

2 Chronicles 21 — “The Rise & Fall of the Corrupt & Idolatrous King Jehoram! Be Warned!”

“A wise son makes a father glad; but a foolish son is a grief to his mother” (Proverbs 10:1)

Many people once grew up in church but have since departed & live worldly lives. Worldliness, Materialism, earthly ambition, social success, popularity, self-promoting & self-loving hedonism and other forms of spiritual idolatry have blinded so many to their godly spiritual heritage. [King Jehoram was like this.]

Background to 2 Chronicles 21

Tonight begins a 3-chapter account on the devastating depravity of Judah (2 Chron 21-23).

It's the “Trilogy of Traitors.”

Tonight we begin it with Jehoram; Here Judah has spun out of control with this wretched, pagan, Godless king — King Jehoram of Judah (son of Jehoshaphat).

1. Jehoram (rules 8 years)
2. Ahaziah (rules 1 year)
3. Athaliah (rules 6 years)

THESIS — Watch the RISE & FALL of corrupt Jehoram: Be Warned, beloved!

1. The **RISE** of the King (1-7)
2. The **REVOLT** against the King (8-11)
3. The **REBUKE** to the King (12-15)
4. The **RETRIBUTION** to the King (16-20)

I. THE RISE OF THE KING (1-7)

- This is the account/rise of “one of the vilest kings” (Matt Henry).

II. THE REVOLT AGAINST THE KING (8-11)

III. THE REBUKE TO THE KING (12-15)

This is the only *written* correspondence we have of Elijah. It's a word of divine wrath/judgment. A prophecy of judgment has three elements: (1) messenger formula ['the word of the LORD'], (2) indictment [because you have done this...], (3) announcement of judgment [thus, God will punish you...].

IV. THE RETRIBUTION TO THE KING (16-20)

- Mark God's word as true: Prov 15:25 - the LORD will tear down the house of the proud...

- It's true: Prov 14:32 — the WICKED is thrust down by his wrongdoing, but the righteous has a refuge when he dies.

You who have PARENTS WHO FEAR GOD & WALK IN HIS WAYS, I wanna give you 4 pieces of advice/warning that I glean from the sad account of Jehoram:

1. *Give Thanks!*
2. *Refuse Stubbornness!*
3. *Glean Truth!*
4. *Walk Obediently!*

Edward Lawrence wrote a booklet titled: “*Parents’ Groans over Their Ungodly Children*” & the very last 2 paragraphs are a strong warning & exhortation to all children (as it were, to NOT be a Jehoram):

- And now, children, I will take my leave of you, and shall leave you to the God with whom ye have to do, and with whom ye must have to do forever. He is the God who will plead the cause of His own name, honour, and glory with you, and who will plead the cause of your distressed parents with you. He is a God whose wrath ye can neither escape nor bear. There is a war betwixt this God and you! If ye can make it appear that ye are greater, wiser, stronger, and better than He, ye may go on—but I've tried to persuade you to believe, repent, and obey the Gospel—and so to make peace with God through Jesus Christ.
- And for your encouragement, I do assure you, that the grace of God and merits of Christ are as sufficient to save you from all your horrid abominations, as if ye were innocent. God, Christ, angels, your parents, friends, and all saints, are ready to rejoice in your conversion and salvation, and your iniquities shall never be mentioned against you. So if you truly turn to God, God will (as He is represented in the parable of the prodigal son) meet you in mercy, and fall on your necks and kiss you, and entertain you with all the blessings of the Gospel, saying, “These my children were dead, and now they are alive; they were lost, and now they are found”!

Soldiers of Christ Arise [tune: “Crown Him”]

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,
 Strong in the strength which God supplies through His eternal Son.
 Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in His mighty power,
 Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.

Stand then in His great might, with all His strength endued,
 But take, to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God;
 That, having all things done, and all your conflicts passed,
 Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone and stand entire at last.

Stand then against your foes, in close and firm array;
 Legions of wily fiends oppose throughout the evil day.
 But meet the sons of night, and mock their vain design,
 Armed in the arms of heavenly light, of righteousness divine.

But, above all, lay hold on faith's victorious shield;
 Armed with that adamant and gold, be sure to win the field:
 If faith surround your heart, Satan shall be subdued,
 Repelled his every fiery dart, and quenched with Jesu's blood.

Jesus hath died for you! What can His love withstand?
 Believe, hold fast your shield, and who shall pluck you from His hand?
 Believe that Jesus reigns; all power to Him is giv'n:
 Believe, till freed from sin's remains; believe yourselves to Heav'n.

To keep your armor bright, attend with constant care,
 Still walking in your Captain's sight, and watching unto prayer.
 Ready for all alarms, steadfastly set your face,
 And always exercise your arms, and use your every grace.

Pray without ceasing, pray, your Captain gives the word;
 His summons cheerfully obey and call upon the Lord;
 To God your every want in instant prayer display,
 Pray always; pray and never faint; pray, without ceasing, pray!

From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray,
 Tread all the powers of darkness down and win the well fought day.
 Still let the Spirit cry in all His soldiers, “Come!”
 Till Christ the Lord descends from high and takes the conquerors home.

-- Charles Wesley [1741]