

**Wednesday, December 14, 2022 • Read 2 Kings 8:16–29**

Questions from the Scripture text: What year of whose reign in what kingdom is it in v16? Who had been king of what other kingdom? And who begins to reign with Jehoshaphat at that time? How old was Jehoram (v17)? How long did he reign? In the way of which kings did Jehoram walk (v18)? Of whose house specifically? Why—who was his wife? What did he do in whose sight? For whose sake didn't Yahweh destroy Judah immediately (v19)? What had He promised? What happened in his days (v20)? What did Edom do? Where did the king of Judah go (v21)? And who with him? What did he attempt to do? But what had his troops done instead? With what result (v22)? Who else revolted? What other acts of Joram (i.e. Jehoram) are recorded here (v23)? Where was Joram laid down (v24, n.b. the difference between being laid with and being gathered to)? Who did what in his place? In what year, of whose reign, where, did Ahaziah begin to reign (v25)? How old was he (v26)? How long did he reign? Who was his mother? Who was her grandfather? In whose way did Ahaziah walk (v27)? What sort of walking was this? What relation is mentioned three times in this verse? What did Ahaziah do with which Joram (v28, cf. v25)? What did the Syrians do? Then where did the northern Joram go (v29) to do what? Who went to see him? Why? What does this show about their relationship?

**Why is marrying poorly such a big deal?** 2Kings 8:16–29 looks forward to the first serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **marrying into an evil family is just asking to end up living an evil life and dying the death of the wicked.**

The certainty of God's Word. If you happen to belong to David (v19a), that's a good thing—especially if that's a belonging that is by faith in the forever-King Son of David (v19b). Even all of the evil walking in this passage (v18, 27) cannot undo God's promised blessing.

But if you happen to belong to Ahab, the un-breakability of God's Word doesn't produce happy results for you. Despite the passage of time, 1Kings 21:21 is no weaker or less likely than when it was first spoken. Men grow comfortable in their sin partly because they just don't appreciate how unbreakable are God's words of threat and curse.

The danger of marrying poorly. When Athaliah is introduced in v18 as “the daughter of Ahab,” the curse against that house comes immediately to mind. But there is something worse than being punished with Ahab's punishment—sinning in the likeness of Ahab's sin. We are so spiritually sinful and dull that it is difficult for us to realize that sin is worse than Hell.

And how did Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat end up walking in evil? “For the daughter of Ahab was his wife” (v18). How did it come to be that Ahaziah “walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did evil in the sight of Yahweh” (v27)? “His mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri” (v26). Marrying a worldly woman is a good recipe for dooming not only oneself, but generations of one's children (should they last generations), unto enmity with God.

The warnings of providence. Every hard providence among God's people is an opportunity for self-examination and repentance. The losses of Edom and Libnah in vv20–22 teach us at least a couple of things.

First, the repercussions of intermarrying with the wicked dynasty from the north were already beginning. Second, failing to repent after these losses was Jehoram's legacy. There were other “acts of Joram and all that he did” (v23), but they were not relevant. What he failed to do was repent, even after the losses of vv20–22. These were, literally, the final word on Jehoram's reign in 2Kings.

The providence of v28 with the northern Joram has a similar effect, especially when Ahaziah goes down to Jezreel to see his cousin. In God's providential justice, this “family time” ends up being the means by which their demise (and Jezebel's) come one after another in chapter 9. Apart from repentance and faith, a sinner may know that all things work together for punishment of those who do not love God.

What promises of God assure you of good? What are some of His warnings, and of what do they assure you? How have you made good spiritual use of difficult providence?

*Sample prayer: Lord, we praise You for the certainty of Your Word. Forgive us for our lack of confidence about the church, despite promises like the one You had made to David. Forgive us for our lack of fear about sin, despite Your sure threats against it. What fools have been so many of Your people—permitting them to marry into worldly families that indulge manmade worship! Forgive us our folly and keep us from it. Often, You have chastened us with losses, but we have failed to repent. Forgive us, and turn back our hard hearts, we pray, in Jesus's Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP119W “Lord, Let My Cry Before You Come” or TPH103E “O, Come My Soul, Bless Thou the Lord”**

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Second kings 8 verses 16 through 29. These are god's words. Now in the fifth year of jaram, the son of ahab, king of israel. Jehoshaphat. Having been king of judah. The horum, the son of jeherjapat. Begin to rain as king of judah. It was 32 years old, when he became king.

