

## What Evil Alliances Will Do

Second Chronicles 21–22

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 16, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jacob Noveske – First Corinthians 15.30–34

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – No Suggestions

### I. Second Chronicles 21.1–3 • Jehoshaphat's Choice

**1 And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place. 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. 3 Their father gave them great gifts of silver and gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn.**

A. The way that Ezra wrote this,

1. we know that something will go wrong.
2. Jehoshaphat had seven sons, but
  - a) Ezra noted that Jehoshaphat gave the kingdom to Jehoram.
  - b) He became one of the first wicked kings of Judah.

B. The other sons were better men, and

1. Jehoshaphat would have known that.
2. However, since Jehoram was the oldest,
  - a) Jehoshaphat gave him the kingdom.
  - b) What would have happened
    - (1) if Jehoshaphat had given it
    - (2) to one of Jehoram younger brothers?

C. Did Jehoshaphat think that Jehoram would grow spiritually into the job?

1. Think about Jehoshaphat's association with Ahab and his son.
2. Undoubtedly he hoped to influence them to do the right thing.
3. However, it does not work that way.

D. I have known of elders and others in the past who believed

1. that you could put a weak or even sinning Christian
2. into a leadership position,
  - a) such as teaching a Bible class, and
  - b) they will grow spiritually.
    - (1) They believe that the person will have to study to teach and
    - (2) by that they will grow spiritually.
      - (a) However, it would be nice if it worked that way, but
      - (b) it does not.

## II. Second Chronicles 21.4–6 • Jehoram Did Evil

**4 Now when Jehoram was established over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself and killed all his brothers with the sword, and also others of the princes of Israel. 5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. 6 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for he had the daughter of Ahab as a wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.**

A. Now, we understand why Ezra made the remark earlier

1. that Jehoshaphat chose Jehoram
2. simply because he was the oldest.

B. Why would he kill his brothers?

1. Verse 3 said that Jehoshaphat gave Jehoram's brothers
2. silver, gold, and precious things, and
  - a) fortified cities in Judah.
  - b) Evidently, Jehoram wanted all of it.

C. The lust for power is as strong as any lust or addiction.

1. It led this man to kill his own flesh and blood,
2. his brothers who could have been great allies to him.

- a) Before I am done, we will see another person
  - b) whose thirst for power
    - (1) led her to do something
    - (2) just as, or perhaps more evil than what Jehoram did.
- D. Jehoram started reigning at a young age and he died at a young age:
- 1. He started reigning at 32 and
  - 2. his reign ended when he died at 40.
- E. Verse 6 shows why Jehoram was such a wicked man.
- 1. He imitated the ways of the kings of Israel.
  - 2. He imitated the house of Ahab in particular, because
    - a) he had married the daughter of Ahab!
    - b) She led him to do evil in the sight of the Lord.
      - (1) Jehoram's father sought alliances with Ahab and his son.
      - (2) Should we be surprised that Jehoram married a daughter of Ahab?
        - (a) Be careful with whom you make alliances.
        - (b) Be careful with whom you marry.

### **III. Second Chronicles 21.7 • God's Promise to David**

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

- A. This is very telling, because
- B. Ezra implied, or I should say that I infer from what he wrote
  - 1. that the Lord wanted to destroy the house of David, but
  - 2. the Lord Jehovah made a covenant with David
    - a) that he would always have a lamp in Jerusalem.
    - b) Something or someone of David would be in Jerusalem.

- (1) The final part of that covenant was when
- (2) God in heaven sent his Son to Jerusalem and
  - (a) from there the kingdom of the Christ
  - (b) first made its manifestation into the world.

