

Dr. John Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.2, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 2 Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.2, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on the kings of Judah, Jehoram and Ahaziah, as presented in 2 Kings 8-9. He highlights how Judah became intertwined with the northern kingdom of Israel through marriage, specifically Jehoram's marriage to Ahab's daughter, Athaliah. Oswalt explores the implications of this entanglement, drawing parallels to the challenge Christians face in separating themselves from the world while still engaging with it. God's faithfulness to David's line despite the kings' failings is also emphasized. The lecture further examines the rebellion of Edom against Judah and sets the stage for future events by detailing the battle at Ramoth Gilead and the presence of both kings in Jezreel. Ultimately, Oswalt uses these historical events to encourage listeners to examine their values and prioritize a life close to Christ.

2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.2 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Kings).



**Oswalt_Kings_Sessi
on21_2.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.2, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 2

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. John Oswalt's lecture on 2 Kings 8-9:

Briefing Document: Oswalt on 2 Kings 8-9 (Part 2)

Source: Excerpts from "Oswalt_Kings_EN_Session21_2.pdf"

Date: Analyzed October 26, 2024

Overview:

Dr. Oswalt's lecture focuses on 2 Kings 8:16-29, specifically examining the reigns of two kings of Judah, Jehoram and Ahaziah, within the larger context of the interconnected histories of the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah). A key theme is the entanglement of Judah with the corrupting influences of the northern kingdom, particularly the house of Ahab, through marriage and shared values. Oswalt also draws parallels to contemporary challenges for Christians: maintaining separation from the world while remaining engaged within it. The lecture highlights God's faithfulness to his covenant with David, even amidst the failings of the Davidic line, and reflects on the potential consequences for nations that turn away from God.

Main Themes and Ideas:

- **Intertwined Destinies of Israel and Judah:** The lecture stresses the parallel narratives of the two kingdoms and how their fates become intertwined. The familial connection via marriage between Jehoram of Judah and Athaliah (daughter of Ahab) symbolizes and reinforces the problematic influence of the northern kingdom on Judah. "So, you see how easily, how totally they've gotten tangled up together."
- **The Significance of Names:** Oswalt points out the shared name "Jehoram" for kings in both Israel and Judah and provides the meaning: "Yahweh is high." He notes the textual differences in spelling as a way to distinguish between the two.
- **The Danger of Worldly Entanglement:** A major theme is the danger of Christians becoming too closely aligned with worldly values and behaviors. Oswalt warns against a superficial understanding of separation from the world, which focuses on external rules rather than internal attitudes and values. "But I say to you, friends, unless the church is different from the world, we're not going to have any

impact on the world." He poses probing questions: "Are you part of the world? Is your entertainment the same as the world's? Is your outlook the same as the world's?"

- **The Nature of True Discipleship:** Oswalt emphasizes that true discipleship involves striving for closeness to Jesus rather than merely trying to stay within the bounds of acceptable behavior. He quotes John Wesley: "He said the question is not, why does God demand 10% of my money? The question is, why does God allow me to use 90% of his money?" He suggests living "about 10% below our desires." The goal should be to be "thoroughly in Christ that we're not of the world."
- **Consequences of Disobedience:** The rebellion of Edom against Judah is presented as a sign of God's withdrawing hand from the nation. Oswalt draws a parallel to the United States, suggesting that the nation is experiencing similar consequences for turning away from its "godly ancestors." "Oh, America, America, God's hand has been over us... And now, slowly, slowly, slowly, regretfully, unwillingly, God's hand is being withdrawn from us."
- **God's Faithfulness Despite Human Failure:** Despite the failings of Jehoram and Ahaziah, and the corruption within the Davidic line, God remains faithful to his promise to David. "For the sake of his servant David, the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah. He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever." Oswalt also notes God's patience with Israel after they broke the covenant with him: "Israel broke its covenant within five weeks of making it, but God kept his part of it for a thousand years."
- **The Significance of Ramoth Gilead:** The lecture notes the strategic importance of Ramoth Gilead as a crossroads on the "highway of the kings." This sets the stage for future events and highlights the ongoing conflict between Israel and Aram (Syria).

Key Facts and Details:

- Jehoram of Judah was married to Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab, king of Israel.
- Jehoram reigned for eight years, while Ahaziah reigned for a short period.
- Edom rebelled against Judah during Jehoram's reign, breaking free from Judah's control.

- Ahaziah followed the ways of the house of Ahab and did evil in the eyes of the Lord.
- Ramoth Gilead was a strategically important city that was a point of contention between Israel and Aram.

