

SAME SONG, SECOND VERSE

2 Chronicles 21-27

Pioneer Girls– "Same song, second verse
a little bit louder, and a whole lot worse!"

The mistakes of history repeat themselves.

At the site of the Dachau concentration camp near Munich, Germany, is a museum containing relics from the camp, as well as grim photos depicting conditions during the war years. There is a sign next to the exit that reads: "Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat its mistakes."

Vance Havner: "All we learn from history is that we learn nothing from history.

The prosperity/failure cycle starts again at the end of Jehoshaphat's reign.

His faithfulness to Yahweh produced peace and prosperity.

Many nations gave him the honor that a great king deserves.

OBEDIENCE

REPENTANCE

BLESSING

DISCIPLINE

PRIDE

DISOBEDIENCE

One result: a marriage alliance between his son and the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.

His wife was the daughter of Jezebel in two ways.

She was the physical daughter of Ahab and Jezebel

She was their spiritual daughter.

Under her influence, Jehoram left Yahweh and served the pagan gods of Israel (N)

The author states twice that *Jehoram walked in the way of the kings of Israel.*

He didn't imitate David, nor his grandfather Asa, nor his father Jehoshaphat.

He acted like a son of Ahab and Jezebel, who were following the Canaanites.

JEZEBEL REPRODUCED IN JUDAH 21-23:15

Ahab (Jezebel) invades Judah

You look at God's people and you see Ahab's ways.

21:6

(At least an implicit warning about God's people marrying those who aren't interested in following Him.)

21:13; 22:2-4

The evil reign of Jehoram 21

MISTAKE #1:

PRETENDING TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE.

TAKING THE NAME, BUT NOT PLAYING THE GAME.

In addition to his unfaithfulness to Yahweh, Jehoram was unfaithful to his own family.

He ordered the death of all his brothers so there would be no competition.

There was plenty of discontent around to provoke a coup.

Eliminating his brothers put the brakes on the malcontents.

Because of His covenant with David, neither Yahweh nor the people overthrew him (21:7).

The story of Jehoram ends in divine judgment.

When he died, no one cried over the loss (21:19-20).

However, his story doesn't really end there. It affects future generations also!

The evil reign of Ahaziah 22:1-9

At forty-two, the youngest son and only survivor of Jehoram took over.

He only ruled one year because **he followed the way of his father.**

His mother was his counselor and saw to it that he stayed rooted in the way of his grandparents, Ahab and Jezebel (22:1-4).

The evil reign of Athaliah 22:10-23:15

After Ahaziah's death, there was no heir left with enough power to control the nation.

Therefore, His mom decided to take over the throne.

The author totally rejects her because: (This is the worst.

They hit bottom!)

she was a daughter of Ahab,

unfaithful to Yahweh,

not a descendant of David,

besides being a woman.

Athaliah eliminated anyone who might pose a threat.

She killed all the royal house.

A daughter of Jehoram, married to Jehoiada the high priest, managed to hide Joash in the temple so that he wouldn't be killed and eliminate David's line (22:10-12).

After seven years, Jehoiada led the temple guard and the Levites in a successful coup attempt that resulted in Athaliah's death and in the establishing of Joash on the throne.

Thus Ahab's contamination ended.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESTORED 23:16-27:9

Return to Yahweh

Less than a whole heart 25:2

Good kings turn bad in the end 23:16-26:23

JOASH - AMAZIAH - UZZIAH

APOSTASY-Each started well-ended in apostasy

The good reign of Joash 23:16-24:27

MISTAKE #2: JOASH WAS DEPENDENT ON SOMEONE ELSE'S FAITH.

He always played follow the leader.

That was fine as long as he had the right leader-Jehoiada

23:16 24:2 24:15-18

When Jehoiada died, Joash depended on other leaders-they led him astray.

He listened to the wrong voices.

Joash never learned to determine what God wanted for himself.

He never grew up.

Eph. 4:14–He was carried off by the winds that blew by him.

His reforms and the restoration of the kingdom

23:16-24:16

He was too young.

Jehoiada led him so that he became a good king from God's perspective.

While Joash followed Jehoiada's counsel, everything went well.

The covenant with Yahweh was reconfirmed (**23:16**).

Baal worship was eliminated (**23:17**).

Temple worship was reestablished and given its proper priority.

His failure and fall 24:17-27

BUT–When Joash lost the advice of Jehoiada, he found other counselors.

Under their influence, Joash left his loyalty to Yahweh.

They abandoned the temple and again established the pagan customs.

Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, to whom Joash owed so much, warned them;

Instead of repenting, they stoned him in the temple courtyard (24:20-22).

Finally God intervened.

The Syrians left Joash wounded and his own officers plotted to finish the job.

Once more God demonstrated His control over history.

Jehoiada was buried with the kings;

Joash was buried outside the tombs of the kings.

