

2 Chronicles 21-22 – Thursday, February 9th, 2017

2 Chronicles 21 -- 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. 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.

- Sadly, the chapter begins with this record of yet another wicked king coming from a good king, who were told kills his brothers.
- This because, he does not want any potential threat to his evil reign, so by killing all of his brothers, he is removing this threat.
- Not only does he kill all his brothers, we're told that he also kills the princes of Israel, thinking that doing so, makes him secure.

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.

- Here we're reminded of Jehoshaphat's sin in allowing his son Jehoram to marry the daughter of the wicked Ahab and Jezebel.
- It's been suggested that Jehoshaphat did this because he had hoped it would have a righteous influence on the house of Ahab.
- However, it's just the opposite, which shouldn't be surprising given the fact that Athaliah was influenced by her mother Jezebel.

Adam Clarke - "This was Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, who was famous for her impieties and cruelty, as was her most profligate mother. It is likely that she was the principle cause of Jehoram's cruelty and profaneness."

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.

- This is another But God scripture in the sense that Jehoram was evil, but God, would not destroy him because of His covenant.
- I suppose this could be said of us, such that, we are all sinners, but God, so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son.
- To me, this is why I believe we have such graphic detail in scripture. It's not to record how bad they were, but how good God is.

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

- There's an interesting principle that's not so easily seen at first read and it has to do with this revolt against Judah's authority.
- More specifically as it relates to Judah's revolt against God, which is why the surrounding nations had revolted against Judah.
- In other words, when we're not submitted to God's authority in our life, others won't likely be submitted to our authority as well.

F.B. Meyer - "As long as the kings of Judah remained true to their allegiance to God, they were able to keep in subjection the surrounding nations; but just so soon as they revolted from God these people revolted from there. It was as though power descended into them from the source of all power; and when that link between themselves and God was broken, that between themselves and their subordinates was broken also."

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.

- This is interesting for a couple of reasons, one of which is that this is the only time in the scriptures where Elijah wrote anything.
- What's so interesting about it is Elijah has already been caught up to heaven, which makes it impossible for him to write this.
- One possible answer to this dilemma is that it was Elisha instead of Elijah, in that, he was prophesying in the power of Elijah.

One commentator explained it this way, "Elijah may, however, have been gone by the time of the delivery of his letter, so that its sentence of doom could have had the force of a voice coming from the dead."

- Another reason this is interesting is that it speaks to how Jehoram had brought this upon himself by way of willful disobedience.
- Notice in verse twelve where we're told that Jehoram deliberately refused to walk in the ways of his father and his grandfather.
- Namely, his father Jehoshaphat and his grandfather Asa, both of whom were two of only nine good kings in the history of Israel.

- It's interesting to note how that God tells Jehoram through the prophet, that the brothers he killed would have been better kings.
- I point this out because it demonstrates the paramount importance of the far-reaching consequences of our decisions in life.
- We do err greatly when we like Jehoram, make ungodly and unwise decisions based in our fears and insecurities as Christians.

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. 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.

- The chapter ends with yet another horrible consequence of Jehoram's sin, which is that of the enemies of Israel invading them.
- It's actually sort of sad that when Jehoram dies there is no sorrow expressed for him, which tells me they did not respect him.
- This is how it ends for the Jehoram's of this world. Their memory and as such their legacy is one of evil and rotten wickedness.

Proverbs 10:7 (NKJV) — 7 The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.

G. Campbell Morgan of Jehoram wrote, "Strange indeed is the human heart. It turns to evil, and pursues it persistently; and yet it never really loves those who lead it in the way of evil.... Love is only inspired by goodness. Men will follow those who lead them in the ways of corruption, but such following is always inspired by evil selfishness, and never by admiration or love."

2 Chronicles 22 -- 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. 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.

- Couple of thoughts on this, the first of which is regarding the possibility of a copying error concerning Ahaziah's age being 42.
- It's believed he was actually twenty-two years of age, which is what we're told according to record in the book of 2 Kings 8:26.
- Let me hasten to say that this in no way means that God's word has errors, rather, it is the error of those who transcribed it.

Adam Clarke explained it best this way, "I am satisfied the reading in 2 Chronicles 22:2, is a mistake; and that we should read ... twenty-two instead of forty-two year.... Is there a single ancient author of any kind, but particularly those who have written on matters of history and chronology, whose works have been transmitted to us free of similar errors, owing to the negligence of transcribers?"

- The second thought has to do with the aforementioned consequences of Jehoshaphat's sin in having his son to marry Athaliah.
- This because, Athaliah would become the mother of Ahaziah who in turn would walk in the wicked ways of the house of Ahab.
- Notice in verse three where we're told his mother is who advised him to do wickedly, which is why his reign was only one year.

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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

- The chapter ends with a powerful lesson concerning those whom we allow into our lives as the dominant influence of our lives.
- I can't help but wonder what would have happened had Ahab never influenced Jehoshaphat to make an evil alliance with him.
- Again, this speaks to the far-reaching consequences of our decisions. But God! But God can take the bad and make it good.