

Jehu vs. Baal<sup>1</sup>

“Everybody gather round!” said King Jehu.

(Before we get too far into the story, let’s talk about the end because Bible stories are always spoiled in the beginning. A whole bunch of Baal worshipers had really put a cramp in Jehu’s style. But Jehu was a cunning little devil of a king, and he was going to destroy them. He had a plan to deceive them, and it was a cunning plan. Okay, now that the story is spoiled, I hope you enjoy it!)

Obedying the voice of their king, the crowd of Baal worshipers gathered round the campfire and listened. The cunning little devil named Jehu spoke: “Ahab, your former king, served Baal a little. But I, your cunning little king Jehu, will serve Baal a lot!” Cheers and clapping and shouts and curses filled the air.

“Now,” he continued. “Call all the prophets of Baal, all his servants and priests, and make sure no one is left out. I love you guys.” The forty or so Baalites around the fire with Jehu smiled and felt warmth in their hearts. “I have a great sacrifice for Baal, and you’re not going to want to miss it. In fact, anyone who doesn’t show face will be put to death!” The words of their king did not scare them because they loved Jehu a lot.

The Baalites respected their king and hung on every word he spoke (because they loved him, you see?). “Let’s meet in the great Temple of Baal tomorrow evening, when the sun hangs low in the sky,” Jehu said. The crowd dispersed with joy in their hearts because their king was awesome and because they loved him a lot. Each devoted follower of Baal sought out their fellow servants, prophets, and worshipers throughout the land.

Many of the people walked a long way to get to the Temple. To occupy their minds and to pass the time, groups of travelers often sang their favorite songs, including “Hey, Baal, You’re Pretty Cool” and “Happy Happy Joy Joy” and “I Love You, Jehu” and “Rock Rock Rock, Everybody Do the Rock Rock, ROCK.” They also played games.

“We made it to the Temple!” one group said. “Hooray!” said another. One by one, six hundred thousand worshipers of Baal made it to the meeting place. Jehu, their cunning king of a devil, stood on the roof and shouted at them. “WELCOME!” he said.

Those in the back asked, “What did he say?” (You see, there were 600,000 people, so it was hard to hear one man on the roof, even though he was shouting.)

When word spread to all six hundred thousand of them, they all felt welcomed. Jehu said to the wardrobe man with him on the roof, “Hey, wardrobe man!” because there were also two other people on the roof with him. The other two were Jehonadab and Rechab, and they were son and father. The wardrobe man turned to Jehu and said, “Yes?”

Jehu replied, “You got the robes?”

The wardrobe man said, “Yes.”

“You know what to do,” Jehu said with a wink.

---

<sup>1</sup> Story derived from 2 Kings 10:18-28. See page 5 for reference. Translations, quotes, and storyline have all been altered.

“Yes,” said the wardrobe man. He had a limited vocabulary, but an unlimited wardrobe. He climbed down from the roof and stood at the entrance to the Temple next to his magic closet. As the Baalites piled in, he handed them each a robe sponsored by Baal himself. This made the guests feel even more welcome.

Every last one of the Baalites fit in the Temple because it was important to them to see the great sacrifice to their pretty cool god by their cunning devil-king whom they loved. Fathers held their children on their shoulders. Mothers carried their husbands on their shoulders. Mothers stood on the shoulders of unmarried teenagers and young adults from other families. Everyone worked together because the Temple of Baal was about the size of four basketball courts, and teamwork was necessary. (There was only one story in the Temple, but the roof was pretty high, so they could stack themselves comfortably enough.)

Jehu talked to Jehonadab, the son, and Rechab, the father. “Here is my cunning plan,” Jehu said. “Once they’re all in, Jehonadab, you go look for any servants of the Lord. You can tell the servants of the Lord apart from the others by the way that they are. If you find one, tell him or her to take off his or her robe.”

“Got it,” Jehonadab said.

“When you’ve searched all of them, give me the signal,” Jehu said.

“What’s the signal?”

“Flip me the bird.”

“Got it.”

Jehu turned to Jehonadab’s father. “Rechab,” Jehu said.

“Yes?” Rechab said.

“Once I’m finished telling you guys about my cunning plan, we’ll go in through the trapdoor and close it behind us. Jehonadab and I will head to the center, but you stay near the trapdoor until I give you the signal. After I get the signal from your son, I’ll send you the Flying Penguin signal. It looks like this. That will be your signal to open the trapdoor. For ventilation purposes. Once you open it, flip me the bird. Then, I’ll light the fire for the sacrifice. And here’s the good part. I’ll drop the match I use to light the fire and little do the Baalites know that their robes are made of pure gasoline. Which means they will burst into flames and be killed because their worshiping has really put a cramp in my style. Okay, that’s the plan. Got it?”

“Yes,” Rechab said. Like the wardrobe man, Rechab had a limited vocabulary.

“Jehu?” Jehonadab said.

“What is it, boy,” Jehu said.

“Couldn’t we just leave the trapdoor open behind us? And what about the heat and the smoke and the flames? Won’t we be killed up there in the rafters? That’s *if* the match even stays lit when you drop it. Side note: Dad, why did you bring the sword along? And if the match stays lit, won’t the servants of the Lord be burned alive as well?”

