

The CHRONICLES of the KINGS

The Continuing Saga of Judah

2 Chronicles 21:7
July 25, 2026

The kingdom of Israel had been scattered to the wind in 722 BC – only Judah remained.

Today, we wind back the clock 127 years to Judah and her new king, Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat.

Jehoram was 32 years old when he became king and he reigned for just 8 years. His wife was Athaliah, Ahab's daughter.

Jehoshaphat had been a good king, but his son did not follow in his footsteps. He did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, walking in the ways of the kings of Israel - Here are the highlights:

When Jehoshaphat declared that Jehoram would be his successor, he gave his other 6 sons gifts as well as fortified cities scattered throughout Judah. After establishing his kingdom, however, Jehoram had all his brothers killed along with other princes of Israel.

Edom and Libnah rebelled.

He built high places on the hills of Judah – leading the people astray.

Jehoram received a letter from Elijah the prophet, which said: *"This is what Yahweh, the God of your father David, says: 'You have not walked in the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa king of Judah. But you have walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and you have led Judah and the people of Jerusalem to prostitute themselves, just as the house of Ahab did. You have also murdered your own brothers, members of your father's house, men who were better than you. So now Yahweh is about to strike your people, your sons, your wives and everything that is yours, with a heavy blow. You yourself will be very ill with a lingering disease of the bowels, until the disease causes your bowels to come out.'"*

Later.....

- The Philistine and the Arabs came against Judah and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that only one son was left – Ahaziah (Jehoahaz).

- Jehoram began to experience intestinal issues and at the end of 2 years his bowels come out and he died in great pain.

He passed away, to no one's regret, and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

The other events of his reign are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah.

His son, Ahaziah, aged 22, succeeded him as king. He reigned for 1 year.

2 Kings 8:27-29 - *He walked in the ways of the house of Ahab and did evil in the eyes of Yahweh, as the house of Ahab had done, for he was related by marriage to Ahab's family.*

His mother, Athaliah, encouraged him in wrongdoing and his father's advisors became his advisors, "to his undoing."

As we know from our review of the Kings of Israel, Joram (Israel) invited Ahaziah to join him in war against Aram (Syria). The result of the battle was that Joram was injured and returned to Jezreel to recuperate.

Meanwhile, Jehu had been anointed King of Israel.

Jehu went to Jezreel, killed Joram and tossed his body onto the land previously owned by Naboth, then he went after Ahaziah. Ahaziah was wounded in the chase and later died at Megiddo. He was buried at Jerusalem.

When Athaliah, saw that her son was dead, she went on a killing spree – destroying the whole royal family. Only Joash, Ahaziah's 1 year old son, survived – having been hidden in the Temple.

Athaliah reigned over Judah for 6 years.

In the 7th year, Jehoiada, the priest, had enough support to challenge her. Joash, now 7, was brought to the Temple and crowned king. *"They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, 'Long live the king!'"*

Athaliah tried to disrupt the coronation, but was taken out of the Temple and killed along with her supporters.

2 Chronicles 22:16-21 - *Jehoiada then made a covenant that he and the people and the king would be Yahweh's people. All the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. Then Jehoiada placed the oversight of Yahweh's temple in the hands of the priests, who were Levites.... He also stationed doorkeepers at the gates so that no one who was in any way unclean might enter. He took with him the commanders of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people and all the people of the land and brought the king down from Yahweh's temple. They went into the palace through the Upper Gate and seated the king on the royal throne, and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet, because Athaliah had been slain with the sword.*

Joash's reign lasted 40 years. He did right AS LONG AS Jehoiada, the priest, was alive.

The high places were not removed and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings there.

The Temple had been closed to the worship of God and the sacred objects were being used in the worship of Baal – it was now quite rundown. Joash ordered an offering be collected for temple repairs and restoration, however, by year 23 of his reign, the temple had not been repaired, so he and Jehoiada took matters into their own hands....

2 Kings 12:11-12 / 2 Chronicles 24:14b - *When the amount had been determined, they gave the money to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. With it they paid those who worked on the temple of Yahweh – the carpenters and builders, the masons and stonecutters. They purchased timber and dressed stone for the repair of the temple of the LORD, and met all the other expenses of restoring the temple.... As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of Yahweh.*

All was roses and rainbows until Jehoiada died – aged 130. Shortly after, Joash listens to the advice of his officials and the Temple was abandoned again and the people resume their idol worship.

2 Chronicles 24:19 - *Although Yahweh sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.*

Zechariah, Jehoiada's own son, prophesied against Judah, *"You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken Yahweh, he has forsaken you."*

By order of the king, he was stoned to death in the courtyard of the temple. *"King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, 'May Yahweh see this and call you to account.'"*

Invasion of Aram

- 2 Kings 12 account: *During this period, Hazael, king of Aram attacked Gath and captured it – then he turned toward Jerusalem. Josiah took all the sacred objects and all the gold found in the temple treasuries and sent them to Hazael. Loot in hand, Hazael went home.*

- 2 Chronicles 24 account: *At the turn of the year, the army of Aram marched against Joash; it invaded Judah and Jerusalem and killed all the leaders of the people. They sent all the plunder to their king in Damascus. Although the Aramean army had come*

with only a few men, Yahweh delivered into their hands a much larger army. Because Judah had forsaken Yahweh, the God of their fathers, judgment was executed on Joash. When the Arameans withdrew, they left Joash severely wounded.

Shortly after, Joash's own officials murdered him in his bed.

The record of his reign is written in the annotations on the book of the kings of Judah.

Amaziah, his son, succeeded him as king.

Amaziah was 25 years old and he reigned 29 years. He did RIGHT, but not with his whole heart, *"In everything he followed the example of his father Joash."*

The high places were not removed and the people continued to worship there.

He executed the officials who conspired to murder his father.

He defeated a 10,000-man Edomite army in the Valley of Salt – see 2 Chronicles 25:5-13 for more details.

2 Chronicles 25:14-16 - *When Amaziah returned from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought back the gods of the people of Seir. He set them up as his own gods, bowed down to them and burned sacrifices to them. The anger of Yahweh burned against Amaziah, and he sent a prophet to him, who said, "Why do you consult this people's gods, which could not save their own people from your hand?" While he was still speaking, the king said to him, "Have we appointed you an adviser to the king? Stop! Why be struck down?" So the prophet stopped but said, "I know that God has determined to destroy you, because you have done this and have not listened to my counsel."*

Feeling cocky, Amaziah sent a message to Jehoash, king of Israel, challenging him to a fight. Jehoash responded, *"You have indeed defeated Edom and now you are arrogant. Glory in your victory, but stay at home! Why ask for trouble and cause your own downfall and that of Judah also?"*

Amaziah would not listen, so Jehoash attacked. Judah was routed and Amaziah was captured. Jehoash broke down a 600-foot section of Jerusalem's wall. He took all the silver and gold he could find in the temple, took some hostages and went back to Samaria – Amaziah outlived Jehoash by 16 years.

The other events of his reign are written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah.

From the time that Amaziah turned away from following Yahweh, they conspired against him in Jerusalem and he fled to Lachish. He was killed at Lachish and brought back to Jerusalem where he was buried.

Until Next Time.....