The good reign of Amaziah 25

Amaziah's reign is classified as good.

His commitment to the Lord was unstable.

He began well but his inability to remain faithful brought him to ruin.

Swindoll—"At age 25, Amaziah was crowned king over Jerusalem. At age 54, he died. For 29 years he did right. . . . Stuck to the rules, made all the necessary appearances, smiled when he was supposed to and looked dignified when protocol required it.

As a king he did right. But God candidly adds, ". . . yet not with a whole heart."

He wasn't wholeheartedly, hook-line-and-sinker sold out to righteousness. He got by. He yawned his way through almost three decades of history. He punched in at 8 o'clock sharp, took a half hour for lunch and punched out at 5. For 29 years. Like the muddy Mississippi, he just kept rolling along."

He wasn't totally committed to Yahweh—it wasn't wholehearted 25:2

His obedience and prosperity 25:1-13

- In the beginning.

His spiritual failure 25:14-28

Victory in battle provoked a failure in his personal relationship with God.

Amaziah took the spoils of the battle, carrying off their gods with him, and worshipped them.

MISTAKE #3

HE ONLY FOLLOWED GOD WHEN IT WAS CONVENIENT.

Mike - "Soy Guatemalteco, ¡cuando me conviene!"

They would follow the god who would supply what they needed.

They were always after something new and different; something more exciting.

As long as Yahweh was the one to give them what they wanted, they would follow Him. At other times they would serve another. **25:14-15**

Believe it or not, many people follow God that way today.

If HE will give them what they want, they'll follow Him. If not, they'll go somewhere else.

THEY WANT SOMETHING NEW; SOMETHING EXCITING!

Things got so bad that some of his own officials plotted to kill him.

The author notes that they conspired to do this when he turned from Yahweh.

WE HAVE AT LEAST 3 MAIN ALTERNATIVES:

1. WE CAN FAKE IT. ACT RELIGIOUS.

Going through the motions while serving the same gods as the world around us.

We may look pretty on the outside but without transformed heart inside.

We're still trying to do it ourselves.

2. WE CAN TURN TO GOD FOR SALVATION, BUT TURN FROM HIM TO LIVE OUR OWN WAY:

Depend on someone else's word for what's right; never grow up.

Go after whatever kind of god gives us what we want out of life.

Act religious to get personal respect or power in the church.

3. WE CAN DECIDE THAT WHATEVER ANYONE ELSE DOES, OR WHATEVER MAY COME, WE WILL COMMIT OURSELVES TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT.

The good reign of Uzziah 26

His obedience and prosperity 26:1-15

Though only 16, Uzziah got off to a good start, seeking the Lord and obeying His Word.

Uzziah persisted in seeking Yahweh

Therefore, God prospered him.

His spiritual failure 26:16-23

The success his faithfulness produced, caused pride that led to downfall.

"Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall"

1 Cor. 10:12.

"Spiritual pride is a terrible monster that will lay us low every time." Henry Bosch, *Our Daily Bread*

Anyone who does great things in God's name ought to be aware of this danger.

Motivated by a heart which had lifted itself up, Uzziah went into the temple presumptuously to offer incense on the altar.

It was an act done with a good purpose,

right religion—right God

but in disobedience to the law of God

(26:16-18).

Allen contends: "Uzziah's sin is that of pride in wanting to extend his power from the secular to the religious sphere. His power goes to his head. No longer content with legitimate authority, he oversteps the mark by extending it in an illegitimate direction, to enhance his own glory."

MISTAKE #4

He became proud and overstepped his limits.

He liked his plan better than God's plan.

He became an empire builder;

HE WANTED TO RUN THE SHOW!

God's plan required different people to function in different ways.

He became unfaithful; wanted to run everything and get the glory for himself—**only God deserved that!**

26:16-18

Instead of recognizing his error and repenting, Uzziah became angry with God's representatives. As a result, God afflicted him with leprosy (26:19-20). This great man of God had to reign during the rest of his life, removed from the temple and the people of God.

His life became a perpetual witness to the danger of pride and of disobeying Him, even when you're king of His people.

God used his example to prove He demands faithfulness and absolute obedience.

The good reign of Jotham 27

Jotham was the one exception—He was *faithful to the end*.

He could see what happened to his dad and learned from it.

Although he never changed the customs of his people, his attitude before God was good.

Jotham consistently looked for the way to please God (27:2).

Therefore he was a good king and God strengthened and prospered him.

Jotham was committed to ordering his ways rightly before the Lord

**Even when the crowd was going the other way,
HE FOLLOWED YAHWEH FAITHFULLY.**

27:2

He did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Uzziah had done; however he did not enter the temple of the Lord. But the people continued acting corruptly.

27:6

So Jotham became mighty because he ordered his ways before the Lord his God.

What does God want US to do?

What will WE need to do, to follow Him completely this week?