

Theme: God will expose and judge the sin (darkness) of his people in order to preserve the light of his promise to David, the promise of the light of Christ. He will judge the sin in his people today to let the light of Christ shine more brightly in us.

Background & Introduction: Returning to Judah after a long focus on Israel

I. Setting the Stage (1-16)

- A. A divine “coincidence” (1-6)
 - The truth of God’s Word is confirmed
 - As well as his care for his people
- B. Raising an instrument of judgment (7-15)
 - 1. Going back to Elijah (1 Kings 19:15-17)
 - Anoint Hazael (in Syria), Jehu (in Israel), and Elisha
 - 2. Hazael will be king
 - Murdering Ben-Hadad
 - 3. Elisha’s grief
 - Divine sorrow (Ezekiel 33:11; Luke 19:41-44)

II. A Quiet Invasion (16-24)

- A. Judah follows Israel
 - 1. Jehoshaphat’s alliance with Ahab (1 Kings 22:44)
 - 2. Jehoram marries Jezebel’s daughter, Athaliah
 - 3. Walking in the ways of the house of Ahab! (18)
 - See also 2 Chronicles 21
 - 4. Bringing disgrace upon the house of David!
- B. Judah’s waning power
 - 1. Edom revolts
 - 2. Libnah secedes from Judah
- C. Judging Jehoram’s house (see 2 Chronicles 21:16-19)
 - 1. A devastating invasion
 - 2. Taking his wives and children into captivity
 - Only Athaliah and his youngest Ahaziah/Jehoahaz escape
 - 3. A painful, lingering death

III. Judah in Israel’s Service (25-29)

- A. Ahaziah reigns (see 2 Chronicles 22:1-9)
 - Athaliah is “in charge”
- B. Azariah in the House of Ahab (27)
 - Remember Ramoth-Gilead? (1 Kings 22)

IV. Preserving Judah's Lamp (19)

A. God's discipline of Judah

1. Forsaking the law and promises of God
2. Leading the people astray

B. Not for destruction, but for deliverance

1. God has not forgotten *his* promise (Isaiah 42:3)
- David's son will sit on the throne (2 Samuel 7:12-16)
2. To purify His people
3. To keep the lamp lit

V. Preserving the Light of Christ

A. Judgment coming on the Church?

1. Pressure from without to conform to the world
- To accept and follow the way of the world¹
2. Pressure from within

What they discovered? Regarding their "beliefs".

- "Moralistic, Therapeutic, Deism"²
- Those teenagers grew up!

B. How bright is the light?

1. Has it been dimmed by the culture?
2. Is "teaching" enough?
3. God give you a Joash!

C. What will we need to stand fast?

1. People – the community, the body of Christ
2. Perseverance
3. Passion
4. The Promise – Holding it tightly, not loosely

Next week: 2 Kings 9,10 "Cleaning House in Israel"

¹ World Magazine online 7/7/20, "(An Impossible Choice for Christian Business Owners," by Steve West

² "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Eyes of American Teenagers" by Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton; <https://www.christianpost.com/news/moralistic-therapeutic-deism-the-new-american-religion.html>