

2 Kings 8:16 – 9; 2 Chronicles 21 – 22:9

Jehoram (Joram) and Ahaziah

Lesson 8

Key Verse

You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you
for all your iniquities.

—Amos 3:2

Key Verse Thought: Read the Key Verse. Have you ever known someone who got away with doing something wrong? Does it seem fair when you get in trouble for doing something wrong? Do you understand why it is that you may get into trouble, but others seem to get away with doing the same kinds of things? Our Key Verse today may help to remind us that if we are a Christian, belonging to the Lord, we cannot get away with doing things that other people *seem* to get away with. God will discipline His people (see Hebrews 12:5-8).

Emphasis: To recognize that when God's people sin against Him, God will discipline them.

Lesson Summary: In our last lesson, we remembered King Jehoshaphat –a very good king. Notice that the kings were compared back to King David to determine if they were good kings or bad kings.

In this lesson, we will look at two more of Judah's kings. Notice that we only include the kings of Israel when they are directly involved with a king of Judah – for none of them were legitimate kings (because none were descendants of King David). We begin in this lesson with King Jehoram, son of good King Jehoshaphat. What a disappointment his son was! He rose up and killed all of his brothers, and he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel – for wicked King Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, was his wife. Remember that King Ahab was a very wicked king from Israel. Elijah sent a writing warning that King Jehoram would die of a sickness in his bowels because he rejected the Word of the Lord. King Jehoram died of a sickness in his bowels after reigning for eight years.

His son, Ahaziah, became king, reigning only one year. He, too, was a bad king – walking in the ways of the kings of Israel. Because of advice from bad counselors (including his mother, Athaliah), he helped the king of Israel in battle. The king of Israel was injured in battle. Because King Ahaziah visited the injured king of Israel at the same time God told Jehu to seek God’s revenge upon the household of wicked King Ahab, King Ahaziah was killed.

Suggested Bible Reading to Prepare for This Lesson

- Monday: 2 Kings 8
- Tuesday: 2 Kings 9
- Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 21
- Thursday: 2 Chronicles 22
- Friday: 2 Chronicles 21
- Saturday: 2 Chronicles 22

2 Kings 8:16 – 9; 2 Chronicles 21 – 22:9

Jehoram (Joram) and Ahaziah

1. King Jehoram (2 Kings 8:16-24; 2 Chronicles 21)
 - Jehoram secured his kingdom
 - He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel
 - Elijah’s proclamation against King Jehoram
2. King Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:24-29; 2 Kings 9:16-28; 2 Chronicles 22:1-9)
 - Ahaziah was the grandson of wicked King Ahab
 - He walked in the ways of the house of King Ahab
 - Ahaziah’s reign of one year

Note: In our last lesson, we learned that Jehoshaphat was a good king. Once he became king, he eliminated idol worship. He then strengthened the cities of Judah – physically and spiritually. By placing mighty soldiers in the different cities, he strengthened them physically. When he sent princes, priests, and Levites into every city teaching the Word of God to the people, he strengthened them spiritually. We also found he was able to remain a good king even though he spent time with wicked King Ahab – the worst king of Israel. As we study our lesson today, notice how that relationship with King Ahab affected Jehoshaphat’s son, Jehoram, who reigned after the death of King Jehoshaphat.

1. King Jehoram (2 Kings 8:16-24; 2 Chronicles 21)

Remember the kings of Israel that we already studied. King Ahab was the worst king. When he died, his son Ahaziah reigned. When Ahaziah was injured after falling through a lattice, God sent word through His prophet, Elijah, that King Ahaziah would die because he sought answers about his health from the false gods instead of the God of Israel. After he died (after reigning only two years), another of Ahab’s sons, Jehoram, became king of Israel. He too, was a very bad king. God sent Jehu to kill him and all of the rest of the descendants of Ahab – because of the death of Naboth for his vineyard. Do not confuse that Jehoram, king of Israel, with this Jehoram, king of Judah. “... Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign” (2 Kings 8:16b). Take note of one major problem of Jehoram, king of Judah. “And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for the daughter of Ahab was his wife: and he did evil in the sight of the LORD” (2 Kings 8:18). This king of Judah, King Jehoram, married wicked King Ahab’s daughter (from Israel). That means that his brother-in-law was King Jehoram (do not confuse them!) of Israel, and he lived during the same time frame so their kingships overlapped.

