### 2 Chronicles

## Chapter 21

1Then JehoShaphat went to sleep with his ancestors and they buried him in a tomb in the city of David. So his son JehoRam started reigning in place of him.  
  
2Now, JehoRam had six brothers:  
  
 • AzariAh,  
 • JeiEl,  
 • ZachariAh,  
 • AzariAh,  
 • MichaEl, and  
 • ShaphatiAh...  
  
...all of whom were sons of JehoShaphat the king of Judah, 3and their father had given them many gifts of silver, gold, shields, and walled cities in Judah.  
  
However, he gave the kingdom to JehoRam, because he was the firstborn. 4But after JehoRam became strong in his kingdom, he had all of his brothers and some of the governors of IsraEl killed with a sword!  
  
5JehoRam was 32 years old when he became king, and he reigned in JeruSalem for 8 years. 6But he then started acting like the kings of IsraEl and doing the same things as the house of [King] Ahab [of Israel], acting wickedly before Jehovah, even marrying the daughter of Ahab!  
  
7However, Jehovah didn’t want to destroy the house of David, due to the agreement that He’d made with David when He told him that He’d set him and his sons [as] a lamp throughout all the days.  
  
8Then [the land of] Edom rebelled against Judah and appointed a king to rule over them. 9So JehoRam, his leaders, and his cavalry [marched on] Edom... However, during the night, the generals in charge of his chariots found themselves surrounded and they all retreated to their tents.  
  
10Therefore, Edom has continued their revolt against Judah down to this day.  
  
Then [the city of] LobNa revolted and became free of [JehoRam’s] rule, because he had abandoned Jehovah, the God of his ancestors, 11by building the high places [of worship] in the cities of Judah and leading the people of Judah and JeruSalem astray.  
  
12Then [JehoRam] received a letter from the Prophet EliJah saying:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah the God of your ancestor David has said:  
  
 ‘Because you haven’t followed in the ways of your father JehoShaphat or in the ways of Asa the king of Judah, 13and have gone in the ways of the kings of IsraEl, leading the people of Judah and JeruSalem into [spiritual] immorality (just as the house of Ahab is guilty of such immorality), and because you murdered your brothers, the sons of your father who were all better than you...  
  
 14‘{Look!} Jehovah is going to bring a great calamity upon you, your people, your sons, your women, and everything that you own!  
  
 15‘Then you’re going to become very sick and feel worse each day until your belly bursts!’  
  
16So Jehovah sent the Philistines, the Arabians, and the people from around Ethiopia against JehoRam, 17and they attacked the Judeans and defeated them... They carried off everything that they found in the king’s palace and in the houses of his sons and daughters!  
  
And the only son who survived was JehoAhaz (his youngest).  
  
18Then Jehovah struck JehoRam with a disease of the belly that couldn’t be cured, 19and which got worse day after day, for the next 2 years. And finally, his belly broke open from the disease and he died in agony!  
  
Well, his people didn’t even hold a funeral for him as they had done for his ancestors. 20He was 32 years old when he started his reign, and he reigned in JeruSalem for 8 years. But when he died, he wasn’t highly regarded, so they buried him in a tomb in the City of David, but not among the kings.