

~ Our Spiritual Safari has been traveling the road to Scripturally correct revival in our previous four reports; and the road is bumpy, uncomfortable and dangerous — as we have now well-learned. We're still following God's Personally hand-drawn road map to revival according to Holy Writ in this report; and we enter an extremely complicated and somewhat confusing section of Scripture in the next several chapters. The problem is sin — and sin is always complicated — and it's always confusing. Goodness, truth and righteousness, on the other hand, are always simple, sensical, and reasonable, friends. Always.

If I asked a thousand people to draw a straight line, I would expect the same line to be drawn by everyone. If I asked them to draw a crooked line, I doubt there would be two in a million that were the same! You can only draw a straight line one way; but crooked can be drawn at least a billion different ways. There is an overwhelming allurements of sin for a whole bunch of people today. They cannot resist the exotic and devious ways of the devil; which are always unusual, strange, seductive and not well-known.

Alright, we have seen Jehoram — son of Jehoshaphat — has come to the throne of Judah after his father's death in our previous report. He eliminates all of his brothers by murdering them; and anyone else who was likely to get in his way. Remember, Jehoram has also married into the house of Ahab and his whore wife Jezebel. He has learned how to do evil the right way from them, you may be sure. Jehoram was a very apt pupil for Jezebel — if you know what I mean. Let's put it like this: God would have destroyed the line of David at this point if His mercy did not endure forever! God doesn't destroy them, but He immediately sends judgment upon them....

XXI

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.

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.

~ It should be clear in Scripture why judgment came upon Jehoram – *AND* the people. He led the people back into the idolatry his father had delivered them from. This is very definitely the judgment of God, and Jehoram is well aware of it. The peace his father had is gone because Jehoram has forsaken the peace of the True and Living God. I get a little impatient with these people today who seem to ignore this truth concerning how judgment works with God. When someone says “... *the Bible doesn't teach so and so...*” What they really mean is, “... *I don't believe the Bible!*” You can write that down, friends. Now, if they do not believe the Bible, that's their choice – but trying to teach erroneous things against a proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God leaves me little patience, quite frankly. If you don't think God judges like this today, you may want to re-read verse ten again. God says He *does* judge like this today. My personal opinion — and I speak from experience — is that He *does* judge like this....

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,

~ Here, God calls in an old friend, Elijah. Elijah wasn't a writing prophet – that is, he doesn't have a book named after him in the Bible – but we have “*a writing*” from Elijah in verse twelve. This is a message that singed the paper, too. Elijah was always called in to deliver the most difficult of messages. You could call him a *troubleshooter*; he was always the right man for the job. Remember, we are reviewing the same period of history we had in the Book of Kings; but King's was written from *man's viewpoint*. Chronicles is written from *God's viewpoint*....

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.

~ That's a harsh, nasty message Elijah left behind from God to Jehoram in writing. This is the only time we hear from Elijah in Chronicles, too, by the way! One thing you can be sure of: Elijah wrote exactly what God told him to say. It's a get-well card in reverse, I guess. The circumstances are extraordinary. The prophecy is directed at Jehoram. However, there are those who say that, because Elijah was translated in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat, then he wouldn't have been around in the reign of Jehoram. Others say this is a *different* Elijah! Well, Mark Twain always said there was a debate about whether Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare or if someone else by the same name named Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare. Some people think Francis Bacon wrote Shakespeare and there are others who believe that Shakespeare didn't write Shakespeare.

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Well, this Elijah is Elijah the prophet we have become so familiar with in our Spiritual Safari; and he likely wrote this when Jehoram was very young and was already having symptoms; as well as being into some bad lifestyle choices. Elijah saw all of that – he wasn't stupid. I'm sure Elijah may have even tried to talk to the boy from time to time. This terse report Elijah turns in personally fits directly into our historical time period that we are studying. Only God can do that – because it's supernatural.

When Elijah went up in translation, his message obviously was not complete. I think Elijah wrote more than we know about, too. That's also why I believe Elijah is one of the two witnesses in Revelation who bring very harsh messages in a day when men will have turned completely away from God. Well, that makes this passage remarkable, and Elijah's message has been delivered loud and clear at the time in which we are studying....

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

~ So, war has come to Israel again. We know war is a result if sin. We have examined that exhaustively in previous reports. It also looks as if Elijah's prophecy is setting in on Jehoram fast now. As we read on, we see the people utterly indifferent when Jehoram dies. It's just good-bye to bad rubbish. Jehoram was likely one of the most hated kings of all time. Well, as we swing into the next chapter, we're going to be reminded that his wife was the most hated woman who ever reigned. We spent quite a bit of type and space on this history in Kings, so we're passing very briefly over it this time....

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.

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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 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.

XXII

1 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.

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.

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.

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.

10 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.

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.

~ This is a bloody and treacherous period of history, without doubt. God records this because He wants to let you and I know that He judges sin. It takes a cold fish to kill all of her grandchildren as Athaliah did. Can you imagine the logistics of a family mass murder such as this actually being carried out? The entire southern kingdom of Judah hated this woman. Well, God spared one in the line of David. If God had not spared this one little boy, the line of David would have ceased, and God's promise to David would have been broken. The coming of the Messiah would never have taken place. Satan makes attempt after attempt to destroy the line that was leading to the Lord Jesus Christ. We saw it way back in Egypt before

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the Exodus — with the slaying of the firstborn. We will meet another man named Haman later on who was another Hitler or Putin. When Jesus was born, Herod made every attempt to slay Him in yet another horrendous mass murder. Well, the line of David is reduced now to just one individual — Joash....

XXIII

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.

16 And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.

17 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.

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.

20 And he took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the house of the LORD: and they came through the high gate into the king's house, and set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.

21 And all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword.

XXIV

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 Beersheba.

2 And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

3 And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

~ Athaliah's ending is basically self-explanatory. Sin always brings complications. Sin always brings trouble, heart-ache, heart break, sorrow, destruction and judgment – and death. That's an axiom of truth for all who submit to sin and its sphere of influence. God judges sin, my friends. If you think you are simply forgiven from all ramifications of your sin – you're wrong. I know some people will disagree, and those are the omnes who will do *anything* to gain power and *anything else* to keep said power. Trust me, they're **ALREADY** judged. My advice to them is to enjoy their life while they can; because it's going to end just as Athaliah's did: treacherously.

Well, our Spiritual Safari hasn't forgotten that we're on the difficult, treacherous, rocky and uphill road to revival according to the Word of God; and Jehoiada will help lead our next revival. It's very easy to lose sight of the road to revival. Joash will later grow up under Jehoiada's direction and bring about a wonderful revival in Israel at that time, too. At least we have Ahab and Jezebel finally eliminated from any claim to the southern kingdom of Judah. Thank God for that....

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