Jehu had a great plan, so he ignored Jehonadab.

After lowering themselves through the trapdoor on the roof, Jehu and Jehonadab crawled along the rafters to the center of the Temple where the altar was. Rechab closed the trapdoor and stayed near it. Most people in the crowd had a very poor view of the platform in the rafters since their king was so high above them (and since most people were on the bottom rows of the stacks of bodies because six hundred thousand people is a lot for a space the size of about four basketball courts).

“Hear ye, Hear me,” said Jehu.

“Hear you, Hear we,” said the Baalites.

“This is my speech: Today I present a great sacrifice for the Pretty Cool god named Baal. And I proclaim this meeting a solemn assembly! Thanks for coming.”

Everyone was happy to be there. They loved Jehu a lot in that moment.

Jehonadab had been searching for servants of the Lord during Jehu’s 28-word speech. (Jehonadab was second only to his father in terms of speed.) He found nine hundred forty-six servants of the Lord, then he shot the bird to Jehu just as his speech was finishing up. Jehonadab took the robes of the servants of the Lord to the wardrobe man. “These are from the servants of the Lord,” Jehonadab said to the wardrobe man. “Would you like me to put them in your closet?”

“Yes,” replied the wardrobe man.

So, Jehonadab put nine hundred forty-five robes in the magic closet in a matter of two minutes. Jehonadab went to put the final robe in the back of the closet and saw Narnia. Jehonadab remembered his enjoyment of the classic C. S. Lewis series, and kept walking, gasoline robe in hand. The wardrobe man would forever wonder what happened to the missing robe.

After receiving the signal, Jehu did the Flying Penguin and the crowd went nuts. Rechab had been asleep, but the noise from the Baalites woke him up. He opened the trapdoor and flipped Jehu off.

With a manic smile on his face, Jehu struck a match and let it fall to the crowd. The flame went out before reaching anyone because matches usually don’t stay lit when dropped. If Jehonadab had been there, he would’ve said, “I told ya so.” But Jehonadab wasn’t there.

Rechab lost his cool and began murdering the servants of Baal with his sword because he doesn’t like it when things don’t go according to plan. (Falling asleep was not in the plan, and neither was killing anyone with a sword, but Rechab took it into his own hands to improvise, and his vocabulary was limited, so he didn’t understand much of the original plan in the first place.)

The next part of the story is graphic, so skip this paragraph if you are weak in the stomach. The top layer of Baal worshipers consisted of primarily children. They were slaughtered mercilessly in a flash of the sword. Rechab was old, but he was quick. He was the fastest in the world, and his son, Jehonadab, was the second fastest. The Temple was already filling with blood. The wardrobe man noticed the warm liquid seeping from under the crack in the entry door. “Yes,” he thought. The next layer of Baalites was the fathers. They put up a fight for old but quick Rechab. Yet, they were no match, but the match was a match, and because it did not light, the fathers became shredded bits of flesh and bones. In the blindness of his rage, Rechab nearly killed several servants of the Lord, but he remained focused on his goal and resisted the urge to shed more blood than necessary. By the time the children and fathers were killed, the unmarried teenagers and young

adults at the bottom of the pile had been crushed by deadweight and drowned in blood. (Luckily, none of the servants of the Lord were on the bottom row.) The mothers and any remaining servants, prophets, and worshipers of Baal were rapidly murdered by the hand of Rechab. If Rechab had known that his son, Jehonadab, was in Narnia, he would have thought about how his son was most likely the fastest in the world of Narnia. But Rechab did not know that his son, Jehonadab, was in Narnia, so he didn't think that. To this day, the speed of Rechab the Ruthless remains unrivaled in the world, and the speed of Jehonadab the Jerk remains unrivaled in Narnia.

If you happened to skip the last paragraph, here's what happened: Rechab killed the Baalites.

Jehu wept. He was so proud of his good friend, Rechab, and of Rechab's son, Jehonadab. Jehu knew deep down he would never see Jehonadab again, so he cried harder. Jehu looked down from the altar and met the gaze of Rechab who was standing on the pile of dead bodies, trembling from the sudden expulsion of energy and smiling a manic smile. "Let's get out of here," Jehu said.

"Yes," said Rechab.

They got out of there. They went through the trapdoor and walked to the edge of the roof. The wardrobe man spotted the men on the roof. Jehu called down to him and said, "Hey, wardrobe man."

"Yes?" the wardrobe man said.

"We did it!" Jehu said.

Jehu and Rechab relieved themselves on the roof. They went number one and number two. That is why the Temple of Baal is known today by the name "Public Toilet."

Jehu and Rechab climbed down from the roof and stood by the magic closet and the wardrobe man. The three men walked away and Jehu sang, "Rock Rock Rock, Everybody Do the Rock Rock, ROCK."

Original text:

<sup>18</sup> Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much. <sup>19</sup> Now 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. <sup>20</sup> And Jehu said, "Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it. <sup>21</sup> Then 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. <sup>22</sup> And 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. <sup>23</sup> Then 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." <sup>24</sup> So 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."

<sup>25</sup> Now 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. <sup>26</sup> And they brought the sacred pillars out of the temple of Baal and burned them. <sup>27</sup> Then they broke down the sacred pillar of Baal, and tore down the temple of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day. <sup>28</sup> Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.