Quotes:

- "So, you see how easily, how totally they've gotten tangled up together."
- "But I say to you, friends, unless the church is different from the world, we're not going to have any impact on the world."
- "He said the question is not, why does God demand 10% of my money? The question is, why does God allow me to use 90% of his money?"
- "Oh, America, America, God's hand has been over us... And now, slowly, slowly, slowly, regretfully, unwillingly, God's hand is being withdrawn from us."
- "For the sake of his servant David, the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah. He had promised to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants forever."

4. Study Guide: Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.2, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 2

Kings: Entanglement and Consequences (2 Kings 8-9) - A Study Guide

Quiz (Short Answer)

1. Why does the text emphasize that there are two kings named Jehoram (Joram) at this time?
2. What does Oswalt suggest was the primary flaw in Jehoshaphat's decision regarding his son's marriage?
3. What does the rebellion of Edom and Libnah against Judah signify in the broader context of the narrative?
4. How does Oswalt illustrate the challenge Christians face in being "in the world but not of the world"?
5. What does Oswalt say is the question Christians should ask themselves regarding their relationship to God?
6. What is Ramoth Gilead's geographical and strategic significance?
7. How is Ahaziah related to the house of Ahab? What impact does this relationship have on his actions?
8. What is the significance of God's promise to David in the context of Judah's corruption?
9. Where does Jehoram, king of Israel, go to recover after being injured in battle? Why is this place significant?
10. What does Oswalt suggest the Sears catalog represents in the mother's example?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The text highlights the two kings named Jehoram (Joram) to show the interconnectedness and, perhaps, the confusion between the northern and southern kingdoms at this time, as well as to illustrate the influence of the northern kingdom on Judah. The author also says that the difference in the way the two names are written in Hebrew is a way to help readers keep them straight.

2. Oswalt suggests that Jehoshaphat, though a good man, lacked discernment and foresight. He failed to recognize the negative consequences that would arise from aligning his family with the corrupt house of Ahab through marriage.
3. The rebellions signify a withdrawal of God's blessing and protection from Judah. These revolts also demonstrate the gradual disintegration of the power and influence that David and Solomon had established.
4. Oswalt explains that Christians should not change their external behaviors to separate themselves from the world, but Christians are called to have different values, desires, and attitudes than those of the world. Christians should not ask how far they can live from Jesus but how close they can live to Him.
5. Oswalt asks, "How close to Jesus can I live?" rather than "How far can I live from Jesus and still go to heaven?" Oswalt asks this question because he believes we should not ask the bare minimum, but how close we can get.
6. Ramoth Gilead is located at a crucial crossroads on the great highway east of the Jordan River. Its strategic position made it a key point of contention between Israel and Aram, as it controlled vital trade routes.
7. Ahaziah is related to the house of Ahab through marriage, which led him to follow the ways of Ahab and do evil in the eyes of the Lord. This alliance resulted in his participation in Ahab's family's sinful practices and his involvement in their conflicts.
8. Despite Judah's corruption and failures, God remains faithful to His promise to maintain a lamp for David and his descendants. This demonstrates God's steadfast love and commitment, even when His people are unfaithful.
9. Jehoram returns to Jezreel, the summer palace of the northern kings, to recover from his injuries. This location is significant because it was the site of Naboth's vineyard, highlighting the continued presence of Ahab's legacy of wickedness.
10. The Sears catalog represents the things that a mother values. In the example given, the child mistakenly brings the catalog instead of the Bible when asked to bring "the book Mama loves so well," meaning that the child thinks his mother values worldly possessions over the Bible.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the theme of "entanglement" in 2 Kings 8-9, focusing on how the intermingling of Israel and Judah, particularly through marriage, led to moral and political consequences.
2. Analyze the character of Jehoshaphat. Was he primarily a righteous king, or were his poor decisions evidence of a lack of discernment? Use specific examples from the text to support your argument.
3. Explore the concept of God's faithfulness in the face of human failure as demonstrated in 2 Kings 8-9. How does God balance justice and mercy in His dealings with Israel and Judah?
4. Examine Oswalt's application of the biblical narrative to contemporary Christian living. How relevant is the challenge of being "in the world but not of the world" today, and what practical steps can Christians take to navigate this tension?
5. Assess the role of divine intervention and human agency in the events of 2 Kings 8-9. To what extent are the outcomes determined by God's plan, and to what extent are they the result of human choices?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Ahab:** King of Israel known for his wickedness and idolatry, influenced by his wife Jezebel.
- **Ahaziah (of Israel):** A son of Ahab. He only reigned for a matter of about two years.
- **Ahaziah (of Judah):** Son of Jehoram of Judah, who reigned briefly and followed the ways of Ahab's house due to familial ties.
- **Aram:** An ancient kingdom located in modern-day Syria, often in conflict with Israel.
- **Athaliah:** Daughter of Ahab and wife of Jehoram of Judah, known for her wicked influence and promotion of idolatry.
- **Davidic Line:** The lineage of King David, through whom God promised to establish an eternal kingdom.
- **Edom:** A kingdom located south of Judah, often in conflict with Israel and Judah.

