

# 2 Chronicles 21 - Jehoshaphat Dies; Jehoram's Evil Reign in Judah

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(E) Jehoram's wicked reign and apostasy and many covenant curses (21:1-20)

## 2 Chronicles 21

(E) Jehoram's wicked reign and apostasy and many covenant curses (21:1-20) (Cf. 1 Kings 22:50; 2 Kings 8:16-19)

1 Then Jehoshaphat lay down with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and his son Jehoram became king in his place.

1 Then Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son became king in his place.

1 Jehoshaphat died, as had his ancestors, and was buried in the City of David alongside his ancestors. His son Jehoram became king in his place.

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 He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azaryahu, Michael, and Shephatiah. All these *were* the sons of Jehoshaphat **king of Israel**.

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2 Jehoshaphat's sons, Jehoram's brothers, included Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah. All of these were sons of Jehoshaphat, king of Israel.

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.

- "...king of Israel" - the Chronicler regarded Judah as the true Israel and sometimes referred to Judah as Israel (Cf. 12:6; 23:2, et al)

3 Their father gave them many gifts of silver, gold, and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the firstborn.

3 Their father gave them many gifts of silver, gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the firstborn.

3 Their father gave them many gifts made of silver, and gold, as well as valuable things, along with fortified cities in Judah, but he passed the kingdom to Jehoram because Jehoram was his firstborn.

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.  
- Jehoshaphat was succeeded by his son Jehoram, the oldest of his 7 sons; he gave to each of the others properties and goods

4 Now when Jehoram had taken over the kingdom of his father and gathered courage, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and some of the leaders of Israel as well.

4 Now when Jehoram had taken over the kingdom of his father and made himself secure, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and some of the rulers of Israel also.

4 But after Jehoram had assumed the throne and consolidated his rule over his father's kingdom, he executed all of his brothers, along with some of the rulers of Israel.

4 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.  
- When Jehoram came to power, however, he killed his brothers along with others of the royal family, perhaps because of his close ties with the wicked rulers of Israel (v6)

5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for eight years in Jerusalem.

5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

5 Jehoram was 32 years old when he became king, and he reigned for eight years in Jerusalem.

5 Jehoram was thirty and two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

6 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's daughter was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

6 He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab did (for Ahab's daughter was his wife), and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.

6 He lived like the kings of Israel, following the example of Ahab's dynasty, since he had married Ahab's daughter, and he practiced what the LORD considered to be evil.

6 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.  
- Jehoram practiced the idolatry of the northern kingdom

— Like his father, Jehoram had a close tie with the Omrides, going so far as to marry Athaliah, daughter of Ahab

7 Yet the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David because of the covenant which He had made with David, and because He had promised to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

7 Yet the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David because of the covenant which He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

7 Nevertheless, the Lord was unwilling to destroy David's dynasty because of the covenant that he had made with David, especially since he had promised to give him and to his sons the reigning presence of an heir forever.

7 Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever.  
- Even though Jehoram apostatized, largely through the influence of his wife and in-laws in Israel (v6), God did not cut off the Davidic line, because He had promised David that He would never do that

— This verse is the only reference to the Davidic Covenant in 2 Chronicles

Jehoram's sin and turn away from the Lord set in motion events that would ultimately lead to the near obliteration of his own line (Cf. 22:10; 2 Kings 11:1), and brought with it the most severe crisis in the history of the Judean monarchy.

The retribution that the Lord brought for Jehoram's sins were:

- (1) the rebellion of and invasion by Jehoram's neighbor nations (v8-10,16-17)
- (2) his own painful death (v18-19)
- (3) death with no one's regret (v19)

### **Edom Revolts Against Judah (Cf. 2 Kings 8:20-22)**

8 In his days Edom broke away from the rule of Judah, and appointed a king over themselves.

8 In his days Edom revolted against the rule of Judah and set up a king over themselves.

8 Nevertheless, Edom revolted against Judah's rule and set up their own king to rule them during Jehoram's reign.

8 In his days the Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king.

- Since the time of David and Solomon, Israel and Judah had held certain foreign provinces, including Edom

— Moab had finally revolted from Israel's King Joram, in the last years of Jehoshaphat and, in an action not recounted by the Chronicler, the two kings had attempted, apparently unsuccessfully, to regain their tribute state (Cf. 2 Kings 3)

— Now Edom revolted from Judah, an action which called forth a futile response from Jehoram

9 Then Jehoram crossed over with his commanders and all his chariots with him. And he got up at night and struck and killed the Edomites who were surrounding him, and the commanders of the chariots.

