



Divine Indictment of Jehoram: 2d Paragraph; Ahaziah's KER; Royal Lines of Omri & Asa; Baal Worship Promoted & Yahweh Worship Attacked by Ahab & Jezebel

Secondly, the individual punishment to Jehoram was an humiliating and painful disease of his bowels. The phrase "day by day" indicates that in just two days it caused the mucous membrane of his intestines to slough off and fall from his body. The sudden demise of Jehoram's body is very similar to that experienced by victims of the Ebola outbreak in the mid-70s. Ebola is a filovirus, or "thread virus," a relentless killing machine that consumes a human body in days, causing a gruesome death. Symptoms include liquefying flesh, spurts of blood, black vomit, and brain sludge. Whatever struck Jehoram was probably very similar to Ebola but it was most certainly divine discipline.

The Lord under His permissive will allowed the armies of the Philistines and Arabians to invade Judah. They carried away all the possessions in the king's house, his sons, his wives, leaving only his youngest son Jehoahaz \je-hō' a-haz\, also identified in Scripture as Ahaziah \ā-ha-zī' a\. (vv. 16-17)

KER:

2 Chronicles 21:6 - And Jehoram walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab did (for Ahab's daughter was his wife [**Athaliah**]), and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Ahaziah \ā-ha-zī' a\: The son of Jehoram by Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, became the sixth king of Judah but only reigned about one year. He followed the example of his father, Jehoram, king of Judah, and his grandparents, Ahab, king of Israel and Jezebel, his Phoenician wife, and became a worshiper of Baal.

KER:

2 Kings 8:27 - Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri, king of Israel [**and the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel**].

v. 28 - And he walked in the way of the house of Ahab, and did evil in the sight of the Lord, like the house of Ahab had done, because he was a son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

An overview of what has taken place and what is about to occur is advisable here and we get help from a visual: The Royal Lines of Omri & Asa.

1. Omri was general of the Israeli armies under King Elah. Zimri murdered Elah as he was indulging a bacchanalia in Tirzah, the first capital city of the Northern Kingdom. When Omri heard the news he conducted a forced march from the battlefield at Gibbethon to Tirzah and besieged the palace. Zimri set fire to the palace and died in the flames. Omri became king. He gets a negative KER in 1 Kings 16:25-26.
2. All the kings of Israel had permitted the worship of Baal up to this point but the cult was about to have an even greater influence in the Northern Kingdom. When Omri's son Ahab came to the throne he was immediately influenced by ambassador demons to seek a favorable economic foreign policy with the Phoenicians.



3. During the time of the United Monarchy, David and Solomon had established free trade with the Phoenicians. Ahab desired to reestablish this relationship and entered into such an agreement with Ethbaal, king of Tyre and Sidon.
4. In an effort to guarantee the economic prosperity of Israel, Ahab decided to seal the deal by marrying Ethbaal's daughter, Jezebel. With this union came the syncretism of Baal worship with that of *YHWH Elohim* in the Northern Kingdom.
5. It is hard to determine with whom the ambassador demons had the greatest influence, Ahab or Jezebel. Sometimes a weak man can be more strongly influenced by women than by other men. Either way, the popularity of Baal worship swept through the Northern Kingdom.
6. Jezebel was a patron of the prophets of Baal and of the devotees of Asherah. She is the one who led the movement to destroy the altars of Jehovah and eventually to murder the prophets of Jehovah. Her final solution was to destroy Judaism and replace it with the Baal cult.
7. The evil of Jezebel was so great that even down to this day her name has been immortalized as an antonomasia to describe wicked, impudent, shameless, and immoral women. The apostle John used her to describe the woman who influenced those in the church at Thyatira to become involved in idolatry (Revelation 2:20-24). Jezebel is even credited as the inspiration behind the name of an authentic American musical genre.

Florence, Robert. *City of the Dead*. (Lafayette: The Center for Louisiana Studies, 1996), 11:

It is believed that the word "Jazz" may have originated in such red-light districts as Storyville (in New Orleans), in that some people initially called it "Jezebel" music. "Jezebel" turned to "Jez," and "Jez" became "Jazz."

8. Ahab and Jezebel had two sons and a daughter. Ahaziah was the crown prince who succeeded his father but only reigned two years. For some reason he was up on the roof of the palace, fell through some latticework, and was severely injured.
9. He sent messengers to Baalzebub, the idol of Ekron, for a prognostication on the prospects of his recovery only to have Elijah intercept them and have them return with the message that he was going to die.
10. Ahaziah was childless and thus was succeeded by his brother, Jehoram, or Joram. Jehoram will be injured in battle and die at the hands of Jehu, an event we will study soon.
11. The royal line of Asa tracks the kings of the Southern Kingdom. He and his son, Jehoshaphat, received excellent KERs:

Asa:

2 Chronicles 14:2 - Asa did good and right in the sight of the Lord his God,

v. 3 - for he removed the foreign altars and high places, tore down the sacred pillars, cut down the Asherim,

v. 4 - and commanded Judah to seek the Lord God of their fathers and to observe the law and the commandment.

v. 5 - He also removed the high places and the incense altars from all the cities of Judah. And the kingdom was undisturbed under him.

Jehoshaphat:



2 Chronicles 17:2 - Jehoshaphat placed troops in all the fortified cities of Judah, and set garrisons in the land of Judah, and in the cities of Ephraim which Asa his father had captured.

v. 3 - And the Lord was with Jehoshaphat because he followed the example of his father David's earlier days and did not seek the Baals,

v. 4 - but sought the God of his father, followed His commandments, and did not act as Israel did.

v. 5 - So the Lord established the kingdom in his control, and all Judah brought tribute to Jehoshaphat, and he had great riches and honor.

v. 6 - And he took great pride in the ways of the Lord and again removed the high places and the Asherim from Judah.

12. Following Jehoshaphat's death his eldest son, Jehoram, became king of Judah. We have recently noted in 2 Chronicles 21:4 that his first official act was to murder six of his brothers.
13. This earned for him a negative KER whose indictment included two paragraphs: (1) He did not walk in the ways of his father Jehoshaphat or his grandfather Asa but in the ways of the kings of Israel thus causing the people of Judah to follow Baal instead of Jehovah; and (2) he committed fratricide on six of his brothers, described by the Lord as "your own family who were better than you."
14. This led to Jehoram's sin unto death by means of an Ebolaesque disease of his bowels. However, although his disease had similar symptoms it was far more gradual than Ebola's, taking two years to reach its termination in death.
15. Between his indictment and death, the Lord motivated the Philistines and the Arabs to invade Judah. Just as Jehoram had murdered six of his father's sons leaving only himself and Jehu, so the Philistine-Arabian coalition army captured all of Jehoram's sons except for his youngest, Jehoahaz \je-hō' a-haz\, or Ahaziah:

2 Chronicles 21:16 - Then the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians;

v. 17 - and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz [**Ahaziah**], the youngest of his sons.