

2 Chronicles 22 — “The Catastrophe of Corrupt Counselors: The Kingship of the Wicked King Ahaziah”

Introduction:

The reformation in Geneva, Switzerland

It was May 21, 1536 that the city of Geneva in Switzerland was finally awakened to the Light. It was the Reformation message, the good news of salvation by grace alone in Christ alone through faith alone. This was *GOOD NEWS* for weary and sad souls.

THE GOSPEL — the very light of Truth of the Light of the world was sweeping thru Europe including Geneva and a new motto was born: “*After Darkness, LIGHT!*” The people and the city declared that in the midst of such darkness, God had faithfully brought light ... **THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL!**

When it seems as though the plan of God is failing; When the wicked seem to triumph; When God’s plans, purposes, provisions, promises are barely visible thru the dark clouds looming overhead,

WHAT DO YOU DO?
WHERE DO YOU TRUST?
WHAT MUST YOU HOPE IN?

Background to 2 Chronicles 22

- We continue the “Trilogy of Traitors” or the “Kings of Corruption” here in 2 Chron 22. The dynasty of David (the kingdom of Judah) is at an all time low & is within a hair of being obliterated & All God’s covenant promises to David & his line is an inch from destruction!

THESIS — Watching the Davidic dynasty almost crumble, we can summarize the devastating chapter 4 words:

1. **Guidance** (*divine guidance*)
2. **Alliance** (*disobedient alliance*)
3. **Recompense** (*destructive recompense*)
4. **Providence** (*divine providence*)

I. DEPRAVED GUIDANCE (1-4)

Prov 12.15 - the way of the fool is right in his own eyes

II. DISOBEDIENT ALLIANCE (5-6)

III. DESTRUCTIVE RECOMPENSE (7-9)

Why these verses?? To teach that GOD repays almost immediately EVIL FOR EVIL upon those who fail to emulate David's example of godliness and righteousness in his kingship. The kings were called to follow God, obey Scripture & walk in holiness!

Verse 9 - there was NO ONE of the house of Ahaziah (=lineage of David) to retain the power of the kingdom. The Davidic line almost broke; ceased; was obliterated!!

IV. DIVINE PROVIDENCE (10-12)

This is nothing new. Many leaders rose up against Israel.

“A tale of two women: Athaliah & Jehoshabeath”

Athaliah:

We remember that Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and was given to Jehoram, King of Judah as a bride (because of a foolish marriage-alliance pact at the hands of Jehoshaphat). She was a bad influence on both her husband (Jehoram of Judah) and her son (King Ahaziah of Judah). So now Ahaziah is being counseled by his mother Athaliah.

Jehoshabeath

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- ♣Psalm 33.11 — the counsel of the Lord stands forever.
- ♣Proverbs 21.30 — there is no counsel against the Lord!

God's faithfulness & promises are:

1. CERTAIN
2. part of a BIGGER PLAN
3. all certified in CHRIST
4. COMFORTING
5. to be TRUSTED

Conclusion:

So what happens when a ruler rises up against **God** and against **God's Messiah?**

Closing words from PSALM 2 —

1. Wicked **Rulers** Rise up against God (vv1-3)
2. **God** remains untouched & unhurried on Heaven's Sovereign Throne (vv4-5)
3. God's sovereign **PLAN & COUNSEL** will most assuredly come to pass (vv6-8)
4. Wicked Rulers, Rebels & Transgressors will be **crushed** (v9)
5. The **INVITATION** is to **BOW BEFORE GOD'S APPOINTED SON WHO IS KING & RULER** (vv10-12)

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, His blood
support me in the 'whelming flood;
when all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
O may I then in Him be found,
dressed in His righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

2 Chronicles 22 — “The Catastrophe of Corrupt Counselors: The Kingship of the Wicked King Ahaziah”***It Is Well With My Soul***

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
 When sorrows like sea billows roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*It is well,
 With my soul
 It is well, it is well, with my soul!*

Though Satan should buffet, though
 trials should come,
 Let this blest assurance control,
 That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
 My sin, not in part but the whole,
 Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my
 faith shall be sight,
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
 The trump shall resound, and the
 Lord shall descend,
 Even so, it is well with my soul.

A few additional notes:

841 BC - an important year in the reign of Ahaziah, in Ancient Near Eastern history & in God's sovereign purposes!

- it marks the end of the reigns of Joram of Israel and both Jehoram and Ahaziah of Judah
- it marks the beginning of the reign of Jehu (king of the North)
- it is the year that the Davidic messianic line was suspended by its slenderest thread (almost completely gone)
- Athaliah, Ahaziah's mother, and Ahab's daughter, undertook a systematic purge of all the Judean royal family.
- PROVIDENTIALLY, an infant son of Ahaziah survived, and the Davidic dynasty therefore continued!

With the death of King Ahaziah, it seemed that God's promise that David would not lack a "LAMP" to rule over Israel seemed to be FAILING.

- > did God's promise fail?
- > where is God now?
- > what could God POSSIBLY be doing?
- > how could God's plan STILL be working?
- > it just doesn't LOOK like God is victorious.

The lamp that God had given to David was *NOW* only a barely, flickering wick.

- > but in God's almighty power, he does not allow it to be extinguished.
- > He had Joash, then only a 1-year old child, waiting to be crowned in a few years (he'd be 7 years old!)
- > Does God use *young boys and girls* in His sovereign plan? Of course!

Jehoshabeath (v. 11) - This little-known woman (known as *Jehosheba* in [2 Kings 11:2](#)) had an important place in God's plan of the ages. Through her courage and ingenuity, she preserved the royal line of David through which the Messiah would come. Evil people like Athaliah will begin their work, **but** God can always raise up a **Jehoshabeath**.

SHE was a woman of courage, strength, a woman who acted in faith!

SHE was a woman used of GOD (in the bigger, sovereign, providential plan of GOD to bring Messiah!)

"Nothing but the miraculous intervention of the divine providence could have saved the line of David at this time, and preserved the prophecy relative to the Messiah. The whole truth of that prophecy, and the salvation of the world, appeared to be now suspended on the brittle thread of the life of an infant of a year old, (see 2 Chronicles 24:1,) to destroy whom was the interest of the reigning power! But God can save by few as well as by many. He had purposed, and vain were the counter-exertions of earth and hell." (Clarke)