

Leadership Succession

August 4, 2019 ~ 2 Chronicles 21.1-20

Game of Thrones

- Book series written by George R. R. Martin – released over 15 years
- HBO show debuted in 2011 – 3 million annual viewers
- Grew by millions per year (*54m HBO subscribers / 15M viewers*)
- Since 2012 most pirated show in the world (*400k downloaded 7th finale*)
- It's 8th and final season is being televised now
- We have Cliff Notes version of similar (*but true*) story in Kings & Chronicles

Background on Divided Kingdom

- Kingdom has been divided 82 to 90 years
- Southern kingdom (Judah) fairly stable (*5 kings*) – Judah and Benjamin
 - Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram
- Northern kingdom (Israel) not so stable (*10 kings*) – All 10 others
 - Jeroboam, Nadab (*Ephraim*)
 - Baasha, Elah (*Issachar*)
 - Zimri (*Simeon – killed Elah and relatives/friends of Baasha – ruled 7 days*)
 - **III: Jezebel** taunted Jehu calling him Zimri (*45 years*) **Read 2 Ki 9.30-31**
 - Omri (*Issachar? - commander of army*)
 - Tibni (*Manasseh? – contended with Omri – 4 years of war*)
 - Omri's line -> Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram (bro)
- Distinguishing kings difficult (*same names recur, same names have aliases*)

Text Covers 8 Year Period in History of Judah (848 – 841 BC)

- Our text covers a king of the Southern Kingdom (*Judah*)
- Jehoram's grandfather (Asa) was also godly man, good king, reigned 41 years
 - During his reign Judah and Israel fought often
- Jehoram's father (Jehoshaphat) was godly man, decent king, reigned 25 years
 - Judah reconciled with Israel during his reign
 - **Read 2 Chr 18.1** ~ "**Jehoshaphat had riches .. himself with Ahab**"
 - Jehoram married Athaliah (*daughter of Ahab and Jezebel*)
 - A year later Athaliah murders her grandchildren and rules for 6 years
- Jehoram nothing like father or grandfather – but like father-in-law Ahab
 - Jehoram – so wicked God shortened his reign by striking him with disease
 - **Read v20** ~ "**He was thirty-two years .. to no one's sorrow, departed**"
 - **Read Prov 29.2** ~ "**When the righteous .. the people groan.**"

Xition: We could focus on variety of topics during this interesting period . . .

Message Derived From Verse 3

- Interesting period of time immediately following this
 1. Anointing of Jehu & death of kings Joram (I) & Ahaziah (J),
 2. Athaliah's reign of terror in Judah with death of Ahaziah
 3. Rescue of Ahaziah's son Joash by Jehoshabath
 4. Intrigue of Jehoida hiding Joash for 6 years until the big reveal
 5. Betrayal of Jehoida's legacy – Joash executing Zedekiah
- **Read v3** ~ “Their father gave them great .. because he was the firstborn”
- Jehoshaphat was a good and godly man – but erred greatly as king c/Israel
 - **Chapters 17-20** document Jehoshaphat's faithfulness towards God
 - **Reread 2 Chr 18.1** ~ “Jehoshaphat had riches .. allied himself with Ahab”
- Today's message is about leadership succession
- “How are leaders chosen in government, in the church, in business?”

3 Kings ~ “How Had Prior Kings Been Chosen?”

- Saul - **Read 1 Sam 9.1-2** ~ “There was a man .. any of the people”
 - Tall – Only 4% men 6'2” or over (1:25) / 30% of CEOs (1:3)
 - Handsome – Attractive people earn 12% higher pay than others
 - III: PCA discipline cases – Most loved and most despised of pastors
- David – **Read 1 Sam 16.6-7** ~ “So it was .. looks at the heart”
 - God chose David to be king based on knowing his heart
- Solomon – **Read 1 Chr 22.6-10** ~ “Then he called for .. over Israel forever”
 - God chose Solomon because he wanted “man of rest” to build Temple
- Kingdom xitions from father to eldest son / Some to brother (*most peaceful*)
- Others were due to coups or God's prophetic guidance (*Jehu*)
- Newly anointed king sometimes reigned as co-monarch (*peaceful xition*)

“What About Other Forms of Government?”

