



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

Old Testament Survey
Lesson 29 – The Ungodly Descendants of Ahab and Jehoshaphat
(Second Kings 1-9; Second Chronicles 21-22)

The End Results of Jehoshaphat's Unionism

SECOND KINGS continues the history begun in First Kings. Remember: The books of Kings relate the history of both Israel in the north and Judah in the south. The books of Chronicles limit their history to the kingdom of Judah.

Unionism is the uniting of the true with the false – usually today it refers to the union of true teachers of the Bible with false teachers. Jehoshaphat was a godly king, but he worked together with wicked Ahab and his two successors, Ahaziah and Jehoram. His own son, also called Jehoram, married Ahab's daughter Athaliah. After Jehoshaphat's death in 848 BC, Athaliah and her Baal-worshipping relatives controlled Judah until 835 BC. Jehoram of Judah, her husband (853-841), introduced Baal worship into Judah. Ahaziah, her son (841), continued the worship of Baal in Judah. Athaliah herself became the next ruler in Judah (841-835).

The kings in Israel during this time were also relatives of Jezebel and her daughter Athaliah. Surprisingly, Athaliah's brother, Jehoram of Israel, turned away from Baal worship and continued only in the sins of Jeroboam I (that is, worshiping the two golden calves). His turning away from Baal was no doubt the result of the activities of the prophets in Israel: Elijah, Elisha, and the so-called sons of the prophets, who were found in many of Israel's villages. The Bible tells us much about the ministry of Elisha, to whom God gave the power to perform miracles just as He had to Elijah. Despite the work of these two prophets, however, the people in general continued their idolatry.

God brought this whole era to an end through Jehu, who wiped out the entire dynasty of Omri and Ahab and, together with Jezebel's daughter, Athaliah of Judah, destroyed the entire royal family of David as well, except for the infant boy Joash. Through Joash God kept His promise to David that his sons would reign forever in Judah. The line leading up to **JESUS** (the Son of David) could not come to an end.

Read all the Bible chapters given below. If you have questions, do not hesitate to ask them.

Ahaziah of Israel (853-852 BC)

1. Ahaziah continues in the sins of Jeroboam I and worships Baal (1 Kings 22:51-53).
2. Ahaziah joins with Jehoshaphat of Judah in a business enterprise.
(See the previous lesson, Lesson 28, numbers 35-37 under Jehoshaphat of Judah.)
3. Ahaziah is injured and asks Baal, not God, whether he will recover (2 Kings 1:1-2).
4. Elijah tells Ahaziah he will die (2 Kings 1:3-8).
5. Fire from heaven consumes two groups who try to capture Elijah (2 Kings 1:9-12).
(In the New Testament, Jesus' disciples James and John wanted to call down fire from heaven, see Luke 9:54-56)
6. The third group humbly begs for life; Elijah again tells Ahaziah he will die (2 Kings 1:13-16).

7. Ahaziah concludes his reign and dies (2 Kings 1:17-18).

(The following happened either during the reign of Ahaziah or his successor, Jehoram.)

8. Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan River miraculously (2 Kings 2:1-8).

9. Elisha asks to become Elijah's successor (2 Kings 2:9-10).

"Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me" (v. ___)

Note: This means that Elisha wanted to be Elijah's heir. In those days the oldest son received a double portion from his father, in contrast to other sons who received single portions.

10. Elijah ascends to heaven in and whirlwind (2 Kings 2:11-13).

"Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, 'My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!'" (v. _____) (See also 2 Kings 13:14)

11. Elisha performs his first miracle: the parting of the Jordan (2 Kings 2:14-15).

12. The sons of the prophets look in vain for Elijah's body (2 Kings 2:16-18).

13. Elisha purifies the waters at Jericho (2 Kings 2:19-22).

14. Two bears tear up 42 boys who make fun of Elisha (2 Kings 2:23-25).

"Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" (v. _____)

Jehoram of Israel (852-841 BC) – Ahab's son, Ahaziah's brother

15. Jehoram continues in the sin of Jeroboam but does not worship Baal (2 Kings 3:1-3).

16. Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, and the king of Edom go out against Moab (2 Kings 3:4-9).

17. Elisha prophesies the coming of water and a victory over Moab (2 Kings 3:10-19).

18. God sends water without rain and gives the kings a victory over Moab (2 Kings 3:20-25).

When the Moabites saw the sun shining on the water, they thought it was blood from their enemies. Thus, they were led into a trap and were killed.

19. The king of Moab offers his son as a sacrifice, and the battle ends (2 Kings 3:26-27).

20. Elisha multiplies the oil of a prophet's widow (2 Kings 4:1-7).

21. The Shunammite woman, who provides for Elisha, bears a son as Elisha promises (2 Kings 4:8-17).

22. Later this son dies, and the woman calls for Elisha (2 Kings 4:18-31).

23. Elisha prays, and the LORD brings the woman's son back to life (2 Kings 4:32-37).

24. Elisha purifies the poisonous food at Gilgal (2 Kings 4:38-41).

"Man of God, there is death in the pot!" (v. _____)

25. Elisha feeds 100 sons of the prophets with 20 loaves (2 Kings 4:42-44).

(This is like Jesus' feeding of the 5000, but on a much smaller scale.)

