

THE KING

IMAGINE THE POWER

First and Second Kings for Groups



GROUP/FAMILY

Session 7

- Watch the sermon “Jezebels Love Ahabs” on The Redemption Church YouTube Channel.
- Feed your soul daily with the subsequent text through Devotions 1537-1542 (on [YouTube/podcast](#)) and share them with the one you are discipling.
- 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 19

Devotions 1537-1542 exposit 2 Chronicles 22

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Context

Here we go, studying from 2 Chronicles in a series that is supposed to be 1 Kings, but you just absolutely have to see this cool intersection of Elijah's ministry with the descendants of King Asa from two sermons ago and King Jehoshaphat from last session. The cycle is about to begin again and 2 Chronicles 21 brings all the players of recent sermon texts together.

Second Chronicles records the southern kingdom of Judah's history with particular attention to covenant faithfulness, temple worship, and Davidic kingship. After the relatively faithful reign of Jehoshaphat, stability should have continued, yet political marriages and foreign influences weakened spiritual resolve. His son, Jehoram, secured his throne violently, killing his brothers and consolidating power in ways resembling the northern kingdom's brutality. His marriage alliance with Ahab's family imported Baalistic influence into Judah, blurring worship boundaries and undermining covenant loyalty. Regional pressures also increased, as Edom and Libnah rebelled, signaling divine discipline and geopolitical vulnerability. Into this crisis, God sent a written message from Elijah, warning that covenant betrayal would bring personal and national judgment. The Chronicler's audience, living after exile, would recognize how leadership sin devastates communities, yet also see God's continued preservation of David's royal line for His redemptive purposes.

The Big Idea of the Text

Jehoram murdered rivals, led Judah into idolatry, suffered invasion and disease, and died dishonored under God's judgment.

Connecting the Session to the Sermon

Our sermon text and today's session text both reveal moments when Israel's covenant life appeared threatened, yet God remained active behind the scenes. In 1 Kings 19, Elijah felt alone amid widespread apostasy, believing true worship had collapsed under Ahab and Jezebel's influence. Similarly, in 2 Chronicles 21, Judah mirrored northern corruption through royal alliances and Baal worship. Yet in both accounts, God preserved His purposes despite human failure. Elijah learned God still reserved faithful servants, while Judah learned that even severe judgment did not nullify God's promise to maintain David's lineage, anticipating eventual restoration through a righteous king.

Biblical Text (CSB) - 2 Chronicles 20:5-30

Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the Lord's temple before the new courtyard. 6 He said:

Lord, God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven, and do you not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in your hand, and no one can stand against you. 7 Are you not our God who drove out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and who gave it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 They have lived in the land and have built you a sanctuary in it for your name and have said, 9 "If disaster comes on us—sword or judgment, pestilence or famine—we will stand before this temple and before you, for your name is in this temple. We will cry out to you because of our distress, and you will hear and deliver."

10 Now here are the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir. You did not let Israel invade them when Israel came out of the land of Egypt, but Israel turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11 Look how they repay us by coming to drive us out of your possession that you gave us as an inheritance. 12 Our God, will you not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to you.

God's Answer

13 All Judah was standing before the Lord with their dependents, their wives, and their children. 14 In the middle of the congregation, the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel (son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite from Asaph's descendants), 15 and he said, "Listen carefully, all Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat. This is what the Lord says: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow, go down against them. You will see them coming up the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley facing the Wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You do not have to fight this battle. Position yourselves, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord. He is with you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Tomorrow, go out to face them, for the Lord is with you.'"

18 Then Jehoshaphat knelt low with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord to worship him. 19 Then the Levites from the sons of the Kohathites and the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel shouting loudly.

20 In the morning they got up early and went out to the wilderness of Tekoa. As they were about to go out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem. Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe in his prophets, and you will succeed." 21 Then he consulted with the people and appointed some to sing for the Lord and some to praise the splendor of his holiness. When they went out in front of the armed forces, they kept singing:

Give thanks to the Lord,
for his faithful love endures forever.

