

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 21

This is a truly shocking read. A window is opened here to our true human condition. What an astonishing turn of events! Here's what I noticed:

1. Jehoram received the kingdom because he was Jehoshaphat's firstborn (v3). Notwithstanding his privileged birth, he chose wickedness (vs 4-6). What prompted his apostasy? Conceivably his marriage to the daughter of Ahab & Jezebel (v6). A good wife/husband greatly impacts our walk before God. Therefore, choose wisely!
2. Proverbially, a week is a long time in politics. Here in just a single generation, wickedness is established after one of the noblest epochs of Judah's history. This episode illustrates well the inherent inferiority of kingly rule compared with the rule of Judges, God's original plan – see 1 Samuel 8:4-22.
3. God's covenant promise to bless future generations descended from His saints is here laid bare. In judgement God remembered mercy on account of David. We must learn to recognise this principle at work constraining divine providence. Our faithfulness today moves God's hand in future generations to bless our posterity (see Ex 20:5). Similarly, God's mercy & kindness to us today is conceivably (at least in part) due to the faithfulness & uprightness of some of our ancestors.
4. Jehoram forfeited the complacency of Libnah, a Canaanite city previously loyal to the rule of Jerusalem. Moreover, he re-established false worship of God by setting up 'high places' in the land. For his apostasy – spiritual harlotry (v13) – Elijah rebuked him (vs 12-15) and invoked God's providential judgement upon him in the form of (i) a medical affliction impacting his close family & possessions (ii) serious personal illness (iii) an invasion by both the Philistines & the Arabians (v16) resulting in the mass kidnap of his sons (iv) a painful and protracted death and finally (v) an inglorious funeral (vs 19-20)!

Jehoram's life, recounted briefly here, warns us to keep honest, short accounts with God. It illustrates the principle affirmed by St Paul

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life (Gal 6:7-8).

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 21:

- ***What was the cause (ostensibly) of Jehoram's downfall?***
- ***What warning is there in this episode for single Christians?***
- ***Why was kingly rule inferior to 'aristocratic' rule of Judges (rule by a COLLECTION of the best men)?***
- ***Have you asked God to bless your posterity? What practical measures might we take to induce God to do so?***
- ***Has God changed? Does He still bless/curse us providentially?***