And he reigned eight years in jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of israel. Just as the house of ahab had done. For the daughter of ahab was his wife. And he did evil in the sight of yahua. Yeah, yeah. Would not destroy Judah. For the sake of his servant david as he promised him.

To give him a lamp. To him and his sons forever. In his days edam revolted, against juda's authority. And made a king over themselves. So, joram went to The ear. And all his turrets with him. Then he rose my night and attacked the edamites. Who surrounded him and the captain of the chariots.

And the troops fled to the tents. That's even has been in revolt against Judah's authority to this day. And livena revolted at that time. Now, the rest of the act of dorum and all that he did, Are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of judah?

So joram rested with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of david. Then he has aire his son. Rained in his place. In the 12th year of Jalram, the son of ahab king of Israel. A desire. The son of jahorem king of judah. Began to reign.

In his ayah was 22 years old, when he became king. And he rained one year in jerusalem. His mother's name was at the liar. The granddaughter of armory king of israel. And he walked in the way of the house of ahab. And did evil in the sight of Yahweh.

Like the house of ahab. For he was the son-in-law of the house of heard. Now, he went with dorum, the son of ahab. To war against hazel, king of Syria at rama

gilead. And the syrians wounded joram. Then king joram went back to Jezreal. To recover from the wound which the series had inflicted on him at rama.

When he fought against satseo king of syria, And in desire, the son of jahorem king of judah. Went down to see joram son of ahab. And just real, Because he was sick. So far the reading of god's inspired and And there aren't worked.

Well, our portion of scripture ends with a touching scene, In his ayah. Gone up to jizzreal. To see his. Uh, uncle Johor. Or joram. It's Spelled both ways. It seems that it was a nickname. And a has eyes. Or as great, uncle joram. Um, It has always daddy. Was named after this.

That great uncle. Because, His eyes daddy. He was jalorem. Son of athalaya. Who was jehorum? Son of ahab's, sister. Well, and so the names are a little bit confusing because you have Uh, kings almost overlapping. Um, Of the same name in the northern kingdom and in the southern kingdom in israel and in judah.

And that brings us back to the touching scene. Because now, sadly. A line of david has been. Intermixed. With the line of a hat. From the line of ahab's. Father. Armory. And so, There is this. Uh, this danger Of marrying poorly. We saw it, didn't we? When you had the line of promise that was the line of seth, And what happened?

And genesis 6. The sons of god, which is to say the seed of the woman, The ones, the godly ones from Who are called by the name of yahweh. You always people and genesis chapter 4. Sorry, genesis chapter 5. They saw that the daughters of men were beautiful. Daughters from the seat of the serpent from the line of cane.

From genesis chapter 4 and they took as their wives whomever, they chose And suddenly, The. Promise. Of the one who would crush the serpent's head the promise. Of enmity between the seat of the woman and the seat of the serpent. That promise. Seemed like it was about to. Um, It was in peril.

It was just hanging by a thread. And so also there's a promise here, isn't there? And we're reminded of that promise in verse 21 the reason Sorry, not worth 21, verse 19. The reason That judah isn't destroyed immediately for having such a wicked king is because god has made promises today, but And he's made promises concerning david's house.

In fact it's also because god made the promise in Genesis three about the one who had crush. The serpent said, he made the promise to know and he made the promise to Abraham and He in second samuel 7. As is quoted here, made the promise to David. Which reminds us.

First, we see the Danger of marrying poorly. And we can bring destruction upon ourselves and our household. And yet. We also see the strength of god's word. That when the kingdom seems to hang by a thread, The thread. Is the promise of god and the purpose of god. And he will build his church.

And so just as the lord had, made this promise to david, so the church could not ultimately be destroyed even If a particular expression of it, Came under judgment discipline. So, also we see that, even though there may be particular churches, whose lampstands are removed. Just as the lord jesus threatened in revelation to and three, and which he did.

His word of warning is as strong and sure as his word of promise. And so let that warn you off of sin. Uh, yet. The the promise that the lord jesus christ would build his church and the gates of hell would not reveal against it. That. Is. That is the strong thread.

By which the church always hangs. So, even if the church in our nation, Is judged and abandoned. And it loses its lamp stand and it becomes no church at all. Uh, yet still The. Promise the lord jesus is building his church capital. C is still in effect and he will not destroy it.

