

# Jehoram/Ahaziah/Athaliah

**2 Chronicles 21:1-3** [New King James] *“And Jehoshaphat rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Jehoram his son reigned in his place. He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azaryahu, Michael, and Shephatiah; all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. Their father gave them great gifts of silver and gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah; but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn.”*

**Jehoram was married to Athaliah the daughter of Ahab, king of Israel, and his wife Jezebel and the “fruits” of this marriage were very soon to bring the Davidic line to the edge of extinction.**

**2 Chronicles 21:4** [New King James] *“Now when Jehoram was established over the kingdom of his father, he strengthened himself and killed all his brothers with the sword, and also others of the princes of Israel.”*

**The brutal way Jehoram established his authority over the kingdom. Why?**

**2 Chronicles 21:5-6** [New King James] *“Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for he had the daughter of Ahab as a wife; and he did evil in the sight of the LORD.”*

**It was the powerful influence of his wife Athaliah who was following the example of her mother Jezebel, [2 Kings 8:16-19].**

**Jehoram’s apostasy did not pass unrebuked. A letter from God’s servant Elijah pronounced the sentence of judgement on him and foretold of his premature and very painful death, [2 Chronicles 21:12-20].**

**2 Chronicles 22:1-4** [New King James] *“Then the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah his youngest son king in his place, for the raiders who came with the Arabians into the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram, king of Judah, reigned. Ahaziah was forty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do wickedly. Therefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD, like the house of Ahab; for they were his counsellors after the death of his father, to his destruction.”*

**Ahaziah’s one year reign was really the preparation time for his wife to take over power completely as Ahaziah and all his family were killed during an ill-fated visit to the family of his wife, [2 Chronicles 22:5-9].**

**2 Chronicles 22:10-12** [New King James] *“Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah. But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king’s sons who were being murdered, and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him. And he was hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.”*

**Athaliah’s attempt to wipe out all the royal family of King David failed and the faithful Levites gathered all the people, crowned Joash king of Judah, under the direction of Jehoiada, the chief priest, [2 Chronicles 23:1-11].**

**Athaliah was seized and killed and all the pagan idols and altars were destroyed, [2 Chronicles 23:12-21].**

All this was done under the strong leadership of the high priest Jehoiada who continued to support the young King Joash.

**What can we learn from the lives of these three people?**

**Matthew 26:52** [New King James] *“But Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.’”*

**If we use violence to attain power we will eventually have it taken from us by similar violence.**

**We tend to reflect and be influenced by the company we keep, for good or for bad.**