

Influenced by Evil: The Short, Tragic Reign of Ahaziah

After Jehoram's painful and disgraceful death, the people of Jerusalem made Ahaziah, his youngest son, king in his place. Why the youngest? Because all his older brothers had been killed by the raiding bands of Arabians during the earlier invasion. Ahaziah, also called Jehoahaz, became king over Judah—but he reigned for only one year.

He was forty-two years old when he began to reign (though there's a likely copyist error here, as his father died at age forty—many scholars suggest he was actually twenty-two). Regardless, his short reign was a disaster from the beginning.

Ahaziah's mother was Athaliah, the daughter (or granddaughter) of Omri, which connected her to the wicked northern dynasty of Ahab. And just like her mother Jezebel had done to Ahab, Athaliah influenced her son to do evil. Scripture says plainly: *"His mother was his counselor to do wickedly"* (v.3).

Personal Application:

Ahaziah didn't just stumble into evil. He was *guided* into it. The voices around him—especially his own mother—shaped his path. This is a reminder that the people we allow to speak into our lives matter. Counsel can either pull you toward God or push you away from Him. Be careful who has your ear. And just as importantly—be mindful of the influence *you* have on others, especially if you're a parent, mentor, or leader. Are you pointing people toward righteousness or leading them into compromise?

After his father's death, Ahaziah leaned even more on the corrupt northern leadership of Israel. He followed their advice, and it ended in his destruction. He even joined Jehoram, the son of Ahab, in a war against Hazael, the king of Syria at Ramoth-Gilead. During that battle, Jehoram was wounded, and Ahaziah went to visit him while he recovered.

But this visit ended in tragedy. God had raised up a man named Jehu to bring judgment on the house of Ahab. Jehu showed up and executed Jehoram—and when he found Ahaziah, he killed him too. His body was returned and buried, but not with great honor.

Personal Application:

Ahaziah died because of the company he kept. He got caught up in someone else's judgment because he aligned himself with people under God's wrath. That's a sobering thought. Who we associate with matters. When you walk closely with people who reject God, their fate can become yours. We should love the lost, yes—but we shouldn't link arms with their rebellion.

After Ahaziah's death, things got even darker. His mother Athaliah seized power in Judah. In a ruthless move, she ordered the murder of all of Ahaziah's sons so she could secure the throne for herself—wiping out her own family for power. But God was not done with David's line. One child, a baby named Joash, was rescued by a courageous nurse. She secretly brought him to the temple, where the high priest Jehoiada and his wife protected and raised him.

Personal Application:

When the enemy tries to wipe out God's plan, *God always preserves a remnant*. Even when it looks like evil has taken over, God is still working behind the scenes. He had promised David that one of his descendants would always be on the throne—and even in the chaos, God was faithful.

Are you feeling like evil is winning in your world right now? Remember: God always has a “Joash” hidden in the temple. He's always working to preserve His promise, even when it's quiet and unseen. Stay faithful. Don't lose heart.