As we have observed, this study proves that there were no good kings in the Northern Kingdom. There were 8 good Kings of Judah. They were Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah (aka Uzziah), Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah. That is 8 out of 39! There were roughly 260 good years and 130 bad years. The good kings dealt with idolatry, but the bad kings embraced it!

Parental Advisory for The Saints

Before moving away from King Jehoshaphat, I want to point out one of his worst errors. His decision to affiliate, or reaffiliate, with the Northern Tribes of Israel did not end with his escape from the Syrians. The Bible follows that decision to a bitter ending. The damage was already done before he realized the error of his ways. He accidentally introduced the spirit of Jezebel into his family.

Consider II Chronicles 18:1, II Chronicles 22:1-4 (A lot happened between 18 and 22… a lot!)

We will not take the time to study Jezebel, or her influence over Ahab and the entire region. But we do get to see her influence on her daughter, whose name is Athaliah. We can surmise that Athaliah was “just like her mother” in many ways. Athaliah longed to be as influential as her mother. And, in a sordid plot that is both appalling and shocking, Athaliah made Jezebel look civil. And God allowed her plans to work for 6 years.

**Life Lesson #71** - Parents and Guardians must remember our Biblical instructions to teach our children the word of the Lord. Our testimonies should not be family secrets, but family legends that are shared and reshared for generations to come. Consider Exodus 12:24-27

**Life Lesson #72** - We should also encourage our children to date and marry Christians.

Consider II Corinthians 6:14

If Jehoshaphat had followed the Scriptures, the entire tale of Athaliah would not have happened.

Likewise, when we follow the instructions of Scripture (as parents), we too can potentially avert long-term damage. At a minimum, we should always point to Scripture as our guide. Here is a notable example to use when discussing dating options with younger people.

Joash

Consider II Chronicles 22:10-12

There are two people mentioned in II Chronicles 22:10-12 that are the epitome of unsung heroes. They are Jehoiada the priest, and Jehoshabeath, the sister of King Ahaziah. Had they not taken drastic measures to preserve the life of Joash, God’s promise to David would have been thwarted. Together, Jehoida the priest, and Jehoshabeath, were used by God to keep His word to David.

Consider II Chronicles 23:1, II Chronicles 24:1-2

As long as King Joash valued the wisdom and guidance of Jehoiada the priest, he was a good king. However, after the death of Jehoiada the priest, King Joash failed to continue in the ways that made him successful.

**Life Lesson #73** – We should NOT allow the death of a mentor to void their advice. Let their voice live in our minds as a special source of guidance.

Consider II Chronicles 24:15-18

The sad trend of the good kings.

There is a sad trend among the good, (or mostly good) Kings of Judah. They all developed what I call “The Fat Cat Syndrome.” Which describes the life of the privileged cat, who no longer runs, catches, fetches, climbs, or even eats. Fat Cats are lazy cats, who no longer do the things that cats normally do, eat and love.

In ministry, people who stop doing the core things that Saints do, or should do, to become Spiritually stable tend to fall off over time.

Notice this trend: II Samuel 11:1, I Kings 11:4, II Chronicles 12:1, II Chronicles 24:1-2, II Chronicles 24:15-27, II Chronicles 26:16

With the favor of God comes the potential for “The Fat Cat Syndrome,” even today.

**Life Lesson #74 -** A great goal for successful people is to not allow our success to make us lazy. We must live focused lives and finish strong. Consider Proverbs 30:7-9, Galatians 6:9

Homework: Read II Chronicles 29-32, and 34-35