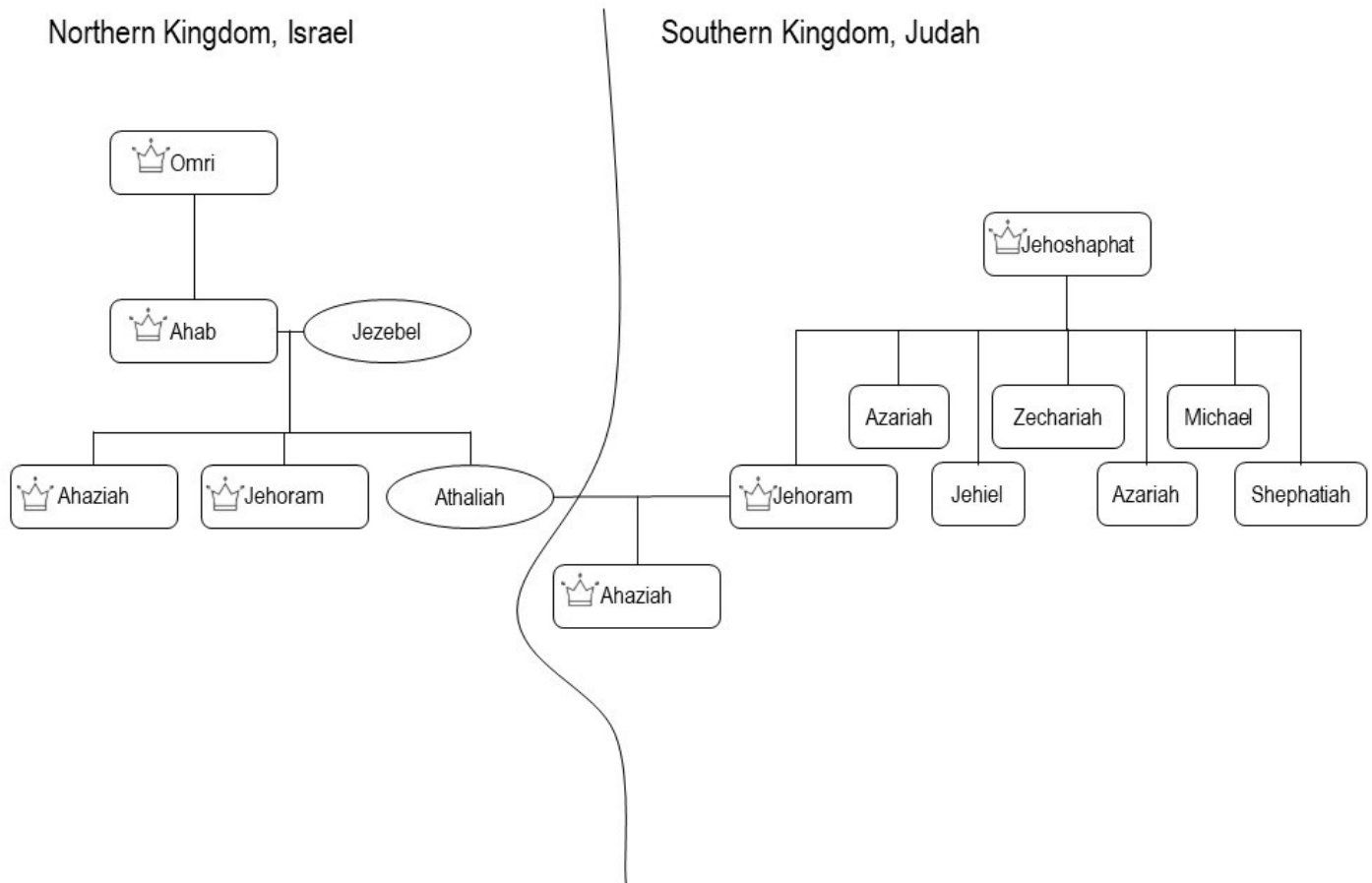


The Kings of Judah and Israel

LESSON #38 | King Ahaziah Visits His Sick Maternal Uncle, Joram

Teacher: Pr. Cornelius Koshy

1. Let us revise the family tree of the Northern and Southern kings!



2. What is the name of Ahaziah's father? _____

3. What is the name of Ahaziah's maternal uncle? _____

4. To avoid confusion, what is the name of Ahaziah's maternal uncle recorded in 2 Kings 8:28-29? _____

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2 Kings 8:28-29

28 And he went with Joram the son of Ahab to the war against Hazael king of Syria in Ramothgilead; and the Syrians wounded Joram.

29 And king Joram went back to be healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Syrians had given him 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 sick.

5. By now, we would have been very familiar with the city of Ramothgilead. It was a highly contested city between the Syrians and Israelites. Can you remember some instances in our study thus far in which the battle of Ramothgilead was discussed?

- ☐ Ramothgilead was a city of refuge. A city of refuge was a place where one could seek protection for a time, if he had accidentally killed someone, and awaits proper judgement. There were six of such cities, and Ramoth in gilead was one of them. (Joshua 20:6-7)
- ☐ During Joram's father's time, King Ahab also endeavoured to conquer Ramothgilead from the Syrians. Ahab approached Jehoshaphat in Judah to assist him, and Jehoshaphat willingly supported by saying, "I am as thou art, and my people as thy people; and we will be with thee in the war." (2 Chronicles 18:1-3)
- ☐ Before going for battle, Jehoshaphat wanted to enquire of the LORD if it was His will to fight Syria for Ramothgilead. However, Ahab had 400 Baal prophets and no prophet of God, save Micaiah the son of Imla, whom Ahab hated. When Micaiah was called, he sarcastically replied, "Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand" 2 Chronicles 18:4-8
- ☐ In this battle for Ramothgilead, Ahab disguised himself as one of the soldiers, and he was shot with an arrow, and he finally died in this battle. Jehoshaphat narrowly escaped, for the Syrian soldiers realised he was not Ahab!