- **Hazael:** Appointed by God (through Elijah) to be king of Aram, known for his military strength and oppression of Israel.
- **Jehoshaphat:** King of Judah known for his generally righteous rule, but criticized for his alliances with the northern kingdom.
- **Jehu:** Appointed by God to be king of Israel and to execute judgment on the house of Ahab.
- **Jehoram (of Israel):** Son of Ahab, also known as Joram, king of Israel.
- **Jehoram (of Judah):** Son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, who married Athaliah and followed the ways of the northern kingdom.
- **Jezebel:** Wife of Ahab, known for her promotion of Baal worship and persecution of prophets.
- **Joram:** Alternate spelling of Jehoram, used primarily for the king of Israel.
- **Judah:** The southern kingdom, consisting primarily of the tribe of Judah, which maintained the Davidic dynasty.
- **Libnah:** A city in Judah that revolted against Jehoram, signifying the weakening of Judah's power.
- **Ramoth Gilead:** A strategically important city located on the eastern side of the Jordan River, often contested between Israel and Aram.
- **Vassal:** A state or kingdom that is subordinate to another, owing allegiance and tribute.

5. FAQs on Oswalt, 1 & 2 Kings, Session 21.2, 2 Kings 8-9, Part 2, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source:

FAQ on 2 Kings 8-9 (Part 2) and Related Themes

- **Why does the book of Kings switch back and forth between the Northern and Southern Kingdoms (Israel and Judah)?**
- The book of Kings is structured to present the histories of both the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) concurrently. It often recounts events in one kingdom for an entire reign and then "jumps over" to detail what was happening in the other kingdom during a portion of that same period. This comparative approach highlights the parallel trajectories, interrelationships, and contrasting fates of the two kingdoms.
- **Why are there two kings named Jehoram, one in Israel and one in Judah, and how does the text distinguish between them?**
- The existence of two kings named Jehoram (meaning "Yahweh is High") reflects the intertwined nature of the kingdoms at the time. To differentiate them, the text shortens the name of the Northern Kingdom's king to "Joram" while using the full name "Jehoram" for the Southern Kingdom's king.
- **How did the marriage between the royal families of Israel and Judah, specifically Jehoram's marriage to Athaliah, affect Judah?**
- Jehoram's marriage to Athaliah, daughter of Ahab, brought the corrupting influence of the Northern Kingdom's idolatry and moral decay into Judah. Athaliah, likened to Jezebel, promoted evil practices, leading Jehoram to follow the ways of the kings of Israel and do evil in the eyes of the Lord. This entanglement with a "worldly" power threatened Judah's spiritual integrity.

- **What does the passage suggest about the relationship between Christians and the world, and how to balance separation and engagement?**
- The passage emphasizes the challenge of being "in the world but not of the world." It critiques the idea that separation is merely about external behaviors (like avoiding alcohol or movies). Instead, it stresses the importance of internal attitudes and values. Christians should engage with the world to have an impact but must remain distinct in their values, desires, and outlook, prioritizing God above worldly things like money and power. The goal isn't to see how far one can live from Jesus and still go to heaven, but how close to Jesus can one live.
- **How does God's promise to David factor into the narrative, especially given Judah's failures?**
- Despite the corruption and failures of the Davidic line, the Lord remained faithful to his promise to maintain a "lamp" (a continuous line of descendants) for David. This demonstrates God's enduring faithfulness even when his people are unfaithful, preserving Judah despite their transgressions.
- **What is the significance of the rebellions of Edom and Moab against Judah and Israel?**
- The rebellions of Edom and Moab represent a weakening of Israel and Judah's power and a withdrawal of God's favor. These territories, once conquered and controlled by David and Solomon, began to break away as the kingdoms strayed from God. This suggests that national prosperity and security are contingent upon obedience to God.
- **What was the strategic importance of Ramoth Gilead in the conflict between Israel/Judah and Aram (Syria)?**
- Ramoth Gilead was a strategically vital crossroads on the "highway of the kings," a major trade route. Controlling it allowed a nation to control trade and exert influence over the region. The conflict over Ramoth Gilead highlights the ongoing power struggles in the area and the importance of this location.

- **What are some of the lessons that today's Christians can learn from the story of the kings of Israel and Judah?**
- Today's Christians can learn the importance of remaining distinct from the values of the world while still engaging with it, to hold fast to God's promises even when experiencing failure and that personal and national righteousness are essential for sustained blessing. Additionally, the account shows the intergenerational impact of decisions, emphasizing the responsibility to guide and influence children toward godly living.