Read about the beginnings of the next king of Judah:

1. Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead. 2. And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these *were* the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. 3. And their father gave them great

gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he *was* the firstborn. (2 Chronicles 21:1-3)

Jehoram's father, King Jehoshaphat, had many sons. He gave gifts to all, but to Jehoram he gave the kingdom of God's people. See how foolishly Jehoram handled that transition to king. "Now when Jehoram was risen up to the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself, and slew all his brethren with the sword, and *divers* also of the princes of Israel" (2 Chronicles 21:4). First, we read that after his father died, he killed all of his brothers. He not only killed all of his brothers (possibly including cousins or other relatives he deemed a threat), but some of the princes (including commanders, captains or other rulers) that were in Israel so that he could secure his kingdom. He was 32 years old and only reigned for eight years.

We can better understand why God did not approve of King Jehoshaphat's previous dealing with wicked king Ahab. Begin to understand the affect it had upon his son, Jehoram. "And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought *that which was* evil in the eyes of the LORD" (2 Chronicles 21:6). Even though King Jehoram (king of Judah) walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, read what God reminds us. "Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him alway a light, *and* to his children" (2 Kings 8:19). Remember that we saw God tell men to utterly destroy some king's lineages in Israel. However, God never did that in Judah because of His promise to King David. God always keeps His promises – even when mankind fails greatly. Therefore, because of the promise God had made to King David, he allowed the kingdom of Judah to continue.

During this time, we learn that Edom and Libnah both revolted from under the hand of Judah (see 2 Kings 8:22).

Read some of the awful things that happened during the reign of King Jehoram:

2 Chronicles 21:8-20:

- "8. In his days the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king. 9. Then Jehoram went forth ... and he rose up by night, and smote the Edomites ... 10. So the Edomites revolted from under the hand of Judah unto this day.
- The same time *also* did Libnah revolt from under his hand;

- because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers.
- 11. Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah,
- and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication,
- and compelled Judah *thereto*.
- 12. And there came a writing to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of David thy father, Because thou hast not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat thy father, nor in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13. But hast walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and hast made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to go a whoring, like to the whoredoms of the house of Ahab, and also hast slain thy brethren of thy father's house, *which were* better than thyself: 14. Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods: 15. And thou *shalt have* great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day.
- 16. Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines,
- and of the Arabians, that *were* near the Ethiopians:
- 17. And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, and his wives; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.
- 18. And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.
- 19. And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases.
- And his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers.
- Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years,
- and departed without being desired. Howbeit they buried him in the city of David, but not in the sepulchres of the kings.”

How sad of a departure for a king of God’s people! Especially after having had such a good king as King Jehoshaphat who did so much to improve the kingdom of God’s people. Jehoram died just the way God warned – by disease of his bowels.

“And Joram slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David: and Ahaziah his son reigned in his stead” (2 Kings 8:24).

A Deeper Path: Remember what happened to King Solomon. “1. But king Solomon loved many strange women ... 4. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of David his father 9. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel ...” (1 Kings 11:1a, 4, 9). King Solomon’s heart was turned from God by the “strange women” (those who worshiped idols, not God) whom he married and allowed in his life. We can see that the same thing happened to King Jehoram. His father and grandfather were both good kings. If he had followed their example, and not married a wicked woman like Athaliah, he may have become a good king. Remember that Athaliah was the daughter of wicked King Ahab. The person one marries is very important in the kind of life they can (or will) live – whether their life will please God or not. King Solomon allowed his heart to be turned from God by his wives (see 1 Kings 11:1-2). Remember again, what the Bible teaches us in the New Testament. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Corinthians 6:14). We are not to have anything in common with the lost world, therefore, we can have no fellowship with them – much less marry them! (Also, remember Amos 3:3.)