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In this battle with Syrians, Joram was wounded by the Syrians! This happened 14 years after his father fought with the Syrians, was wounded and eventually died!

6. How do we know that this happened 14 years after his father death?

Firstly, when Ahab died, Ahab's first son, Ahaziah, reigned for _ years. After Ahaziah died, his brother, Jehoram (who is also Ahab's son), reigned.

2 Kings 8:25 tells us that this account happened in the __ th year of this reign.

Hence _ + __ = __ years. It was 14 years after Ahab died that Joram fought against Ramothgilead again!

Unlike his father, Joram seems to have been successful because Ramothgilead was recovered, as recorded in 2 Kings 9:14, and remained probably thenceforth in the hands of the Israelites. 2 Kings 9:14 reads, "So Jehu the son of Jehoshaphat the son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. (Now Joram had kept Ramothgilead, he and all Israel, because of Hazael king of Syria." The "kept" tells us that Ramothgilead was in the p _____ n of Israelites.

After being wounded, Joram returned to _____ to be healed. Jezreel must have been a beautiful place. Remember, Ahab and Jezebel had forcefully possessed the vineyard belonging to _____ the Jezreelite by falsely _____ Naboth of blaspheming against God, which led to his death by s _____.

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7.2 Kings 8:29 tells us that Joram received his wounds in Ramah. If his battle at Ramothgilead and he received his wounds in Ramah, what does that tell us about Ramah and Ramothgilead?

☐ Ramoth and Ramah are the same locations, but with different names.

☐ Ramoth is not Ramah and the bible here has a mistake in its record.

8. Ahaziah went down to visit his maternal uncle, Joram, who was wounded, which might have led to a fever. And so, it was brought about by God's Providence that Ahaziah should here meet with the destruction appointed for him, which is recorded 2 Chronicles 22:7. Before we get there, we must be first introduced to _ _ _ _ , the next king of Israel, who would kill _ _ _ _ _ and cut off the house of _ _ _ _ .