

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 22

Ahaziah King of Judah

The people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, Jehoram's youngest son, king in his place, since the raiders, who came with the Arabs into the camp, had killed all the older sons. So Ahaziah son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign. ² Ahaziah was twenty-two ^a years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem one year. His mother's name was Athaliah, a granddaughter of Omri. ³ He too walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother encouraged him in doing wrong. ⁴ He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as the house of Ahab had done, for after his father's death they became his advisers, to his undoing. ⁵ He also followed their counsel when he went with Joram ^b son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth Gilead. The Arameans wounded Joram; ⁶ so he returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds they had inflicted on him at Ramoth ^c in his battle with Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah ^d son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to Jezreel to see Joram son of Ahab because he had been wounded. ⁷ Through Ahaziah's visit to Joram, God brought about Ahaziah's downfall. When Ahaziah arrived, he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had anointed to destroy the house of Ahab. ⁸ While Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, he found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's relatives, who had been attending Ahaziah, and he killed them. ⁹ He then went in search of Ahaziah, and his men captured him while he was hiding in Samaria. He was brought to Jehu and put to death. They buried him, for they said, "He was a son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart." So there was no one in the house of Ahaziah powerful enough to retain 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 (see note on 16:2–9; see also Introduction to 1 Chronicles: Purpose and Themes). (CSB)

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 (see 19:2 and note). (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 *God brought about Ahaziah's downfall.* 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 and Joash

¹⁰ When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah. ¹¹ But Jehosheba,^a the daughter of King Jehoram, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehosheba,^b the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so she could not kill him. ¹² He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled 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.* Despotic, 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*. Not noted in Kings. (CSB)

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)