

The Ancient Hell Driver – Jehu

By
Rev. H. P. Robinson

*“And the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi; for he driveth furiously”
(II Kings 9:20)*

[Editor’s Note: There are two sermons from this passage, one directed at young people and entitled, *Talent for these Times*, and the other recorded here: *The Ancient Hell Driver – Jehu*. Unfortunately, only the first few pages of the latter sermon have been found, but it is offered here as additional material that may be combined with the former.]

This story of a reckless, furious chariot driver comes down to us from the long gone past. The story itself is as old as Israel’s tribal wars, but the spirit of the driver is as modern as today. Jehu did not drive a high-powered limousine like those that gracefully speed down our modern highways. He only drove a clumsy, rumbling chariot pulled by prancing horse, but the fame of his furious, careless, daredevil driving was know by great and small.

The manner of his driving is representative of his character. And the dramatic role that he played in the terrible downfall of the Kingdom of Israel is one baptized in blood, war, and tears. He appears on the scene with the swiftness of the lightening and flashes across the earth like a blazing meteor, gone just as suddenly. He came to grips with the corrupt wickedness of his day and left a path strewn with the mangled forms and distorted bodies of any who dared to stand in his way, peasant and queen alike. The speed of his driving, the recklessness of his character, and the wickedness of his day have counterparts in our own generation.

He lived at a time when the highest ruler of the land was an idol-worshipping, pagan queen named Jezebel. Politics had degenerated into a rotten, partisan clique, dominated by a God-hating, wicked queen. Justice was unknown. Murder of the innocent

was common. Immorality swept the land like a terrible scourge. It was as awful day of lewdness, looseness, and utter abandonment to the passions of infernal desire.

For many years this furious and fast living continued, but the day finally came when the crash of judgment fell. The climax of those awful years was one of the most gruesome and bloody chapters of Hebrew history. Just as the consequence of fast and loose living overtook the wicked in those ancient days, so will it fall upon America and all the nations that forget God.

If it were possible to roll back the ages and call from the silent city of the dead the furious driver Jehu and place him among our modern civilization, he would feel at home. The horse and buggy days of yesteryear seem to be almost a myth. It is hard to imagine a time when there were no automobiles, airplanes, electric lights, telephones, and radios. We have come a long way since the days of the chariot. But most of the improvements, inventions, and advancements have served to drive us farther away from God. We are speeding at a rapid rate down the road of science and technology, but in the field of old-fashioned religion, we are still plodding at an ox cart pace.

The speeding up of production, transportation, and communication has had a serious affect upon the thinking and living of the people of this day. The majority of the modern conveniences that should be used to make this world a better place to live are being used to blight the lives and mar the character of multiplied thousands. The motion picture has untold possibilities in the field of education and in the propagation of the Gospel. But instead of it being used for these purposes, it is being utilized toward a base and hellish end. The movies do more to mold the character, set the pattern of thought and determine the destiny of youth than all the churches and preachers put together. They

have done more to send a scourge of juvenile delinquency across American than any other one influence today.

The invention of the airplane was a tremendous stride down the road of progress, but the tens of thousands of voices of dead men, women, and children in war-torn lands cry out today as a testimony against the airplane as a flying monster of death and destruction. The mysterious development of atomic energy is the outstanding accomplishment of this century, but its terrible possibilities hang over the race of men like an ominous death pall. It is a threat to our entire civilization. At last the inventive genius of mortal man brings him well within the range of that horrible possibility of universal annihilation.

It would seem that such intellectual development and scientific advancement would equally elevate the moral and spiritual status of men. But instead, it has sunk them to the savage depths that have characterized the ungodly of every age. This is indeed a day of enlightenment, but it is also a day of accelerated evil. Men no longer take time to be holy. There is no more time for prayer and Bible reading. Men eat in a hurry, live in a hurry, travel in a hurry. There is no more time for the Sabbath of rest. Men cannot find enough time in the day so they work at night, they work six days a week, they work seven days a week.

This is not the first time that this old world has had no time for Jesus. The charred remains of ancient empires, buried beneath the ruins of the forgotten past tell again and again the old story of the inevitable doom of all who forget God. So it will be with us who hurry on down life's way and give no time to God.