Read the following verses to understand – no matter how many times man may fail, God keeps his promises. King Jehoram is a great example of God’s enduring promise made to King David about the kingdom remaining with his family. God does not lie. In addition, notice the promise made to anyone who does not keep God’s commandments – a promise of discipline. “20. I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: 21. With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him ... 24. But my faithfulness and my mercy *shall be* with him ... 28. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. 29. His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. 30. If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; 31. If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; 32. Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. 33. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. 34. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is

gone out of my lips. 35. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me” (Psalm 89:21-36).

2. King Ahaziah (2 Kings 8:24-29; 2 Kings 9:16-28; 2 Chronicles 22:1-9)

After King Jehoram died, “And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: ... So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned” (2 Chronicles 22:1). When King Jehoram (Joram) died, his son Ahaziah became king of Judah. He only reigned one year in Judah. His mother was the daughter of wicked King Ahab. “... And his mother's name was Athaliah, the daughter of Omri king of Israel” (2 Kings 8:26). **Daughter** here means “granddaughter.” That makes her the daughter of King Ahab (remember 2 Kings 8:18 where it told to us that Ahaziah’s father, Jehoram, was married to the daughter of King Ahab). Read what kind of a king he was. “And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the LORD, as *did* the house of Ahab: for he *was* the son in law of the house of Ahab” (2 Kings 8:27). Remember what we already learned about King Ahab. “30. And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that *were* before him ... 33b. ... and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him” (1 Kings 16:30, 33b). He was a most wicked king – yet God compared Ahaziah, king of Judah, back to wicked King Ahab.

Jehoram’s youngest son was Ahaziah (note: he is called Jehoahaz in 2 Chronicles 21:17). Ahaziah became king and only reigning for one year (2 Chronicles 22:2). There is a great deal evil to remember about King Ahaziah, much like his father, King Jehoram.

See 2 Chronicles 22:2b-5:

- “2. ... His mother's name also *was* Athaliah the daughter of Omri.
- 3. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly.
- 4. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction.
- 5. He walked also after their counsel,
- and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramothgilead: and the Syrians smote Joram.”

Jehoshaphat went to war with Israel against Israel's enemy – and was rebuked by the Lord. Yet we read here that Ahaziah was counseled to go to war with Israel against their enemy. Do you remember who his “counselor” was? It was his mother, the daughter of King Ahab, sister of King Jehoram (see 2 Chronicles 22:3). Athaliah wanted her son, King Ahaziah, to go help her brother, King Jehoram (in Israel), defeat his enemy, Syria. It was in that battle that her brother, King Jehoram, was injured. He then went to Jezreel (in Israel) to recover from those injuries. It was there that King Ahaziah (Azariah) went to see him. While he was away from his own kingdom, away from his own people, in Israel, God's judgment was about to be visited upon King Ahab's family – just as God had promised. If you remember, Elisha sent word to Jehu that he was going to be the next king of Israel. Nevertheless, there was a mighty task he had to accomplish first – kill all of King Ahab's family – including the reigning king of Israel, King Jehoram. Moreover, Jehu set about to do just that. He started with the king of Israel, Jehoram, King Ahab's son. Jehu went to Israel to kill King Jehoram. It just so happened that King Ahaziah (Azariah) from Judah was visiting him at that same time. (Remember that King Jehoram had been injured while in battle with Syria.) Since Ahaziah was there, Jehu killed him as well. See some special insight we read in 2 Chronicles 22:6-7: “6. ... And Azariah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab at Jezreel, because he was sick. 7. And the destruction of Ahaziah was of God by coming to Joram: for when he was come, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab.” Notice that this was God's plan – for Ahaziah to be killed while he was visiting King Jehoram in Jezreel. Remember what we just read about King Ahaziah. “Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counsellors after the death of his father to his destruction” (2 Chronicles 22:4). Notice the phrase “to his destruction.”