#### **IV. Second Chronicles 21.8–10 • Judah Loses Edom**

**8 In his days Edom revolted against Judah's authority, and made a king over themselves. 9 So Jehoram went out with his officers, and all his chariots with him. And he rose by night and attacked the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots. 10 Thus Edom has been in revolt against Judah's authority to this day. At that time Libnah revolted against his rule, because he had forsaken the LORD God of his fathers.**

- A. You cannot have a wicked ruler of a nation without consequences.
- B. This was the beginning.
  1. Judah lost Edom. Edom was Esau.
  2. Jehoram made an attempt to get Edom back.
- C. Next, Jehoram lost Libnah.
- D. Then Ezra by the Holy Spirit explained why this was happening.
  1. He had forsaken the Lord God of his fathers.
  2. He did not follow the ways of
    - a) David,
    - b) Solomon,
    - c) Asa, and
    - d) Jehoshaphat.
- E. Judah would still have some godly kings, but
  1. many of them would follow the path of Jehoram and
  2. although they witnessed what happened in the north,
    - a) they did not learn from Israel, but

b) eventually fell for the same reasons of evil and idolatry.

**V. Second Chronicles 21.11–15 • Jehoram's Penalty**

**11 Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit harlotry, and led Judah astray. 12 And 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, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13 but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to play the harlot like the harlotry of the house of Ahab, and also have killed your brothers, those of your father's household, who were better than yourself, 14 behold, the LORD will strike your people with a serious affliction—your children, your wives, and all your possessions; 15 and you will become very sick with a disease of your intestines, until your intestines come out by reason of the sickness, day by day."**

A. Verse 11 shows the sway

1. that national leaders have over their people.
2. That does not surprise me, because
  - a) God often refers to the leaders of nations as shepherds.
  - b) The sheep follow the shepherd.
    - (1) Not that everyone follows evil leaders, for
    - (2) there is always a remnant, but
      - (a) enough follow
      - (b) that nations fall because of it.

B. However, the Lord would not stay silent about such things.

1. He had his mighty prophet Elijah
2. send a letter to the king of Judah,
  - a) although Elijah was mostly a prophet for the north, but
  - b) Judah was God's people also and
    - (1) they needed to know what the God of their fathers had to say.

(2) People ignore the Lord to their own peril and death.

C. Jehoram did not imitate David, Jehoshaphat, or Asa, but

1. he imitated the vile kings of the north,
  - a) introducing the idolatry of the house of Ahab into Judah and
  - b) killed his own brothers,
2. so the Lord said that he would strike
  - a) Jehoram's family and possessions, and
  - b) he would suffer some kind of intestinal disease.

D. The Lord by the prophet Elijah declared

1. that Jehoram's brothers were better than him, and so
2. for this he would suffer immensely.

E. Listen to what the Lord said.

1. Jehoram would become very sick in his intestines,
2. so much so that his intestines would fall out.

## **VI. Second Chronicles 21.16–19 • Jehoram's Suffering**

**16 Moreover the LORD stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabians who were near the Ethiopians. 17 And they came up into Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions that were found in the king's house, and also his sons and his wives, so that there was not a son left to him except Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons. 18 After all this the LORD struck him in his intestines with an incurable disease. 19 Then it happened in the course of time, after the end of two years, that his intestines came out because of his sickness; so he died in severe pain. And his people made no burning for him, like the burning for his fathers.**

- A. Bodily disease would not be Jehoram's only form of suffering.
- B. The Lord moved the Philistines, the Arabians, and the Ethiopians
  1. to invade the land of Judah.
  2. After giving the enemies of Jehoram the victory,

- a) they took all the stuff that was in his house, including
  - b) his sons and his wives!
- C. Then he suffered the intestinal disease,
- 1. for which there was no cure.
  - 2. He suffered this way for two years.
    - a) Finally, it happened just as Elijah had said that it would happen:
    - b) His intestines came out,
      - (1) causing him to die in severe pain,
      - (2) as we can imagine.
- D. Only his youngest son, Jehoahaz, survived the invasion of their enemies.
- E. Jehoram was so evil
- 1. that even his own people did not care for him,
  - 2. so that they made no burning for him
    - a) as they did for other kings when they died,
    - b) although he led them in the sin they wanted to commit.

### **VII. Second Chronicles 21.20 • No One Cared that Jehoram Died**

**20 He was thirty-two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed. However they buried him in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.**

- A. How would you like that to be said about you.
- B. No one missed his eight-year reign.
  - 1. No one shed a tear for him.
  - 2. While they buried him in the city of David,
    - a) they would not put him in the tombs of the kings.
    - b) Sinners hate sinners.