For the sake of his word just like he did with Judah. So, we have a lesson. About the dangers of marrying poorly. Do not marry into families. The people hate the word of god and the prophets of god do not marry into families. Where the people love man-made worship.

Lest you come into? Uh, what those families have already begun to bring upon themselves. Um but we also have a lesson in the unbreakability of god's word, both and warning but especially in promise, Praise God. That even when the nation, Is under judgment yet. We make them cling to christ in full hope.

And we be spared. Even. Even if our church. Our particular church. Be judged. And then we have Uh, A lesson. In the heating. The warnings of god's providence. Jehoram here. Is described as Doing evil and the sight of yahweh. Verse 18. And yet you already did not destroy Judah verse 19.

And then you have, Uh, the loss of edam as a vassal state. In verse 20 and the loss of Verse 20 and 21. Or 20 to 22, rather. And then in the second half of 22. You have the loss of libna. As an asshole or a servant city. And, That's it.

He just he did evil. He lost edam and libna and then. Verse 23. Now, the rest of the act of dorum and all that he did, In other words, there's a bunch of other stuff to orem did. But as far as god's concerned, it doesn't matter. Dorm should have been paying attention.

When he was doing evil and god. And god gave him those providential warnings. This providential chastenings is discipline. The removal of the loss of Eden and the loss of libner. And so we too. Whenever we have suffering or trial or loss in our life, It is not necessarily because of a particular set.

We know that suffering is much used of god to sanctify believers. And that suffering is something that we can do in union with our lord jesus christ. Which is a great privilege. As the apostle paul. Was talking about in Colossians chapter 2. So, there are other purposes for suffering.

But suffering is Sometimes. A warning from god. About sin that we do not see, or aren't repenting up. And so, Whenever we have a difficulty, Whenever we suffer a loss. We would do well to pause and consider. Whether there is something of which we need to repent. It's an opportunity for self-examination.

I think it's playing here. The. That. The. Curses against ahab's house are already coming true in the the repercussions of marrying into ahab's house already coming true. But it's very interesting that Of his entire reign. The only thing that is said about, Uh, jehorum of judah. There's any lost edum.

You lost libna. I needed evil on the side of yahweh. And nothing else matters. You want to read the stuff that doesn't matter. It's written in another book. Go read it there. So, There's a indication here. From god, the holy spirit that Uh, we should be paying attention to the providence of god and take the opportunities that he gives us.

For self-examination. And repentance.

Pray and ask god to bless. This portion of his word to

Our father in heaven, we thank you for your word. We thank you for warning us. About marion poorly. Oh lord, help us. Don't let anyone of our family. Fall into this snare. That we have seen captured so many others. And has been doing so for thousands of years as we Have just seen and remembered even back to Genesis 6.

Have mercy of God. Pray that you would be. Working in the lives, those who are children. Will marry That they would be. Those who seek your mind from scripture. To whom. Whose hearts belong entirely to you. That you would be helping their mom and their dad and their minister To be faithful to the scripture.

We thank you, lord that Even in times when, The church in our lander. Sometimes even our own particular congregation. Seems to be under a hand of discipline or endanger. Uh, from offending you and Polluting your worship. Uh, yet. Oh god. The church. As a whole stands upon And to support it by.

Your unbreakable word. And so we pray that you would make us. To be optimistic and hopeful and joyful. About your church throughout the ages. However, bleak Things may appear in our place or in our time. Praise you for your unbreakable word. Thank you for keeping your promise to David.

Thank you that you're still keeping your promise to build your church. And that the gates of hell will not. Prevail against it. And then finally, lord, we pray that you would help us. To live in a way that is aware of you and your hand. In providence. That we would not be beastly towards you.

And receive chastening. By saying that we have cleansed our heart and we Have cleansed our hands in vain. But lord. Make us to receive chastening as More than well-deserved and yet given in love. Help us develop the skill of self-examination. So that we will be able to See, the sin that you are bringing to our attention.

Give us repentance. We pray. That we would be soft-hearted towards you. And quick to hate and stop, and turn away from and kill. Any. That you For minutes to see by your work. Lord, we pray that The churches would have the wisdom. To see that their losses. Are warnings from you.

And that you would grant repentance to the church. I'll have mercy with pray. In jesus name. Amen.