

# Hosea 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

## Analysis

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God's command 'Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel' names Hosea's first son prophetically. Jezreel (meaning 'God scatters' or 'God sows') references the valley where Jehu executed Ahab's house (2 Kings 9-10), initially fulfilling God's judgment on Baal worship. Yet Jehu himself continued idolatry (2 Kings 10:29-31), making his dynasty guilty. The name prophesies both judgment (scattering in exile) and restoration (sowing for harvest, Hosea 1:11, 2:22-23). God's sovereignty appears in controlling history: He used Jehu to judge Ahab, then judges Jehu's house for continued sin. This demonstrates that even obedience to one divine command doesn't license disobedience elsewhere. Partial obedience is ultimately disobedience.

## Historical Context

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Jehu's violent purge of Ahab's dynasty (2 Kings 9-10) occurred circa 841 BC at Jezreel. Though commissioned by God to destroy Baal worship, Jehu's motives were mixed and his reforms incomplete. By Hosea's time, Jehu's dynasty (which lasted five generations—God's promised reward, 2 Kings 10:30) was ending. Jeroboam II, Jehu's great-great-grandson, was the last stable ruler. His son Zechariah ruled only six months before assassination (752 BC), fulfilling this

prophecy. The northern kingdom itself ended 30 years later (722 BC). Jezreel valley, fertile and strategic, witnessed both Israel's greatest victories and ultimate defeat by Assyria.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's judgment on Jehu's house, despite his initial obedience, warn against presuming on God's grace while persisting in sin?
2. What does the dual meaning of 'Jezreel' (scattering and sowing) reveal about God's judgment containing seeds of redemption?

## Interlinear Text

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יְיָ אָמַר	יְהֹוָה	אֶל־יְהוָה	לֹא־אָמַר	שְׁמָה־זֶה	כִּי־יְזְרֵאֵל	
<b>said</b>	<b>And the LORD</b>	H413	<b>unto him Call</b>	his name	<b>Jezreel</b>	H3588
H559	H3068		H7121	H8034	H3157	
תִּיעַלְיָה	מֵעַט	וְקִדְתִּי	אֶת־דָם	עַל־יְזְרֵאֵל		
H5750	for yet a little	while and I will avenge	H853	the blood	<b>Jezreel</b>	H5921
H4592		H6485	H1818	H3157		
יְהֹוָה־וְיַתְעַמְּלָכְךָ	וְיַתְבִּיאָה	וְיַתְבִּיאָה	וְיַתְבִּיאָה	וְיַתְבִּיאָה	וְיַתְבִּיאָה	
of the house	of Jehu	and will cause to cease	the kingdom	of the house	<b>of Israel</b>	
H1004	H3058	H7673	H4468	H1004	H3478	

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