### VIII. Second Chronicles 22.1–2 • When Ahaziah Became King

**1 Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his place, for the raiders who came with the Arabians into the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, reigned. 2 Ahaziah was forty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri.**

A. Jehoram could not make his oldest son king as his father had done, because

1. by his sin
2. he brought on three nations who attacked Judah,
  - a) killing all the oldest sons,
  - b) only leaving the youngest.

B. If you use the New King James Version,

1. you have in verse 2
2. that Ahaziah was 42 years old when he became king.
  - a) Remember his father died when he was 40.
  - b) The explanation:
    - (1) Translators need to consider the context
    - (2) He was 22.

C. Anyway, he only reigned one year!

1. He was exceedingly evil
2. as was his mother.
  - a) His mother Athaliah was the granddaughter of Omri,
  - b) one of the kings of Israel and of the household of Ahab.
    - (1) More about that later.

### IX. Second Chronicles 22.3–5 • Ahab's Influence on Ahaziah

**3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do wickedly. 4 Therefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD, like the house**

**of Ahab; for they were his counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction. 5 He also followed their advice, and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth Gilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.**

- A. He was a 22-year old king,
  - 1. so we would expect that his surviving parent
  - 2. would advise him on his duties.
- B. However, that meant she advised him to do wicked things.
  - 1. Just like the house of Ahab,
  - 2. he did evil in the sight of the Lord, meaning
    - a) that he did these things flagrantly and
    - b) that it was evil in God's sight,
      - (1) although it was not evil in his mother's sight nor
      - (2) in the sight of the house of Ahab.
- C. This was all to his destruction.
- D. One example is when Jehoram,
  - 1. a king of Israel with the same name as the king in Judah,
  - 2. fought against Syria at Ramoth Gilead,
    - a) where Jehoram or Joram
    - b) suffered a grievous wound from the battle.

#### **X. Second Chronicles 22.6 • Two Wicked Kings**

**6 Then he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds which he had received at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Azariah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, went down to see Jehoram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was sick.**

- A. This might seem to be an innocent gesture, but
- B. he was not trying to turn the king of Israel back to Yahweh God.

1. They both still felt a kinship toward one another in the ways of evil.
2. Even this descendent of David
  - a) had forgotten the history of Israel,
  - b) especially the history of David.

#### **XI. Second Chronicles 22.7–9 • Ahaziah's Downfall**

**7 His going to Joram was God's occasion for Ahaziah's downfall; for when he arrived, he went out with Jehoram against Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab. 8 And it happened, when Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, and found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers who served Ahaziah, that he killed them. 9 Then he searched for Ahaziah; and they caught him (he was hiding in Samaria), and brought him to Jehu. When they had killed him, they buried him, "because," they said, "he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So the house of Ahaziah had no one to assume power over the kingdom.**

A. From the Book of the Kings,

1. the Bible tells us that God called Jehu to exterminate the house of Ahab.
2. Yet, these two kings were so ignorant in their evil,
  - a) that they did not realize
  - b) that the Lord would take vengeance on them.

B. Jehu did honor Ahaziah somewhat

1. by burying him rather than just leaving him where he died, because
2. he was a descendent of Jehoshaphat,
  - a) a man and king who sought the Lord with all his heart.

#### **XII. Second Chronicles 22.10 • A Power-Hungry Grandma**

**10 Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.**

A. Did you hear what Ezra wrote?

1. What can you say about such a thing?
2. Remember earlier when we saw Jehoram kill all his brothers?
  - a) He wanted all the power for himself.
  - b) Why did Athaliah kill her own grandsons?
    - (1) She wanted power.
    - (2) She succumbed to the pride of life.

B. What is your image of a grandmother?

1. Even if your grandmother was nothing like this evil woman,
2. you still probably cannot imagine her doing something of this nature.
  - a) My image of a grandmother...
  - b) However, the lust for power,
    - (1) like the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes,
    - (2) can make us do things that we never imagined we could do.

**XIII. Second Chronicles 22.11–12 • Joash Saved**

**11 But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered, and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him. 12 And he was hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.**

A. Thank God for women such as Jehoshabeath!

B. She risked her life.

1. No doubt Athaliah would have killed her,
2. given the opportunity or the knowledge that she kept a son alive.