

**Lessons From Characters In Old Testament**  
**Jehoram & Obadiah**  
**Lesson 35**

**INTRO:**

- A. Not to be confused with Jehoram, King of Israel, King Jehoram of Judah was the oldest son of King Jehoshaphat of Judah and the fifth king of Judah. (**2 Chronicles 21:3**)
  - 1. Jehoram was 32 when he began to reign and he reigned eight years though he apparently began reigning while his father was also reigning. (**2 Kings 8:16,17**)
  - 2. Jehoram's wife was Athaliah, who was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel (**2 Chronicles 21:6**).
- B. Jehoram made sure he would remain king by killing all of his brothers (**2 Chronicles 21:1-4**).
- C. Despite the evil in Jehoram's life, the Lord did not destroy the house of David completely due to His covenant with David (**2 Chronicles 21:7**).
  - 1. Judah ultimately would be brought down but it would be by God's wisdom and in God's time; during Jehoram's reign, the time had not yet come for that to happen.
- D. The summary of Jehoram's reign is given in **2 Kings 8:18** and **2 Chronicles 21:6**.
- E. At first, we might wonder how a king of Judah could be influenced to follow the ways of Ahab who was the king of Israel.
  - 1. However, we must remember: "*for the daughter of Ahab was his wife*" (**2 Kings 8:18**).
- F. During Jehoram's reign, Edom made war against Judah (**2 Kings 8:20-22**; **2 Chronicles 21:8-10**).
  - 1. Edom was a relative and neighbor to the southeast of Judah.
  - 2. They were the descendants of Esau.
  - 2. This war was in fulfillment of what Isaac foretold many centuries before (**Genesis 27:39,40**).
- G. During this same period of time, the prophet Obadiah comes into the picture. (**Obadiah 1:10-14**)
  - 1. When Edom rebelled against Jehoram and Judah, the Philistines and the Arabians also were invading Jerusalem (**2 Kings 8:20-22**; **2 Chronicles 21:16-17**).
  - 2. Although, 2 Chronicles does not mention the Edomites' involvement, Obadiah 1:10-14 describes the violent acts the Edomites carried out on their relatives by waiting on nearby roads to kill those fleeing from the invaders within Jerusalem.
  - 3. The Edomites could have easily heard of Jerusalem's invasion by foreign powers as Edom was not a very strong nation to begin with.
  - 4. The majority of the book of Obadiah pronounces judgment on the nation of Edom.
  - 5. Obadiah's single and primary focus points to a significant and difficult truth about mankind's relationship with God: when people place themselves in opposition to God's people, they can expect judgment.
  - 6. Edom had been found guilty of pride before the Lord (**Obadiah 1:3**).
    - a. They had thought themselves greater than they actually were; great enough to mock, steal from, and even harm God's chosen people.

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- b. But the "Lord God" (**Obadiah 1:1**) a name Obadiah used to stress God's sovereign power over the nations, will not stand by and let His people suffer forever (**1:1**).
- 7. Through Obadiah, God reminded Edom of their poor treatment of His people (**1:12-14**) and promised redemption, not to the Edomites but to the people of Judah (**1:17-18**).
- 8. The nation of Edom, which eventually disappeared into history, remains one of the great examples of the truth stated in **Proverbs 16:18**.
- H. Back to Jehoram, sad to say, he did not follow the example of his father, Jehoshaphat.
  - a. Jehoshaphat had put forth great efforts to bring God's people back to the Lord and turn them from idols. (**2 Chronicles 19:4**).
  - b. Jehoram, on the other hand, "*led Judah astray*" by idolatry (**2 Chronicles 21:11**). What a difference in direction that was!
  - c. This was the exact opposite of his father.
- I. Elijah had prophesied the manner in which Jehoram and his family would be made to suffer because of his ungodliness and evil influence on Judah (**2 Chronicles 21:12-15**).
  - 1. Jehoram was struck sick and died in the terrible manner which Elijah prophesied (**21:18,19**).
  - 2. When Jehoram died, he was not missed by the nation of Judah nor was he buried in the tombs of the kings (**2 Chronicles 21:19,20**).
- J. What a sad commentary on his life and reign over God's people.
- K. Let us always realize the importance of the Old Testament and how we still have it with us for our learning (**Romans 15:4**).

**I. Lessons From Jehoram & Obadiah.**

**A. We Must Not Do As Jehoram In That He "*had forsaken the Lord God*" (2 Chronicles 21:10)"**

- 1. It happens, but there are no justifiable reasons for any human being doing such; ever.
- 2. There may be a number of factors which influence a person to leave the Lord, and he might give a number of excuses and point fingers at others, but the bottom line is this: a person departs from God because his heart is not truly devoted to God.
- 3. Jehoram's killing of his brothers was unjustified.
  - a. For their own selfish interests, some people are willing to take every sort of unlawful action which they feel will help them accomplish their goals. That is what Jehoram did (**2 Chronicles 21:2,3**).
- 4. Jehoram's marriage played a role in his corruption and the corruption of the nation of Judah (**2 Chronicles 21:6**).
  - a. Why did he act like Ahab's family? Because he married one of them, Ahab's daughter!
  - b. Think about this: he married Athaliah and at some point later he forsook the Lord. (**2 Chronicles 21:10**).
  - c. Do we not see a connection between those two facts?!

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- d. Here is the general rule: after one gets married, a person's spouse influences him/her more than any other person in the world.
- e. That being the case, shouldn't this cause a child of God to choose a spouse deliberately and with great care, having his/her own best spiritual interest in mind, as well as the spiritual interest of their children?

**B. Having A Righteous Father Does Not Guarantee His Child Will Be Righteous!**

- 1. Nor can a son inherit his father's relationship with God. (**Ezekiel 18:5-13,20**).
- 2. Jehoshaphat, the father of Jehoram, walked in the good ways of David, but Jehoram, his son, failed to walk in the ways of his father (**2 Chronicles 21:12,13**).
- 3. Each of us is accountable to the Lord as an individual.

**C. Evil People's Actions Are Contagious!**

- 1. Jehoram himself was ungodly in his conduct and, under his rule, the people of Judah committed harlotry.
- 2. Even more tragic is the truth that the king himself actually led them astray. (**2 Chronicles 21:11**).
- 3. It's a serious offense to be a stumbling block to others (**Luke 17:1,2**) or to lead them away from the path of righteousness.

**D. From Obadiah, We Learn the Destructive Power Of Pride!**

- 1. It reminds us of the consequences of living in a self-serving manner, of following through on our own feelings and desires without considering their affect on those around us.
- 2. Do we struggle to set aside our own wants and desires for those of God and others?
- 3. Though pride has been part of the human race since the garden of Eden, Obadiah offers us a simple but blunt reminder to place ourselves under God's authority, to subject our appetites to His purposes, and to find our hope in being His people.
- 4. *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"* (**1 Peter 2:9**)

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. Like all of us, Jehoram had great potential.
- B. He had many opportunities to use his blessings and position to serve the Lord and help God's people do the same.
- C. For the most part, in this area he failed miserably. And, he had no one to blame but himself.
- D. Are we learning the lessons in our study of these characters?

**LESSON 36**  
**Jehu**  
2 Kings 9-10