22 The moment they began their shouts and praises, the Lord set an ambush against the Ammonites, Moabites, and the inhabitants of Mount Seir who came to fight against Judah, and they were defeated. 23 The Ammonites and Moabites turned against the inhabitants of Mount Seir and completely annihilated them. When they had finished with the inhabitants of Seir, they helped destroy each other.

24 When Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked for the large army, but there were only corpses lying on the ground; nobody had escaped. 25 Then Jehoshaphat and his people went to gather the plunder. They found among them an abundance of goods on the bodies and valuable items. So they stripped them until nobody could carry any more. They were gathering the plunder for three days because there was so much. 26 They assembled in the Valley of Beracah on the fourth day, for there they blessed the Lord. Therefore, that place is still called the Valley of Beracah today.

27 Then all the men of Judah and Jerusalem turned back with Jehoshaphat their leader, returning joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord enabled them to rejoice over their enemies. 28 So they came into Jerusalem to the Lord's temple with harps, lyres, and trumpets.

29 The terror of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. 30 Then Jehoshaphat's kingdom was quiet, for his God gave him rest on every side.

Applying Our Lives to the Text

- Reading verses 1–4, how did Jehoram secure power, what crimes followed, and how did these early choices shape the kingdom’s spiritual trajectory afterward for Judah?
- In verses 5–7, which alliances influenced Jehoram, why did the LORD preserve David’s line, and how should covenant mercy reframe leadership accountability today within communities?
- According to verses 8–11, what rebellions erupted, how did Edom and Libnah respond, and why did high places accelerate Judah’s moral collapse nationally across borders?
- When reading verses 12–15, what message came from Elijah, which sins were confronted, and what specific judgments exposed the king’s hardened, unrepentant leadership publicly there?
- From verses 16–17, how did foreign invasions fulfill warnings, what losses struck the royal household, and how did vulnerability reveal consequences of covenant betrayal dramatically?
- Considering verses 18–20, how did Jehoram’s disease and death conclude his story, and why did his passing without honor warn future rulers spiritually across generations?



The Takeaway: So What Church?

We will respond to overwhelming challenges by seeking God first rather than trusting human strength, remembering the battle ultimately belongs to the Lord. We will worship before victories are visible, trusting God's promises over circumstances. We will publicly testify to God's faithfulness so others see His power at work. This passage prophetically points forward to Jesus, who won victory not through force but through sacrificial obedience, defeating sin and death for His people. As Judah stood still and saw salvation, believers likewise trust Christ's finished work, resting in the peace He secured and anticipating His final kingdom victory.

For Parents:

SHOW YOUR KIDS JESUS IN THIS PASSAGE

This story shows how bad kings hurt people, but God still kept his promise to send a good King later, Jesus, who obeyed perfectly and saves us forever. Even when leaders fail, God guides history toward his rescue plan. The suffering king here reminds us that sin brings pain, yet God promised healing through Christ. So we trust Jesus, learn obedience, and follow him as our true King who forgives sins and makes broken hearts new again for all who believe today and walk faithfully with hope until he returns to reign over everything in peace forever together.

FOLLOW ALONG

To cover the subsequent scripture in Daily Devotions 1537-1542, subscribe to Jesse Campbell Ministries on YouTube or on most podcast apps.

OTHER OFFERINGS

With an abundance of Bible Books to cover just like this study, there's plenty more to explore and learn from JCM, such as:

- The Seven Thunders: The Book of Revelation for Groups
- And Then You Will Know: The Book of Ezekiel for Groups
- Daniel: The Book of Daniel for Groups
- Dear Skeptical Friend: The Gospel of Luke for Groups
- Holy Dissident: Isaiah for Groups
- Letters to My Sons: The Pastoral Epistles
- Into The Fray: I Corinthians
- The God of All Comfort: II Corinthians
- Reason For Hope: 6 Apologetic Sessions for Groups
- The Sacred Acts: Ordinances of the Church
- The Revival Project: A Transformative Study of Nehemiah
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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.