

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EFFECT OF EVIL INFLUENCES
2 KINGS 8:16-27; 2 CHRONICLES 21

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Introduction

After nearly eight chapters with the focus being on the Northern Kingdom of Israel and all of her wicked kings, we now have an account back in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Now, the last time we looked at the Southern Kingdom was in our last message of the *Book of 1 Kings* when we saw the end of King Jehoshaphat's life. The timeline of Judah picks from that point and continues here and what I want us to see tonight is: **THE EFFECT OF EVIL INFLUENCES!**

Let's review a minute so we can **TRACE THE EVIL INFLUENCES** that bring us here to this point:

I. EVIL ALLIANCES HAVE EVIL EFFECTS!

Jehoshaphat Formed An Alliance With The Wicked Ahab!

A. Remember How He Made The Mistake Of Helping Ahab In The Battle For Ramoth-Gilead! (Cf. 1 Kings 22)

After hearing the lying prophets of Ahab say they should go into battle, Jehoshaphat asked for a Prophet of the LORD.

The Prophet Michaiah said the opposite of Ahab's prophets!

1. His Alliance With Ahab Almost Cost Him His Life! Rather than heed the Prophet of God's warning, (a/k/a the Word Of The LORD) Jehoshaphat went into battle with Ahab and almost got himself killed in the process before Ahab got killed!

2. His Alliance Cost Him In His Standing Before God!

After that close call, when he got back home safely, the LORD let him know by the seer, Jehu, that **he had messed up and that the LORD was NOT happy with him and that the wrath of God was upon him because of his alliance with Ahab!**
(2 Chronicles 19:1-3)

3. His Alliance Cost Him His Son's Spirituality!

With the exception of his WRONG ALLIANCES, Jehoshaphat was an otherwise good King!
(It doesn't take much to mess up!)

But get this, while Jehoshaphat was busy being buddy, buddy with Ahab, **he allowed his eldest son, Jehoram, to marry the daughter of the wicked Ahab and wicked Jezebel!**
(THAT was NOT a good thing for his son or his nation!)

We're not told how that happened, but it did and it evilly affected his son, who in turn evilly affected the nation of Judah! (We'll see more about this shortly!)

B. Then, After Ahab's Death And The LORD Rebuking Him, Jehoshaphat Made The Additional Mistake Of Helping Ahab's Wicked Son Ahaziah Also! (2 Chronicles 20:35-37)

Again here we see that the LORD was NOT happy with Jehoshaphat about this and sent another Prophet to let him know about it!

The evil effect here is that Jehoshaphat wasted his time, his effort, and his resources on this project because the LORD brought it all to nothing!

So, we see the beginning of the evil affect on Jehoshaphat's life that also began to evilly affect his family as well as the nation of Judah!

EVIL ALLIANCES HAVE EVIL EFFECTS!

II. EVIL MARRIAGES HAVE EVIL EFFECTS! (2 Kings 8:16-19)
Jehoshaphat's Eldest Son, The Heir To The Throne, Jehoram, Married The Daughter Of The Wicked Ahab And Wicked Jezebel!

Here we see mentioned that Jehoshaphat's eldest son, **JEHORAM**, reigned in Judah after his death!

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What we've read is a very sad commentary of a King who brought idolatry into Judah. We've seen how idolatry was one of the main downfalls of the Northern Kingdom of Israel! Idolatry is never good in any form!

The author tells us here of Jehoram's wayward walk and ways! (*Vs 18*) When we get to our passage in *2 Chronicles 21:6* we will see this same statement!

So, Ahab's daughter was an evil influence on Jehoram!

In the same way that Jezebel was an evil influence on Ahab!
Like mother, like daughter!

Do you think that would have ever happened had his dad not gotten buddy, buddy, with Ahab? Probably not!

III. JEHORAM'S EVIL AFFECTED HIS LIFE, HIS REIGN OF JUDAH AND HIS SON'S REIGN OF JUDAH! (*2 Kings 8:20-27*)

Jehoram's marriage to Ahab's daughter ATHALIAH influenced him negatively in a very drastic way and also resulted in his son, Ahaziah, who succeeded him on the throne, being influenced negatively as well! (*8:26-27*)

Jehoram was led into idolatry and brought in the godless ways of Ahab and Jezebel into the land of Judah!