26. An Israelite servant girl tells the Syrian captain Naaman about a sure cure for leprosy in Israel (2 Kings 5:1-8).

27. Elisha tells Naaman to wash in the Jordan, and he is cured (2 Kings 5:9-14).

"Go and wash in the Jordan seven times...and you shall be clean" (v. _____)

Like in Baptism, here it was not the water of the Jordan that effected the cure, but the Word of God that was with the water, and the faith that trusted that Word.

28. Elisha refuses to accept any payment from Naaman (2 Kings 5:15-19).

29. Elisha's servant Gehazi deceives Naaman and is punished with leprosy (2 Kings 5:20-27).
30. Elisha causes a borrowed iron ax to float (2 Kings 6:1-7).
31. God reveals the plans of the king of Syria to Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-12).
32. The king of Syria searches for Elisha, but invisible angels protect him (2 Kings 6:13-17).

“Those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (v. ____)

God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant so that he could see these angels.

33. Elisha leads the blinded Syrians from Dothan to Samaria (2 Kings 6:18-23).
34. Benhadad of Syria besieges Samaria, and the famine leads to cannibalism (2 Kings 6:24-33).
35. Elisha prophesies that prosperity will come in one day (2 Kings 7:1-2).
36. Four lepers discover that the Syrians have fled (2 Kings 7:3-11).

“We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent” (v. ____)

37. The Syrians leave their goods behind; Elisha's prophecy is fulfilled (2 Kings 7:12-16).
38. The man who doubted Elisha's word is crushed by the hungry mob (2 Kings 7:17-20).
39. Jehoram restores the land of the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 8:1-6).
40. Elisha prophesies the recovery of Benhadad of Syria, and that Hazael will be the next king of Syria (2 Kings 8:7-15).
41. Jehoram is wounded in battle with the Syrians and is taken to Jezreel (2 Kings 8:28-29).
42. Elisha sends a servant to anoint captain Jehu as king of Israel (2 Kings 9:1-10).
43. Jehu conspires against Jehoram and kills him and all of Ahab's family, including Jezebel, who dies a horrible death (2 Kings 9:11-37).

“They found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands” (v. ____)

Jehoram of Judah (853-841 BC) – Jehoshaphat's son, Athaliah's husband

44. Jehoram kills all his brothers and many princes (2 Chronicles 21:1-4).
45. Jehoram marries Ahab's daughter Athaliah and introduces Baal worship into Judah (2 Kings 8:16-19; 2 Chronicles 21:5-7).
46. The Edomites and Libnah revolt against Jehoram (2 Kings 8:20-22; 2 Chronicles 21:8-11).
47. Elijah writes a letter to Jehoram prophesying trouble and disease (2 Chronicles 21:12-15).
48. Both trouble and disease come, and Jehoram dies (2 Kings 8:23-24; 2 Chronicles 21:16-20).

Ahaziah of Judah (841 BC) – also called Jehoahaz

49. Ahaziah continues the Baal worship of his father Jehoram (2 Kings 8:25-27; 2 Chronicles 22:1-4).

“Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, for the sake of His servant David, as He promised him to give a lamp to him and his sons forever” (2 Kings 8:____)

50. Ahaziah of Judah and Jehoram of Israel join forces against Hazael of Syria at Ramoth-gilead (2 Kings 8:28; 2 Chronicles 22:5).
51. Ahaziah visits Jehoram of Israel when he is sick (2 Kings 8:29; 2 Chronicles 22:6).
52. Jehu kills both Jehoram of Israel and Ahaziah of Judah at the same time (2 Kings 9:16-19; 2 Chronicles 22:7-9).

A Table of Prophets and Kings

<u>Prophets</u>	<u>Kings of Israel</u>	<u>Kings of Judah</u>	<u>2 Chron.</u>	<u>2 Kings</u>
Elijah	5) Ahab (874-853)	<u>Jehoshaphat</u> (873-848)	17-20	
Elisha	5) Ahaziah (853-852)	<u>Jehoram</u> (853-841)	21	1-7
	5) Jehoram (852-841)	<u>Ahaziah</u> (841)	22	8
Priest Jehoiada	6) Jehu (841-813)	Athaliah (841-835) – not of David's line		9-11

Note: The numbers besides the kings of Israel refer to their various dynasties. The underlined kings of Judah (Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah) are those who are described in the Bible as God-fearing kings. They were far from perfect in their loyalty to God, but it seems that they trusted in God's promises concerning the coming Christ (**JESUS**) and tried to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Questions

1. What do we mean when we speak of Jehoshaphat's unionism?
2. What kind of unionism is practiced today by many church groups?
3. How did Athaliah follow in the footsteps of her mother Jezebel?
4. Why was the third group that was sent to capture Elijah spared from death by fire?
5. In what ways were Elijah and Elisha different from most other prophets?
6. List six miracles that God worked through His prophet Elijah.
7. List six miracles that God worked through His prophet Elisha.
8. In what way is the healing of Naaman a picture of baptism?
9. How did Gehazi's greed lead him into sin?
10. What did Elisha's servant learn about angels in Dothan?
11. How did Elisha's prophecy of prosperity come to fulfillment?
12. What role did Jehu play in God's rule of the world?