

# Royal Lessons for Life

## Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah

(Judah)

### Jehoram's Biography

- Began his rule as a co-ruler with his father Jehoshaphat and then reigned for eight years as king – II Kings 8:16-17
- His wife, Ahab's daughter Athaliah, draws him away from God – II Kings 8:18-19
- His first act as king is to murder his brothers – II Chronicles 21:1-4
- Elijah (who was already taken to heaven) wrote a letter denouncing Jehoram and prophesying of both a plague and an illness on the king – II Chronicles 21:12-15
- The Edomites rebel against his weak leadership – II Kings 8:20-22, II Chronicles 21:8-10
- A coalition of Philistines and Arabians sack Jerusalem – II Chronicles 21:16-17
- He dies after two years of sickness and Ahaziah succeeds him – II Kings 8:23-24, II Chronicles 21:19-20

### Ahaziah's Biography

- Ahaziah is a link between the divided kingdoms: his father Jehoram is of the line of David and his mother Athaliah is of the line of Omri – II Kings 8:24-26
- He follows in the sinful ways of Ahab – II Kings 8:27, II Chronicles 22:3-4
- He helps his uncle Jehoram of Israel in a campaign against Syria – II Kings 8:28, II Chronicles 22:5
- He is caught and killed by Jehu – II Kings 9:27-28, II Chronicles 22:9

### Athaliah's Biography

- Seizes power and kills other claimants (including her grandchildren), only the infant Joash escapes – II Kings 11:1-3, II Chronicles 22:10-12
- She is the only queen to rule over Judah or Israel and the only non-Davidic ruler over Judah. In fact, she almost destroys the Davidic line.
- She rules for six years until Jehoiada the priest leads an insurrection against her and establishes Joash as king – II Kings 11:4-16, II Chronicles 23:1-15

### Lessons from the Lives of Jehoram, Ahaziah, Athaliah

- This era is testimony to the power, for good or evil, of one woman – Proverbs 12:4
- "...the spiritual life of a nation, city, town, school, church, or home never rises any higher than the spiritual life of women." – R.G. Lee