

JEHU and the famous handshake
JEHU and the famous handshake
(2 KINGS 10:15)

The story of how the ancient Order of the Rechabites came into being is one of great interest. The founder was Rechab, the father of Jehonadab; and the earliest meetings of the noble society took place in a simple Hebrew home. From time to time, this grand old man gathered his family together and instructed them in the ways of happiness. War had ravaged the nation, and the taverns were filled with drinking men. It was during these troubled days that Rechab commenced his "Band of Hope." Jehonadab, his son, was an apt pupil, and in later years continued the father's work (Jer. 35 : 5-6).

The Charm of a Gracious Man

It is a great mistake to imagine that all people outside the Christian Church are villains and reprobates. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, there can be no doubt; but there are innumerable people whose early home influence has had a remarkable effect in the building of character. Such an one was the young ruler who could justly claim that he had kept the commandments from infancy. True greatness of soul, however, does not lead to self-sufficiency: rather, it begets unqualified admiration for all that is gentle, gracious, and good. True virtue will be attracted to Absolute Goodness, and will never be repelled by Him in whom such standards were manifest. The fragrance of Jehonadab's life was well known in Israel, and when he heard of Jehu's activities on behalf of God, his soul was thrilled. "And when Jehu was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him" (2 Kings 10:15).

The Challenge of a Glorious Master

The story of the anointing of Jehu makes exciting reading (2 Kings 9:1-6). The unparalleled enthusiasm with which he performed his duties electrified Israel, for a glorious abandon was revealed in all his actions. The news that God had visited His people spread from Dan to Beersheba, and all men talked of the new leader. Yet the heart of Jehu was inclined toward Jehonadab, and eventually he set forth in search of him. Jehonadab saw the chariot rushing toward him, and stepped aside to watch as the driver calmed and halted the plunging horses. Admiration shone in his eyes when he recognized superb horsemanship. Beneath the touch of this amazing man, the beasts were either docile or infuriated. There was no need for an introduction, as both realized each other's identity. Then Jehu said, "Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thine heart?" "-Young man, I have heard of you, and I admit that my heart has responded to that which I have heard. Young man, I am greatly attracted to you, but are you attracted to me? "Is thy heart right with mine, as my heart is with thine? And Jehonadab answered, It is." The ancient scene is very attractive. Jehu had realized that such a man would be an asset in the great cause, and it had become a matter of primary importance that Jehonadab should be challenged with a new call. And this is in keeping with all God's dealings with man. True goodness will attract the Lord Jesus, just as Jehonadab attracted Jehu.

JEHU and the famous handshake

The Claims of a Great Ministry

Jehu looked into the shining eyes of his young friend, and smiled as he heard the answer. Then suddenly he stretched forth his hand and said, "If it be, give me thine hand. And Jehonadab gave him his hand, and Jehu took him up to him into the chariot." Holy passions transformed Jehu's face as he cried, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord." And through all the subsequent story Jehonadab was at the side of the great reformer as he endeavoured to rid Israel of the idolatry which had been her curse. Together these great men worked for the salvation of the nation. Jehonadab's affection was ceaselessly expressed in his wholehearted service. He not only had faith in the great cause; he served it. To him, and to his master Jehu, "faith without works" would have been dead. It was at this point that the rich young ruler failed the Lord Jesus. He, too, had faith, and an intense desire to possess eternal life. Yet when the claims of Christ's ministry made demands upon his possessions, talents, and time, he turned away. Jehonadab had greater wisdom, for his best was placed at the feet of his Lord. He placed his hand into the hand of his leader, and left it there. We shall be wise to follow his example.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.