



Jehoram Murderers His Brothers; Ahaziah Joins Him at Ramoth-gilead; The Lord Fires Jehoram, Anoints Jehu King, & Curses the Line of Ahab & Jezebel

16. At this point we need to be sure we understand who our cast of characters is.
 1. Ahab, the king of Israel, had three children by his Phoenician wife, Jezebel: (1) Ahaziah, (2) Jehoram (also called Joram), and (3) a daughter, Athaliah.
 2. At Ahab's death, his eldest son, Ahaziah, became king of Israel. He reigned for two years but died as a result of a fall from the roof of his palace.
 3. Since Ahaziah was childless, his brother, Jehoram, or Joram, became king of Israel.
 4. Down in the Southern Kingdom, Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, had two sons: (1) Jehoram and (2) Jehu.
 5. At Jehoshaphat's death his eldest son, Jehoram, became king of Judah. Jehoram was married to Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab, former king of Israel, and his wife, Jezebel, and the sister of Jehoram, current king of Israel. Together, Jehoram, king of Judah, and his wife, Athaliah, had a number of sons.
 6. Due to an invasion of Judah by the Philistines and Arabs, all of Jehoram's children were captured and then killed with the exception of his youngest son, Ahaziah, who became king of Judah following Jehoram's death:

2 Chronicles 22:1 - Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, Jehoram's youngest son, king in his place, for the band of men who came with the Arabs to the camp had slain all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign.
 7. Ahaziah is twenty-two years old. He already has several sons by his wife Zibiah. The number, names, and ages of most are unknown but we do know that his youngest, Joash, is but an infant.
 8. Ahaziah's Uncle Jehoram (or Joram), the brother of his mother, Athaliah, is king of Israel and is in the twelfth year of his reign. The year is 841 B.C.
17. Lucifer is about to intensify his attack on the line of Christ to an even greater degree. The fratricide committed by Jehoram, king of Judah, narrowed the line to him and his progeny.
18. Apparently the Lord did not approve of Jehoram's eldest sons since he allowed the Philistines and Arabs to execute all of his sons but one, namely, Ahaziah.
19. Lucifer now has in place the progeny of Ahab and Jezebel sitting on the thrones in both Samaria and Jerusalem. Their son, Jehoram, is king of Israel and their grandson, Ahaziah, is king of Judah.
20. Both these men are proponents of the Baal cult and both received negative KERs. How they were brought together in an alliance against the Syrians is where our plot thickens and our story continues.
21. The city of Ramoth-gilead was a key military outpost in the wars between Syria and Israel. It was located to the east of the Jordan River and was an outpost on the border of an area whose ownership was in constant dispute between Israel and Syria.



22. After the division of the United Kingdom, Ramoth-gilead came under Syrian control. Regaining control of this fortress was a major objective of the Northern Kingdom. In 853 B.C., King Ahab solicited the cooperation of King Jehoshaphat of Judah in an attempt to recapture it. The attempt failed and Ahab was killed in the battle.
23. The death of Ahab brought his son Ahaziah to the throne but he died from that fall from the palace roof after only two years on the throne and his brother, Jehoram, became king of Israel.
24. In the twelfth year of Jehoram's reign a sudden change in the rulership of Syria occurred. Hazael, the general of the Syrian armies, murdered King Ben-hadad I and became the new king of Syria.
25. Jehoram assumed that Hazael's coup d'état created at least a temporary period of instability in Syria and determined it was a good time for him to retake Ramoth-gilead.
26. He solicited and received the support of his nephew, Ahaziah, king of Judah, and they both led their armies in an attack on the fortress. During the battle, Jehoram was wounded and was forced to retire back across the Jordan where he holed up at Jezreel in order to recover. He left the army of Israel under the command of his general, Jehu, the son of Jehoshaphat and Ahaziah's uncle.
27. On hearing of Jehoram's injury, Ahaziah left the battle himself and went to Jezreel to check on his uncle's condition. This decision brought both kings together in the same location and made each of them vulnerable to assassination.
28. It must be remembered that both these men received negative KERs, Jeroboam in 2 Kings 3:1-3, and Ahaziah in 2 Kings 8:26-27. Jehoram was as apostate as most of the kings of Israel although he was said not to be as corrupt as his parents. Small compliment. The Northern Kingdom was now the home of at least 70 men of the royal line and therefore an end to the House of Omri's rulership did not seem likely in the very near future.
29. Likewise, Ahab and Jezebel's grandson, Ahaziah, was following in their footsteps in the Southern Kingdom and indications were that he was being easily influenced by his uncle, Jehoram. The prospects for righteous leadership in either kingdom showed no signs of occurring any time soon. Jehoram was only 40 years old while his nephew, Ahaziah, was just 22.
30. The Lord determined that He would no longer tolerate the line of Omri and Ahab in either the Northern or Southern Kingdoms. While both kings were bivouacked at Jezreel the Lord executed His own coup d'état.
31. The Lord's first move was to anoint a new king over Israel. For that task he called upon the prophet Elisha:

2 Kings 9:1 - Elisha the prophet called one of the sons of the prophets, and said to him, "Gird up your loins, and take this flask of oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth-gilead.

v. 2 - "When you arrive there, search out Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi \nim' shi\, and go in and bid him arise from among his brothers, and bring him to an inner room.

v. 3 - "Then take the flask of oil and pour it on his head and say, 'Thus says the Lord, "I have anointed you king over Israel.'" Then open the door and flee and do not wait."
32. Elijah's servant did exactly as he was told. When carrying out his orders in Jehu's headquarters at Ramoth-gilead, he revealed all of what Elisha instructed him to tell Jehu:



2 Kings 9:7 - 'And you shall strike the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel.

v. 8 - 'For the whole house of Ahab shall perish, and I will cut off from Ahab every male person both bond and free in Israel.

v. 9 - 'And I will make the house of Ahab like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah.

v. 10 - 'And the dogs shall eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel, and none shall bury her.'" Then he opened the door and fled.

33. Ahab's rap sheet is long but it was encouraged by his subservience to his sinful nature's desire for economic prosperity at the expense of national security and submissiveness to his wife, Jezebel, at the expense of spiritual orthodoxy.

34. After their marriage, Jezebel immediately invited the Baal cult into the palace at Samaria. This is revealed by Elijah in his challenge to Ahab in:

1 Kings 18:19 - "Send and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah who eat at Jezebel's table."

35. Jezebel's syncretism of the Baal cult with the worship of *YHWH Elohim* was only the initial stage of her plan to destroy orthodox Judaism in Israel. Her attempted mass murder of the Levitical priests was a satanically motivated effort to remove knowledge of *YHWH Elohim* and His ritual plan from the culture.

36. Due to the overruling will of God, she was only partially successful in her attempt. Obadiah \ō-ba-dī' a\, the chamberlain of Ahab's palace, preserved the lives of 100 of the priests during the purge:

1 Kings 18:4 - It came about, when Jezebel destroyed the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah took a hundred prophets and hid them by fifties in a cave, and provided them with bread and water.

37. Persecution, violence, and tyranny are the techniques used by Lucifer to suppress truth. But this is the enforcement phase. Fear, emotionalism, and a breakdown of moral beliefs set the tone for proponents of any system designed to destroy civic order, establishment truth, and the divine institutions.

38. People capitulate because of the stress for not doing so. It is very difficult to take a stand against public opinion, especially when it is manipulated by those with the power to permit freedom or impose imprisonment; to grant life and or inflict death.