

JPS TANAKH: The Holy Scriptures
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NEVI'IM II KINGS 9.36

the hands. ³⁶They came back and reported to him; and he said, "It is just as the LORD spoke through His servant Elijah the Tishbite: The dogs shall devour the flesh of Jezebel in the field of Jezreel; ³⁷and the carcass of Jezebel shall be like dung on the ground, in the field of Jezreel, so that none will be able to say: 'This was Jezebel.'"

10 Ahab had seventy descendants in Samaria. Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria, to the elders and officials of Jezreel^a and to the guardians of [the children] of Ahab, as follows: ²"Now, when this letter reaches you—since your master's sons are with you and you also have chariots and horses, and a fortified city and weapons—³select the best and the most suitable of your master's sons and set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house." ⁴But they were overcome by fear, for they thought, "If the two kings could not stand up to him, how can we?" ⁵The steward of the palace and the governor of the city and the elders and the guardians sent this message to Jehu: "We are your subjects, and we shall do whatever you tell us to. We shall not proclaim anyone king; do whatever you like."

⁶He wrote them a second time: "If you are on my side and are ready to obey me, take the heads of the attendants of your master's sons and come^b to me in Jezreel tomorrow at this time." Now the princes, seventy in number, were with the notables of the town, who were rearing them. ⁷But when the letter reached them, they took the princes and slaughtered all seventy of them; they put their heads in baskets and sent them to him in Jezreel. ⁸A messenger came and reported to him: "They have brought the heads of the princes." He said, "Pile them up in two heaps at the entrance of the gate before morning." ⁹In the morning he went out and stood there; and he said to all the people, "Are you blameless?^c True, I conspired against my master and killed him; but who struck down all of these? ¹⁰Know, then, that nothing that the LORD has spoken concerning the House of Ahab shall remain unfulfilled, for the LORD has done what he announced through His servant Elijah." ¹¹And Jehu struck down all that were left of the House of Ahab in Jezreel—and all his notables, intimates, and priests—till he left him no survivor.

¹²He then set out for Samaria. On the way, when he was at Beth-eked of the shepherds, ¹³Jehu came upon the kinsmen of King Ahaziah of Judah. "Who are you?" he asked. They replied, "We are the kinsmen of

^a *Emendation yields "of the city."*

^b *Targum and Septuagint read "and bring them."*

^c *Or "You are blameless."*