

Hazael was destroying much of trans-Jordan and when he was working these terrible atrocities showing them that even this was part of God's plan. Even this while it was something that they should strenuously oppose, was not something that would lead them to give way to despair. Because God was in the throne and ordering all things in accordance with His own purposes even though sometimes they are very difficult for the follower of the Lord to understand the full meaning of them.

Then we have a very brief account of the reign of the son of Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, here in Kings--just a very brief account of the eight years that he reigned in Jerusalem. A wicked king, a man who was tremendously influenced by his wife. Jehoshaphat thought that he was doing much good for his kingdom in ~~xxxx~~ being friends with Ahab and honoring him. Ahab was much more powerful than Jehoshaphat. Ahab was king of the kingdom of Israel, perhaps ~~not~~ nearly twice as strong as the kingdom of Judah, and Judah didn't gain anything it seemed by constantly fighting Israel, and Jehoshaphat went in the opposite direction ~~from xxxxxx~~ and when the king of Israel made friends, ~~and~~ he took advantage of it and actually became a friend and went with him to the battles. We have something said about that over in Chronicles at which we will look a little later.

But Jehoshaphat in carrying out this purpose of thinking he was helping his kingdom although he was a good man and a man who in general was loyal to god in doing ~~xxx~~ it he made this alignment with the wicked king ~~xxx~~ Ahab. He thought, "I will carry on the alliance in such a way that Judah will be helped but that no harm will be done." He found that no alliance with wickedness ever fails to bring fruit that is contrary. He found that you cannot say, let us do a little evil and a lot of good will come. It doesn't work that way. The result of the friendship of the two families was that the daughter of Ahab became the wife of the son of Jehoshaphat. The daughter of Ahab, the weak king, was also the daughter of Jezebel, the strong-minded and wicked queen.