9 Then Jehoram crossed over with his commanders and all his chariots with him. And he arose by night and struck down the Edomites who were surrounding him and the commanders of the chariots.

9 So Jehoram invaded Edom with his commanders and his chariots by night and killed the Edomites who had surrounded him and his chariot commanders.

9 Then Jehoram went forth with his princes, and all his chariots with him: and he rose up by night, and smote the Edomites which compassed him in, and the captains of the chariots.

10 So Edom revolted against Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time against his rule because he had abandoned the LORD God of his fathers.

10 So Edom revolted against Judah to this day. Then Libnah revolted at the same time against his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers.

10 Edom remains in revolt against Judah to this day. Libnah revolted against Jehoram's rule, too, because he had abandoned the LORD God of his ancestors.

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 Furthermore, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to be unfaithful, and led Judah astray.

11 Moreover, he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot and led Judah astray.

11 In addition to all of this, he built high places in the mountains of Judah, led the inhabitants of Jerusalem into cultic sexual immorality, and made Judah go astray.

11 Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah thereto.

## **Elijah Writes a Letter**

**12** Then a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, "This is what the LORD, the God of your father David says: 'Because you have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat and the ways of Asa king of Judah,

**12** Then a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet saying, "Thus says the LORD God of your father David, 'Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father and the ways of Asa king of Judah,

**12** After this, a letter arrived from Elijah the prophet. It said:

"This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: 'You haven't lived like your father Jehoshaphat and like King Asa of Judah.

**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,

- This is the only known written message from Elijah

— Elijah's ministry was to condemn Baalism in Israel, but God sent him to Jehoram because Jehoram shared the same guilt as the kings of Ahab's house

— This is the only record we have of a prophet from the Northern Kingdom rebuking a king of the Southern Kingdom. All the other prophets whom God sent to the Davidic kings were from Judah.

— The record in Kings tells us that Elijah was translated in the 18th year of Jehoshaphat

**13** but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to be unfaithful as the house of Ahab was unfaithful, and you have also killed your brothers, your own family, who were better than you,

**13** but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have caused Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot as the house of Ahab played the harlot, and you have also killed your brothers, your own family, who were better than you,

**13** Instead, you have lived like the kings of Israel by causing Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit cultic sexual immorality—just like Ahab's dynasty did! And you've killed your brothers who were better than you—your own father's dynasty!

**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, the LORD is going to strike your people, your sons, your wives, and all your possessions with a great plague;

**14** behold, the LORD is going to strike your people, your sons, your wives and all your possessions with a great calamity;

14 Look what's going to happen! The LORD is going to strike your people, your children, your wives, and everything you own with a massive tragedy.

14 Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods:

15 and you will suffer severe sickness, a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the sickness, day by day."

15 and you will suffer severe sickness, a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the sickness, day by day."

15 And as for you, you will suffer from a serious disease of your bowels. Eventually, day-by-day you will excrete your own bowels because of this disease."

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** Then the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians;

**16** Then the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians;

**16** The LORD also provoked the attitude of the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians against Jehoram,

**16** Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines, and of the Arabians, that were near the Ethiopians:

- The prophecies of Elijah came to pass. Judah was invaded by the Philistines and South Arabians who lived near the Cushites (of the Cush that was in southern Arabia, not the Cush in northeastern Africa).

17 and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

17 and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.

17 and they attacked Judah, invading it and carried off everything he owned in his royal palace, along with all of his sons and wives except for his youngest son Jehoahaz.

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.

### **Jehoram's Illness and Death (Cf. 2 Kings 8:23-24)**

**18** So after all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable sickness.

**18** So after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable sickness.

**18** After all of this happened, the LORD struck him in his bowels with an incurable illness.

**18** And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.

19 Now it came about in the course of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels came out because of his sickness, and he died in great pain. And his people did not make a *funeral* fire for him like the fire for his fathers.

19 Now it came about in the course of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels came out because of his sickness and he died in great pain. And his people made no fire for him like the fire for his fathers.

19 In due course, as time passed, two years later his bowels came out because of his sickness and he died in agony. His people lit no memorial bonfire for him as they had done for his ancestors.

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.

20 He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eight years; and he departed with no one's regret, and they buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

20 He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years; and he departed with no one's regret, and they buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

20 Jehoram was 32 years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eight years. He left this earth—to nobody's regret—and they buried him in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

**20** 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.