

Study Aids
Discussion Questions
For “What’s the Message?” Lessons

Lesson 60

The kingdom of Judah was about to pay a very dear price for the peace that Jehoshaphat bought with the intermarriage between the two leading families, for when Ahaziah married Athaliah, Baal accompanied her to Judah. The precise dates are unknown, but this peaceful time only lasted about 20 years, and approximately 15 of those years were contaminated by Baal worship.

Questions:

Just as Queen Jezebel had done before her, Queen Athaliah used her position as the wife of Jehoram to get him to follow her god and not Yahweh. What was the reaction of the people of Judah? Did those who had not yet been seduced by Baal regard this 6th generation son of David as a good king? What honors did they give him at his death? (See 2nd Chronicles chapter 21).

The son of Jehoram and Athaliah, named Ahaziah, was the next in line as King of Judah, but was killed along with King Joram of Israel by the purge of Jehu. Now, does this sequence of events involving Athaliah have anything at all to do with our day? Have you ever seen someone who is outwardly a Christian led astray by an unbelieving spouse? What happened to their children as regarding their religious attitude and practice? Is there a danger in having a mixed marriage of this type? Can anything be done to prevent this extreme dichotomy from happening in the first place?

Does God usually get replaced in these situations, albeit subtly shrouded in sophisticated logic, with the gods of materialism? Can this be considered a form of paganism?