- III: Democracy in America ~ Compared aristocracy to democratic republic
- III: 1800 election ~ Challenge of choosing new President/VP
 - Washington's two elections to President were unanimous (1788/1792)
 - 1796 – Adams was a Federalist / Jefferson a Democratic-Republican
 - 1804 – P and VP to be from same parties – 12th Amendment
- Law of succession to Presidency
 - Constitution covered VP to P (*powers if not office*)
 - Tested in 1841 with death of William Henry Harrison 1 month into office
 - III: John Tyler - Read John Tyler's Address of Friday April 9, 1841
 - 1947 – Law changed to have elected officials in line – not appointed

Xition: Succession also an issue in the church and business . . .

Businesses Have Succession Plans

- Business Continuity
 - **III: UP** ~ Key executives aren't allowed to travel with one another
 - **III: Forbes** ~ Businesses fail 20% more often within 2 years of boss' death
 - Business Continuity captures the concept
 - My neighbor for 10+ years worked role at FDR
- But our topic is more about “**choosing**” the right people to begin with
- Business Succession
 - **III: Zoo Nebraska** ~ Dick Haskin's dream of Midwest Primate Center
 - Met Dian Fossey at conf on primates in San Diego (*18 month invite*)
 - No one else to rely upon / He worked 18-20 hour days 7 days a week
 - He “**sold out**” and embraced zoo concept though he hated them
 - Choosing who will be tomorrow's leaders
 - **III: Panda** – HIPO – “**high potential**”
 - **III: UP** – Annual identification of folks to work hard to retain

Churches and Para Churches Also Face This Issue

- **III: D James Kennedy** ~ Death in 2007 - unclear if ministries would survive
 - Became D James Kennedy Ministries – thriving
- Others have faced similar challenges – RJ Rushdoony, Greg Bahnsen
 - Death can all too easily end a ministry's effectiveness
 - SCCTS (SoCal) -> BTS (SoCal) -> CTS (Florida)
- **III: CCGM** ~ Father-in-law's non-profit to share gospel
 - He was very concerned that it not die off
 - He spoke often of a friend's ministry that failed after his death

Planning for the Future

- An organization can have trustees and directors
 - Trustees – **entrusted** with the vision of an organization
 - Directors – provide daily **direction** to the organization
- Busy day-to-day activities interfere with long-term planning
 - Yet it becomes increasingly important to carve time out

Training for the Future

- All of us probably have this proverb memorized
 - **Prov 22.6** ~ “**Train a child up in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.**”
- Our sermon title is “**Leadership Succession**”
- One essential element of having qualified leaders is to train them

Xition: Training is an essential element in growing leaders

Training Vision First

- Jehoshaphat was a godly man / But he failed his kingdom
- He failed to establish the proper vision for his son Jehoram
 - Jehoram killed his 6 brothers and within 8 years God killed him
- But training alone is not enough
 - Jehoida trained up Joash from a baby
 - Yet after Jehoida died Joash was influenced to evil by leaders of Judah
 - He gave the order to have Zedekiah (*Jehoida's son*) stoned when rebuked

Character and Training

- Nature vs. Nurture ~ We can blame Jehoram's failure on bad nurturing
 - He himself had a good father and grandfather – yet his wife was evil
 - Bad nurturing appeared to overwhelm a good nature
 - Joash had a bad nature (father and mother evil) yet good nurturing
 - Jehoida raised him right – Yet he went very bad . . .
- There is no magic formula for godly success
- John Owens book on "**Mortification of Sin**" emphasizes constant vigilance
 - In Gloria's baptism message earlier John warned of confidence in flesh
 - We cannot rest in our pedigree / conversion experience
 - **!!!**: Joshua Harris (author & pastor) has renounced his faith
 - He seemed to have both – nature and nurture

In Summary:

We ought to train our young people in godliness

We ought to train our men in leadership

Character development and skills training are both critical to success

We need to train up good leaders so we have many to choose from when needed

We also need to practice and encourage daily mortification of sin

**Jude 24-25 ~ "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and
to present *you* faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy;
To God our Savior, Who alone is wise,
be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen."**