The passing of his dad Jehoshaphat meant that he lost any and all countering influence in his life!

The cancer of sin spread, not just **from one family to another, from one nation to another**, but **from one generation to another**.

The close ties with wickedness meant that the bad influence continued to pollute.

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Alliances matter! Marriage matters! Who one marries matters! Marriage has its rewards but also its consequences. It is important to choose wisely in these matters because close ties can affect us— either positively or negatively!

And it was not that Jehoram had a bad start to his life.

Now you may or may not remember that we mentioned Jehoram when we were looking at the end King Jehoshaphat's reign and we were talking about what might have been Jehoshaphat's judgment from God from hanging around with the likes of Ahab and making alliances with him!

Scripture does not specifically say what Jehoshaphat's judgment was, but we said that we find a good possibility of what it was in evil fruit of the life of his son, Jehoram. (*See 2 Chronicles 21:1-11*)

We see here that Jehoshaphat's eldest son, Jehoram, reigned in his stead. (*Vs 1*)

We also see here that Jehoshaphat had 6 other sons and he gave great gifts to all of his sons. (*Vs 2-3*)

Jehoram had the position, the power, the prestige and the possession for a decent life.

Next, we see what I believe to be God's wrath on Jehoshaphat. (*Vs 4*) The moment Jehoram came to power, he consolidated his power by getting rid of all potential threats, including his brothers, whom the LORD later says were better than him. (*21:13*)

That's just the beginning. We see **Jehoram walked in the way of the kings of Israel, rather than in the ways of his father and grandfather!** And the reason for that most likely had something to do with his daddy hanging around Ahab because he married Ahab's daughter! (*Vs 5-6*)

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Verse 7 speaks of how the LORD remained true to His covenant with David despite the evil ways of Jehoram!

As we read to the end of the chapter, we find that though the LORD didn't wipe Jehoram and his family out entirely because of His covenant with David, the LORD did cause great trouble for him!

The LORD first caused the Edomites to revolt from under Jehoram's rule and then Libnah did the same. (*Vs 8-11*)

Then the LORD had the Prophet Elijah send a letter to Jehoram to let him know that his wickedness was also going to cause him and his family to suffer from a plague and he personally would suffer from a great sickness. (*Vs 12-15*)

In his 8 year reign, Jehoram destroyed all the good that his father and his grandfather had done in Judah!

He had the chance to live right and stay godly, but he failed to do it! It wasn't that he had a very bad upbringing. People tend to think that we are the product of our past circumstances and experiences, but realize that it doesn't have to be that way!

Now, we might be affected by our past circumstances and experiences, but that doesn't mean we have to be the product of them!

WE ARE WHO WE ARE TODAY BECAUSE OF THE CHOICES WE HAVE MADE! Who we are DOES NOT have to be determined by our past! By God's grace, we can always choose to do right!

Jehoram had chosen to follow the ways of Ahab (that is emphasized a few times here in the Scripture), instead of following his father and grandfather's ways!

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On top of that, the LORD stirred up the Philistines and the Arabians against him such that all of Jehoram's sons were taken into captivity along with his wives, except his youngest son, Jehoahaz a/k/a Ahaziah! (*Vs 16-17*)

That is the point when the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease just like the Prophet Elijah said and for two years he suffered with the disease and then his bowels fell out and he died! (*Vs 18-20*)

What a sad situation to have reigned in Judah for eight years and no one was sad to see him dead!

"...and he departed without being desired."

Now, the state of Judah at this time was not good and may even have looked hopeless to the godly remnant, except for the fact that the LORD is sovereign and He was still in control!

So, what does one do when their situation is so dark like this? Remember God's Word and His faithfulness to it!

Despite all this, that we have seen, the light of God had not be extinguished!

2 Kings 8:19—"Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah for David his servant's sake, as he promised him to give him always a light, and to his children."

Always remember that the LORD will do what He says in His Word!

This was NOT the end of Judah! There was hope! There was hope because the LORD made a promise, a covenant, with David and He ALWAYS keeps His covenants!

(In closing draw a correlation to the evil going on in our day and the LORD's promises in His Word!)