

Ahaziah Began to Reign in the Eleventh Year of Joram

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Ahaziah Began to Reign in the Twelfth Year of Joram
(2Kgs. 8:25)

Ahaziah Began to Reign in the Eleventh Year of Joram
(2Kgs. 9:29)

Jesus Christ is currently the King of kings and Lord of lords, and therefore has many responsibilities he is overseeing right now (Rev. 19:16). However, Christ does not have complete control of all affairs on the earth yet, and this is evident from the fruit of the ruler of this present evil world, Satan (Jn. 12:31; 2Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4; cf. Rom. 1:28-31).

There is a similarity in this example of Jesus Christ having responsibilities right now, but not complete control of everything on earth, and Ahaziah having responsibilities mentioned in 2Kings 9:29, but not ruling absolutely until the death of his father, King Jehoram (2Chr. 21:17). The following is an excerpt from a book entitled, "The Kings of Judah and Israel" by Christopher Knapp, which confirms this fact.

'Ahaziah must have reigned as his father's viceroy during the last year of the latter's sickness. This is evident from a comparison of 2Kings 8:25 with 9:29. He (Ahaziah) was the youngest and only remaining son of Jehoram.'

Following his father's death, Ahaziah began to take actions that would later result in his early death. This fact is also noted by Christopher Knapp in his book entitled, "The Kings of Judah and Israel."

'2Chronicles 22:4 seems to give a slight hint that his (Ahaziah's) father Jehoram repented during his last sufferings, and had broken away somewhat from the house of Ahab; "for they were his (Ahaziah's) counselors after the death of his father, to his destruction.'"

So as soon as Ahaziah was no longer limited in what he could do, he took complete control of all decision-making in the nation of Judah, but the result was fatal.

'His (Ahaziah's) father's death removed the check, and he at once united himself with his mother's relatives in their sins and warfare. "He walked also after their counsel, and went with Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel to war against Hazael king of Syria at Ramoth-gilead." This friendship cost him his life' ('The Kings of Judah and Israel' by Christopher Knapp; p 73).

Although there appears to be a contradiction between 2Kings 8:25 and 9:29, there is none. Instead, this apparent discrepancy was meant to draw attention to the limited responsibilities that Ahaziah had during the last year of his father's life and then contrast his actions following his father's death, which led to his early death at the age of twenty-three.

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