

# THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER

CLICK HERE TO SEE THE TIMELINE OF KINGS:



*GROUP/FAMILY*

# Session 10

- Watch the sermon “That Irritating Prophet” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Apply your life to the Bible alongside your group or family with the honest questions in this lesson.



This Week's Sermon exposit 1 Kings 22

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## Context

This passage concludes the narrative cycle surrounding the reign of Ahab and transitions to the parallel reigns of Jehoshaphat in Judah and Ahaziah in Israel. The author of Kings often evaluates rulers by comparing them to David, the covenant king through whom God promised an enduring dynasty (2 Samuel 7). Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa, ruled the southern kingdom of Judah during a time when the northern kingdom of Israel remained deeply entangled in idolatry initiated by Jeroboam. While Jehoshaphat generally followed the LORD, the text notes that the high places remained and that his political alliances with the northern kingdom created spiritual compromise. His attempted maritime venture with Ahaziah, king of Israel, likely aimed at restoring profitable trade routes to Ophir, reminiscent of Solomon's earlier fleets (1 Kings 9:26–28). However, because Ahaziah walked in the idolatrous pattern of Ahab and Jezebel, the venture ultimately failed. The closing verses summarize Ahaziah's short reign and emphasize that he followed the sins of Jeroboam and promoted Baal worship. In the theology of Kings, this repeated phrase underscores covenant violation. The historian is reminding readers that Israel's political instability and eventual exile were rooted not primarily in military weakness but in spiritual rebellion against the LORD.

## The Big Idea of the Text

Jehoshaphat ruled Judah largely righteously while Ahaziah followed Ahab's idolatry, continuing Israel's rebellion against the LORD.

## Connecting the Session to the Sermon

The closing section continues the major theological themes present throughout the chapter. Earlier in the chapter, Ahab rejected the true prophetic word delivered by Micaiah and died under divine judgment. The narrative now shifts to a broader evaluation of the kingdoms themselves. Just as Ahab's downfall illustrated the consequences of rejecting the LORD, Ahaziah's reign demonstrates that Israel continued walking in the same sinful path. The repetition of phrases such as "the sins of Jeroboam" and the mention of Baal worship ties the closing summary to the earlier warning of divine judgment. Meanwhile, Jehoshaphat's reign echoes the earlier account of his alliance with Ahab in battle. Although he personally sought the LORD, his partnership with Israel repeatedly led to spiritual and political complications. Thus, the passage reinforces a major theme of the chapter: the danger of compromising with wicked leadership and the certainty that God evaluates kings according to covenant faithfulness.

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## Biblical Text (CSB) - 1 Kings 22:41-53

Jehoshaphat son of Asa became king over Judah in the fourth year of Israel's King Ahab. <sup>42</sup> Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king; he reigned twenty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi. <sup>43</sup> He walked in all the ways of his father Asa; he did not turn away from them but did what was right in the Lord's sight. However, the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. <sup>44</sup> Jehoshaphat also made peace with the king of Israel.

<sup>45</sup> The rest of the events of Jehoshaphat's reign, along with the might he exercised and how he waged war, are written in the Historical Record of Judah's Kings. <sup>46</sup> He eradicated from the land the rest of the male cult prostitutes who were left from the days of his father Asa. <sup>47</sup> There was no king in Edom; a deputy served as king. <sup>48</sup> Jehoshaphat made ships of Tarshish to go to Ophir for gold, but they did not go because the ships were wrecked at Ezion-geber. <sup>49</sup> At that time, Ahaziah son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, "Let my servants go with your servants in the ships," but Jehoshaphat was not willing. <sup>50</sup> Jehoshaphat rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the city of his ancestor David. His son Jehoram became king in his place.

<sup>51</sup> Ahaziah son of Ahab became king over Israel in Samaria in the seventeenth year of Judah's King Jehoshaphat, and he reigned over Israel two years. <sup>52</sup> He did what was evil in the Lord's sight. He walked in the ways of his father, in the ways of his mother, and in the ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin. <sup>53</sup> He served Baal and bowed in worship to him. He angered the Lord God of Israel just as his father had done.

# Applying Our Lives to the Text

- In verses 41–43, how does the text evaluate Jehoshaphat’s reign, and what specific actions reveal both his faithfulness to the LORD and the incomplete spiritual reforms in Judah?
- In verse 44, Jehoshaphat maintained peace with Israel; how might this political decision connect with the earlier alliance in the chapter and its spiritual implications?
- In verses 45–46, what additional details about Jehoshaphat’s reforms and military actions reveal his commitment to removing certain immoral practices from the land?
- In verses 47–49, why did Jehoshaphat’s partnership with Ahaziah fail, and what might the destruction of the ships teach about cooperation with idolatrous leadership?
- In verses 50–51, how does the transition from Jehoshaphat to the reign of Ahaziah highlight the continuing contrast between Judah’s partial faithfulness and Israel’s persistent rebellion?
- In verses 52–53, what specific sins characterized Ahaziah’s rule, and how do they continue the destructive spiritual legacy of Jeroboam, Ahab, and Baal worship?



## The Takeaway: So What Church?

We will examine our alliances and influences carefully, remembering that faithfulness to God requires more than partial obedience. We will pursue wholehearted devotion rather than tolerating spiritual compromise. We will trust that God evaluates leaders and people not by outward success but by covenant faithfulness. This passage also directs our attention to the need for a perfectly righteous King. Every king in this narrative fell short in some way. Even the better kings left reforms unfinished. These incomplete reigns create a longing for the promised Son of David who would rule with perfect righteousness. Jesus fulfills that expectation as the final and flawless King whose kingdom will never tolerate idolatry and whose reign restores true worship of God forever.

## For Parents:

### *SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE*

Listen carefully, because this story helps us understand why the Bible keeps pointing forward to Jesus. In this passage, we see two kings. One king tried to follow God but still made some mistakes and left some bad things in the land. The other king chose to worship false gods and followed the sinful example of his parents. When we read stories like this, we begin to see that even the best human kings were not perfect. They could not fully lead God's people the way they should. That is why God promised a future King from David's family who would never fail. Many years later, Jesus came from that same family line. Unlike those kings, He always obeyed God perfectly and leads His people in true worship forever. This helps us understand something important about Jesus. Ahab ignored God's messenger and died because of his sin. But later in history, God sent His own Son. Jesus always told the truth. He obeyed perfectly. Instead of running from God's plan, He walked straight toward it. And when He died, it was not because He had sinned, but because He was taking the punishment sinners deserved. The story of Ahab shows that God keeps His word about judgment. The story of Jesus shows that God also keeps His word about mercy.

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## ABOUT JCM

Dr. Jesse Campbell is the founder and head Pastor of The Redemption Church, located on the outskirts of Seattle, WA. Jesse has a strong calling to preach the Bible as it is written. In the midst of a socially and religiously starving culture, his biblical foundation for understanding and preaching the gospel in a strong, clear, and concise manner has earned him a large following in a short amount of time. He's grown the JCM platform quickly, has been featured on national radio shows, and has been a guest speaker across the nation at many churches and large events.

Originally from the Pensacola, FL area, Jesse moved with his family to Nashville and worked at Lifeway Publishing for a while before completing his pastoral education. He was led to launch his own biblically-based church, The Redemption Church, in 2020.

Jesse is married to his wife, Jessi, and they have 4 children. Together they also run a conference for bereaved parents, in memory of their son, Aiden, called Aiden's Hope. When Jesse and Jessi aren't investing their time in JCM or The Redemption Church, you can find them on the bleachers cheering on many baseball and football games or mountain biking and snowboarding in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.