jehu יְהוּא בֶּן יְהוֹשָׁפָט
698 BCE - ג' ס"ב	Joash יוֹאָשׁ בֶּן אַחְזִיָּהוּ	
676 BCE - ג' פ"ד		Jehoahaz יְהוֹאָחָז בֶּן יְהוּא
659 BCE - ג' ק"א		Jehoash יְהוֹאָשׁ בֶּן יְהוֹאָחָז
658 BCE - ג' ק"ב	Amaziah אַמְצִיָּהּ	
645 BCE - ג' קט"ו		Jeroboam יִרְבֵּעַם בֶּן יוֹאָשׁ
630 BCE - ג' ק"ל	Azariah (עוזיה) עֲזַרְיָהּ	
607 BCE - ג' קנ"ג		Zechariah זְכַרְיָהוּ בֶּן יִרְבֵּעַם
606 BCE - ג' קנ"ד		Shallum שְׁלוֹם בֶּן יְבִישׁ
606 BCE - ג' קנ"ד		Menahem מְנַחֵם בֶּן גְּדִי
596 BCE - ג' קס"ד		Pekahiah פְּקַחְיָהּ בֶּן מְנַחֵם
594 BCE - ג' קס"ו		Pekah פְּקַח בֶּן רַמְלִיָּהוּ
593 BCE - ג' קס"ז	Jotham יוֹתָם	
577 BCE - ג' קפ"ג	Ahaz אַחָז	
574 BCE - ג' קפ"ו		Hoshea הוֹשֵׁעַ בֶּן אֵלָה
561 BCE - ג' קצ"ט	Hezekiah חֲזַקְיָהּ	
555 BCE - ג' ר"ה	גלות של עשרת השבטים	End of the Monarchy in Israel
532 BCE - ג' רכ"ח	Manasseh מְנַשֶּׁה	
477 BCE - ג' רפ"ג	Amon אָמוֹן	
475 BCE - ג' רפ"ה	Josiah יֹאשִׁיָּהוּ	
444 BCE - ג' שט"ז	Jehoahaz יְהוֹאָחָז	
444 BCE - ג' שט"ז	Jehoiakim יְהוֹיָקִים	
433 BCE - ג' שכ"ז	Jehoiachin יְהוֹיָכִין	
432 BCE - ג' שכ"ח	Zedekiah צְדַקְיָהוּ	
421 BCE - ג' של"ט	חורבן הבית וגלות יהודה	End of the Monarchy in Judah