

# SECOND CHRONICLES

## Chapter 22

### *Ahaziah Reigns in Judah*

**And the inhabitants of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place, for the band of men that came with the Arabians to the camp had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah reigned. 2 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri. 3 He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor in doing wickedly. 4 He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done. For after the death of his father they were his counselors, to his undoing. 5 He even followed their counsel and went with Jehoram the son of Ahab king of Israel to make war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead. And the Syrians wounded Joram, 6 and he returned to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds that he had received at Ramah, when he fought against Hazael king of Syria. And Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he was wounded. 7 But it was ordained by God that the downfall of Ahaziah should come about through his going to visit Joram. For when he came there, he went out with Jehoram to meet Jehu the son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab. 8 And when Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he met the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers, who attended Ahaziah, and he killed them. 9 He searched for Ahaziah, and he was captured while hiding in Samaria, and he was brought to Jehu and put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He is the grandson of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." And the house of Ahaziah had no one able to rule the kingdom.**

**22:1–9** The Chronicler's account of Ahaziah's reign is much shorter than the parallel in 2Ki 8:24–9:29, probably due to the fact that the Kings account focuses on the rebellion of Jehu and the downfall of the dynasty of Omri (see 2Ki 8:26; see also 1Ki 16:21–28)—events in the northern kingdom, in which the Chronicler is not interested. The Chronicler's account again shows his interest in immediate retribution: Ahaziah's personal wickedness and his involvement in a foreign alliance result in immediate judgment and a reign of only one year reign of Ahaziah of Judah. The Chronicler's concern here, as elsewhere, is the kingdom of Judah, not Israel. (TLSB)

**22:1** *had killed all the older sons.* Emphasizes divine retribution: Jehoram, who murdered all his brothers, had to watch the death of his own sons (21:4, 13, 16–17). (CSB)

**22:2–4** *Athaliah.* Daughter of Ahab and granddaughter of Omri was Ahaziah's counselor for evil. Therefore, his downfall at the hands of Jehu (vv 7–9; 2Ki 9:27–28) was from God. The Chronicler esp notes Athaliah's influence and her northern retinue of advisers as the cause of Ahaziah's undoing. (TLSB)

**22:2** *twenty-two.* The Hebrew reading of "42" would make Ahaziah older than his father (21:20). (CSB)

*one year.* 841 B.C. (CSB)

**22:3–4** The great influence of the dynasty of Omri in Judah is indicated by the power of Athaliah and the presence of advisers from the northern kingdom. (CSB)

**22:5–6** *followed their counsel.* The Chronicler's concern for Judah prompts him to introduce the war account with the explanation that Ahaziah allied himself with Joram because of the advice of wicked counselors. (TLSB)

**22:5** *went with Joram ... to war.* An action similar to that for which Jehoshaphat had been rebuked. (CSB)

*Hazael.* Had been anointed by Elisha; he later killed his master in a coup to seize the throne (2Ki 8:13–15; cf. 1Ki 19:15 and note). (CSB)

*Ramoth Gilead.* Located in the Transjordan border area between Israel and Aram. More than ten years earlier Jehoshaphat had participated with Ahab in a battle there that cost Ahab his life (ch. 18; 1Ki 22). (CSB)

**22:6** *returned to Jezreel.* Joram apparently recovered Ramoth Gilead and left Jehu in charge (2Ki 8:28–9:28). (CSB)

**22:7–9** Cf 2Ki 9:14–29. Alliance with Joram explains Ahaziah's death. His death was "ordained by God," as was Saul's (1Ch 10:13–14). All of Ahaziah's family is killed either here by Jehu or later by Athaliah, except for one son, Joash (vv 10–11), who continued the Davidic and messianic line. The Chronicler assumes the reader knows this history and presents this matter to illustrate his theology of retribution. (TLSB)

**22:7** *downfall of Ahaziah.* The Chronicler assumes that the reader is familiar with the account of Jehu's anointing and the additional details of the coup, which resulted in the deaths of Joram and Ahaziah (2Ki 8:28–9:28). While the writer of Kings primarily portrays the end of the dynasty of Omri as a result of the judgment of God (1Ki 21:20–29; 2Ki 9:24–10:17), the Chronicler notes that the assassination of Ahaziah was also brought about by God. (CSB)

**22:9** The account of Ahaziah's death appears to be somewhat different in the two histories (cf. 2Ki 9:21–27; 10:12–14). Since the writer of Chronicles presumes the reader's familiarity with the other account (see note on v. 7), it is best to take the details of Chronicles as supplementary to Kings, not contradictory, though it is difficult to know the precise sequence and location of events. Apart from the Chronicler's statement that Ahaziah received a decent burial because of his father's piety rather than his own, the differences in the two accounts do not appear to be theologically motivated. There is no summary statement about the reign of Ahaziah in either history. (CSB)

**22:1–9** The Lord wills and brings about the downfall of Ahaziah and the house of Ahab. No family is perfect; all are within reach of God's punishment. Pray for your household, that God's Word and peace may prevail among you and rule your hearts. Our heavenly Father greatly desires to show mercy to all people. • Pour out, O Lord, Your Spirit of peace upon us, and grant all our family Your abiding grace. Amen. (TLSB)

*Athaliah Reigns in Judah*

**10** Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family of the house of Judah. **11** 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 about to be put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of Jehoiada the priest, because she was a sister of Ahaziah, hid him from Athaliah, so that she did not put him to death. 12 And he remained with them six years, hidden in the house of God, while Athaliah reigned over the land.**

**22:10–12** See 2Ki 11:1–3. In the history of Judah, Athaliah represents the only break in the continuity of the Davidic dynasty; she is the only queen of Judah to rule in her own name (841–835 B.C.). Her attempt to wipe out the royal family repeated the action of her husband Jehoram (21:4). It threatened the continuity of the Davidic dynasty, and if she had succeeded, Judah may have been claimed by the dynasty of Omri in the north since Athaliah was from that dynasty and had no living son and heir. (CSB)

Athaliah rules over Judah. Unique period in Judah, when a non-Davidic ruler sits on the throne, a queen who destroys her own descendants in order to secure her rule (her husband, Jehoram, acts similarly in 21:4). As with the end of Saul's reign in 1Ch 10, God ordained the death of one king (Ahaziah) in order to raise up another (Joash). (TLSB)

**22:10** *destroyed all the royal family.* Despot, cruel, and iron-willed, Athaliah did not shrink from killing her own grandsons, fearing they could challenge her usurpation of power. (TLSB)

**22:11** *wife of the priest Jehoiada.* Heroine preserves the life of her nephew Joash, the last remaining descendant of the Davidic line. The Lord's kingdom can be threatened and attacked, but it is truly the Lord's; He will act in history to preserve it (1Ch 17:14; 2Ch 13:8). (TLSB)