

The Attackers: The Attack on the Descendants of David: Joash; The Bloodline: through Judah, Gen 49:10; through David: the Davidic Covenant 2 Sam 7:11b-17; Reiterated, Ps 89:34-37; 132:11-14, 18; Attack on David's Line: Jehoram by Philistines & Arabs, Jehoram's Sin unto Death, 2 Chron 21:16-19

V. The Attack on the Descendants of David

a. Joash:

1. The line of Christ runs through the tribe of Judah according to:

Genesis 49:10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh [שִׁלּוֹחַ (*Shiloh*): "until he comes to whom it belongs, i.e., Messiah at the 2d Advent] comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

2. Jacob, who was renamed Israel in Genesis 32:28, had twelve sons, one of whom was named Judah. These twelve sons were born from four women: (1) Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; Issachar, and Zebulun, (2) Bilhah: Dan and Naphtali, (3) Zilpah: Gad and Asher, and (4) Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.

3. The line is narrowed even further by the Davidic Covenant which assigns it to the House of David. This is known as the Davidic Covenant given to David by the Lord through Nathan the prophet in:

2 Samuel 7:11b - "The Lord has made a formal proclamation to you that He will prepare a dynasty for you.

v. 12 - "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom [prophetic of Solomon's reign].

v. 13 - "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever [eternal perpetuity of the Davidic dynasty].

v. 14 - "I will be a father to him [Solomon] and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity [see the Book of Ecclesiastes], I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,

v. 15 - but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

2 Samuel 7:16 - "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever [through Jesus the Messiah]."

v. 17 - In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

4. Verse 16 is very possibly the most significant verse in the Old Testament. This is the Davidic Covenant and its implications reverberate throughout the New Testament.
5. The crux of the covenant is simply put: David is going to have a Son who will reign forever on his throne in Jerusalem.
6. David's greater Son cannot reign over a non-entity, therefore, Israel has a future.

7. If Israel has a future then the idea that the world can be destroyed by nuclear war is absurd.
8. The integrity of God demands that He keep His word to David. This covenant is confirmed in Psalms 89 and 132.

Psalm 89:34 - "My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips.

v. 35 - "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David.

v. 36 - "His descendants shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me.

v. 37 - "It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful." Selah.

Psalm 132:11 - The Lord has sworn to David a truth from which He will not turn back: "Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne.

v. 12 - "If your sons will keep My covenant and My testimony which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever."

v. 13 - For the Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation.

v. 14 - There I will cause the horn of David to spring forth; I have prepared a lamp for Mine anointed.

Psalm 132:18 - "His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon himself his crown shall shine."

9. These events occur through the progeny of David and Bathsheba. The Davidic family establishes the source of the humanity of the Messiah.
10. The Messiah will be descended from Adam and therefore a true member of the human race.
11. He will be descended from Abraham, history's first Jew, thus a member of the Hebrew race.
12. He will be descended from Judah, the son of Jacob, thus a member of the kingly tribe.
13. He will be descended from David, the ruling house of Israel, thus a member of the royal family of Israel.
14. A house or a dynasty is a succession of rulers perpetuated within the same bloodline.
15. Dynasties remain in power until there is no one in the bloodline left to become a successor or lost due to military defeat or palace revolt.
16. Royal dynasties are common in European history. From England there are the Plantagenet, Stuart, Tudor, Hanover, Saxe Coburg, and Windsor. Others include Spain's Hapsburgs and Bourbons, France's Valois (VAL-wah) and Orleans, Austria's Babenberg and Habsburg, Prussia's Hohenzollern, Italy's Savoy, and Russia's Romanov, just to name a few.
17. But there is only one ruling house in the history of Israel both for the future as well as the past – the dynasty of David.

18. The initial links to the King of kings, Jesus Christ, went through two of David's five sons by Bathsheba: the adulterine, Shammuah, Shobab, Nathan, and Solomon. Nathan's bloodline leads to Mary while Solomon's leads to Joseph.
19. The covenant promised David that his progeny would hold and retain royal authority. (2 Samuel 7:16 compared with Genesis 49:10.)
20. The ultimate heir would rule the kingdom of Israel while at the same time rule the earth. (2 Samuel 7:16 compared with Zechariah 14:9.)
21. The term of office would be forever.
22. The greatest attack on the Davidic dynasty occurred when Jehoram \jē-hō'-rām\, who succeeded Jehoshaphat, decided to kill all of his brothers:

2 Chronicles 21:1 - Then Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son became king in his place.

v. 2 - He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel \jē-hī'-ēl\, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael and Shephatiah \shēf-a-tī'-a\. All these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.

v. 3 - Their father gave them many gifts of silver, gold, and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the firstborn.

v. 4 - Now when Jehoram had taken over the kingdom of his father and made himself secure, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and some of the rulers of Israel also.

v. 5 - Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.

v. 6 - He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab did (for Ahab's daughter was his wife), and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.

v. 7 - Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David because of the covenant which He had made with David, and since He had promised to give a lamp to him and his sons forever.

23. However, because of his multiple fratricides the Lord counterattacked by allowing the Philistines and Arabs to invade Judah.

24. These two armies seized and sold Jehoram's family into slavery. Jehoram's youngest son, Jehoahaz (or Azariah) was preserved:

2 Chronicles 21:16 - Then the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the spirit of the Philistines and the Arabs who bordered the Ethiopians;

v. 17 - and they came against Judah and invaded it, and carried away all the possessions found in the king's house together with his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except Jehoahaz (Ahaziah), the youngest of his sons.

25. The passage continues by describing Jehoram's sin unto death:

2 Chronicles 21:18 - So after all this the Lord smote him in his bowels with an incurable sickness.

v. 19 - Now it came about in the course of time, at the end of two years, that his bowels came out because of his sickness and he died in great pain. And his people made no fire for him like the fire for his fathers.

26. The writer of Chronicles provides a graphic description of how the sin unto death transpired for Jehoram but the medical analysis is even more repulsive yet serves as a stark warning against reversionism:

At the time of the end, i.e. of life or of the disease ... the bowels went out of the body—they flowed out of the body as devoured by the disease. Trusen holds this disease to have been a violent dysentery (diarrhœa), “being an inflammation of the nervous tissue of the whole great intestine, which causes the overlying mucous membrane to decay and peel off, which then falls out often in tube-shape, so that the intestines appear to fall from the body.”¹

¹ C. F. Keil, *Biblical Commentary on the Old Testament: The Books of Chronicles*, eds. C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, trans. Andrew Harper (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1968), 402.