

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 68 – Jehoram Begins To Reign Through The Revenge On Joash (II Chronicles 21-24)

1. Who reigned when Jehoshaphat died?
 - His son Jehoram (**II Chronicles 21:1**).
2. What did Jehoshaphat do for his sons?
 - “(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” (II Chronicles 21:2-3).*
3. Was Jehoram fair to his brothers and the princes of Israel?
 - No, unless you have a sick sense of fairness: “*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**” (II Chronicles 21:4).*
4. What influence from Israel was in Jehoram’s life?
 - Ahab’s daughter: “*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” (II Chronicles 21:6).*
 - Remember from our previous study: “(1) *Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and **he joined affinity** [a marriage alliance; which means their children would marry and they did – II Chronicles 21:1; 5-6; BDB] with Ahab. (2) And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that were with him, and moved him to go up with him to Ramoth-gilead. (3) And Ahab king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat king of Judah, *Wilt thou go with me to Ramoth-gilead? And he answered him, I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war*” (II Chronicles 18:1-3).*
5. Why didn’t God destroy His people in light of the evil Jehoram had done?
 - “*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” (II Chronicles 21:7).*
6. Why did the Edomites and Libnah rebel against Judah, and specifically Jehoram?
 - “(8) *In his days the **Edomites revolted from under the dominion of Judah, and made themselves a king**. (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 **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**” (II Chronicles 21:8-11; cf. II Kings 8:20-23).*

7. What message came from Elijah?

- “(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” (II Chronicles 21:12-15).

8. Whose spirit did the Lord stir up against Jehoram?

- “(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” (II Chronicles 21:16-17).

9. What caused Jehoram to die?

- “(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” (II Chronicles 21:18-19).

10. Was Jehoram honored in his death by the people of Judah?

- No: “(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 [cf. II Chronicles 16:14]. (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” (II Chronicles 21:19-20).

11. Why was Jehoram's youngest son made king in his stead?

- “And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his stead: for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had slain all the eldest. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned” (II Chronicles 22:1).

12. Compare II Kings 8:26 with II Chronicles 22:2 in the KJV. Which would be correct in light of II Chronicles 21:20?

- There is an obvious translation error here in the age of Ahaziah. The problem seems to actually be a transcript error when the KJV and ASV were translated. Other manuscripts have it right. He really was 22 years old when he began to reign (II Kings 8:26). If he were forty-two, then he'd be older than his father who died at forty (II Chronicles 21:20). The NKJV has this corrected!

13. Who counseled Ahaziah to do evil?

- “(2) Forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was **Athaliah the daughter of Omri** [granddaughter- Omri was a wicked king and the father of Ahab **I Kings 16:25; 28**]. (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 Ramoth-gilead: and the Syrians smote Joram.” (II Chronicles 22:2-4).**

14. What happens to Ahaziah?

- “(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 Ramoth-gilead: and the Syrians smote Joram.** (6) **And he returned to be healed in Jezreel because of the wounds which were given him at Ramah, when he fought with Hazael king of Syria. 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.** (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” (II Chronicles 22:5-9).**

15. What did Athaliah do when she saw that her son was dead?

- “*But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah” (II Chronicles 22:10).*
- She did this because she wanted to reign (**II Chronicles 22:12**).

16. How did Joash survive Athaliah’s hand of destruction?

- “(11) *But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. 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 slew him not.* (12) *And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land” (II Chronicles 22:11-12).*

17. What happened to Athaliah?

- “(1) *And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him.* (2) *And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.* (3) *And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said*

unto them, **Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David.** (4) *This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you entering on the sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, shall be porters of the doors; (5) And a third part shall be at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation: and all the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD. (6) But let none come into the house of the LORD, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they are holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD. (7) And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever else cometh into the house, he shall be put to death: but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out. (8) So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that were to go out on the sabbath: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses. (9) Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king David's, which were in the house of God. (10) And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and the temple, by the king round about. (11) **Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king.** (12) Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the LORD: (13) And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of musick, and such as taught to sing praise. **Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason.** (14) Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth of the ranges: and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, **Slay her not in the house of the LORD.** (15) **So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there” (II Chronicles 23:1-15).***

18. What covenant was made with Jehoiada, the people, and the king?

- “*And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people” (II Chronicles 23:16).*

19. What kind of influence does it appear Baal will have among the people of Judah at this time?

- Little if any at all: “*Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars” (II Chronicles 23:17).*

20. Were things set in order concerning the temple?

- Yes: “*(18) Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was ordained by David. (19) And he set the porters at the gates of the*

house of the LORD, that none which was unclean in any thing should enter in” (II Chronicles 23:18-19).

21. How important was Jehoiada during the reign of Joash?

- “(1) Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beer-sheba. (2) And **Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest**” (II Chronicles 24:1-2).
- Notice what happens when Jehoiada dies: “(15) But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. (16) And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house. (17) Now **after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. (18) And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass**” (II Chronicles 24:15-18).

22. Who was “minded” to repair the house of the Lord?

- “And it came to pass after this, that **Joash** was minded to repair the house of the LORD” (II Chronicles 24:4).

23. What did the Levites fail to do that Joash had instructed?

- “And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and **gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God** from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. **Howbeit the Levites hastened it not**” (II Chronicles 24:5).

24. Why was the temple in need of repair to begin with?

- “For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim” (II Chronicles 24:7).

25. How did Joash finally raise the funds to repair the temple?

- “(8) And at the king's commandment **they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD.** (9) And they **made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness.** (10) And **all the princes and all the people rejoiced,** and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end. (11) Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. **Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance**” (II Chronicles 24:8-11).

26. Was there enough funding for the repairs on the temple?

- Yes, there were even leftover monies (II Chronicles 24:12-14).

27. What was done continually all the days of Jehoiada?
- They offered burnt offerings to the Lord daily in the temple (**II Chronicles 24:14**).
28. What happens to Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest?
- “(19) Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear. (20) **And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.** (21) **And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD”** (**II Chronicles 24:19-21**).
29. Did God wink at Joash’s actions against Zechariah?
- No, not at all: “**Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it**” (**II Chronicles 24:22**).
30. How was Joash repaid for his actions against Zechariah?
- “(23) **And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus.** (24) **For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.** (25) **And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.** (26) **And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess”** (**II Chronicles 24:23-26**).
31. Who reigned in Joash’s stead?
- Amaziah, his son (**II Chronicles 24:27**).