What was it that happened?

8. And it came to pass, that, when Jehu was executing judgment upon the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah, and the sons of the brethren of Ahaziah, that ministered to Ahaziah, he slew them. 9. And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hid in Samaria,) and brought him to Jehu: and when they had slain him, they buried him: Because, said they, he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD

with all his heart. So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.” (2 Chronicles 22:8-9)

Because King Ahaziah listened to the wicked counselors of King Ahab’s family (his mother included), it brought about his death – just as God said.

A Deeper Path: We have learned before, the importance of hanging around good, godly people. We are not to have friends that do wrong and have no regard for obeying the Word of God. “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33). Spending time with ungodly people will cause us to become willing to disregard God’s Word – or even worse, become tolerant of their bad behavior. Chances are that people who have no regard for obeying God’s Word will cause you to become worse, instead of you helping them become better. Read on. “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20). We just read of the destruction of King Ahaziah. Do you remember what we learned about King Jehoshaphat in our last lesson? Not only was he rebuked for helping the wicked kings of Israel, but also his son married wicked King Ahab’s daughter, Athaliah. That marriage was a probable cause for Jehoshaphat’s son, Jehoram, to be such a bad king. In addition, remember what we just read about the counsel she gave her son, Ahaziah, causing his death in Jezreel.

“The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit” (Proverbs 12:5).

2 Kings 8 – 9 at a Glance:

Chapter 8:16-29: Jehoshaphat died and his son, Jehoram (Joram), became king of Judah (and he was married to Ahab’s daughter); Edom revolted; Jehoram died and his son, Ahaziah, became king of Judah – his mother’s name was Athaliah, daughter of King Ahab of Israel; King Ahaziah went to war with King Joram of Israel against Hazael, king of Syria; King Joram was wounded and King Ahaziah went to Jezreel with King Joram while he recovered.

Chapter 9: Jehu anointed as the new king of Israel – and he was to smite the house of Ahab thus avenging God’s prophets; Jehu was made king while Joram (Jehoram – king of Israel) was

still in Jezreel recovering; Jehu went to Jehoram as he recovered; Ahaziah, king of Judah, had also gone to meet Joram (Jehoram) in Jezreel; Ahaziah and Joram (Jehoram) met Jehu in the land that belonged to Naboth; when they met, Jehu shot Jehoram with an arrow, killing him and throwing him upon the land of Naboth (because Jezebel stole the land to give it to Jehoram's father, Ahab) & Ahaziah fled, but Jehu chased and killed him, too; Jehu proceeded to Jezreel – stopped at the foot of Jezebel's window and told the eunuchs to throw her down – they did.

2 Chronicles 21 – 22:9 at a Glance:

Chapter 21: Jehoram became king and killed all of his brethren and princes of Israel; Ahab's daughter, Athaliah was his wife; Edomites and Libnah revolted; Elijah wrote he would die of a disease until his bowels fell out – and he did

Chapter 22:9: Ahaziah became a wicked king (like the house of Ahab) because Athaliah was his counselor; he was killed by Jehu when he visited Jehoram, king of Israel

Reinforcement: In this lesson, we have witnessed a decline of the kingdom of Judah. The kings led the people into idol worship, following in the footsteps of the kings of Israel. Instead of returning to God as we have learned kings before had done, King Jehoram and King Ahaziah chose to walk in the ways of the kings of Israel. One reason for this decision was the influence of Athaliah, King Ahab's daughter. When they did that, God sent his judgment upon not only the nation, but also them personally (Jehoram died of a disease in his bowels, and Ahaziah was killed by Jehu). We also learned in this lesson what effect wicked people could have upon lives. Remember the influence that wicked King Ahab and his family had upon King Jehoram and the tragedy it brought Judah. Notice how the nation changed with bad kings, compared to what the nation had been like with good kings.

Closing: It would be good to close with a short prayer reinforcing today's lesson. Always include any prayer requests you may have. *Today, pray that we will recognize God's discipline in our lives when we sin against Him, and correct our wrong.*