A Tale of 2 Kingdoms
2 Kings 1-12

1 Kings and 2 Kings Contrasted

1 Kings	2 Kings
Begins with King David	Ends with King of Babylon
Opens with Solomon's glory	Closes with Jehoiachin's shame
Begins with blessings of obedience	Ends with curse of disobedience
Opens with building Temple	Closes with burning Temple
Traces progress of apostasy	Describes consequence of apostasy
Shows how kings failed to rule	Depicts consequences of failure
Prophet Elijah	Prophet Elisha
Emphasizes patience of the Lord	Confirms Lord's sure punishment

© Ryrie Study Bible

2 Kings Context

- After Solomon’s death, the kingdom was divided.
- The Northern kingdom was Israel.
- The Southern kingdom was Judah.
- In Israel, many became king through murder.
- Judah’s kings became king through inheritance.

2 Kings Context

- All Israelite kings actively promoted Idolatry.
- Some of Judah's kings attempted to follow the Lord.
- Ahab, king of Israel married Jezebel, a princess of Sidon. She brought massive Baal worship into Israel.
- God used Elijah to bring judgement on Ahab and Israel.
- Ahab died as Elijah predicted.

The prophet Elisha

- Then Elijah appointed his successor, Elisha.
- The Lord translated Elijah to heaven without dying!
- Elisha performed many miracles, second only to the Lord Jesus.
  - Parted the Jordan.
  - Jericho spring made potable.
  - Sent bears to punish irreverent youth.
  - Flooded ditches to confuse Moabites.
  - Multiplied a widow’s oil.
  - Resurrected a child.

The prophet Elisha

- Elisha’s miracles contd.
  - Purified poisoned stew.
  - Multiplied loaves.
  - Healed Naaman’s leprosy.
  - Struck Gehazi with leprosy.
  - Floated lost axe head.
  - Enabled king’s messenger to see heavenly army.
  - Blinded Aramean army.
  - His bones resurrected a dead man.

Lessons from Elisha

- A famine was in Samaria because of a siege by Ben-Hadad king of Aram.
- In 2 Kings 7:1 Elisha predicted the end of the famine.
- A king’s officer refused to believe it.
- Elisha predicted he would see it but not eat of it!
- A miracle took place, as Elisha predicted.

Lessons from Elisha

- The Israeli officer could not believe that God would end the famine.
- The officer saw it, and was killed by the mob going for the food.
- Lesson: God keeps His promises.

Lessons from Elisha

- Namaan was a great warrior of Aram, but he was a leper.
- Namaan went to Israel for a cure, on the counsel of his wife's servant.
- Namaan was upset at Elisha telling him by messenger to go bathe in the Jordan.
- Namaan listened to the counsel of his servant, and bathed, and was healed.

Lessons from Elisha

- Namaan became a proselyte, and believed God.
- Lesson: God cared about Namaan.
- Lesson: The purpose of the miracle was to teach Namaan about the true God.

Lessons from Elisha

- Elisha's servant Gehazi tried to profit from Namaan's gratitude.
- This took away from the Glory of God. It was important for Namaan to know that we cannot buy God's favor.
- Gehazi paid for that … he got leprosy.

Lessons from Elisha

- The story of Namaan relates the actions of three servants.
- Lesson: Namaan’s servants gave good counsel, resulting in Namaan’s cure and salvation.
- Lesson: Elisha’s servant followed his own bad counsel, resulting in his own curse.

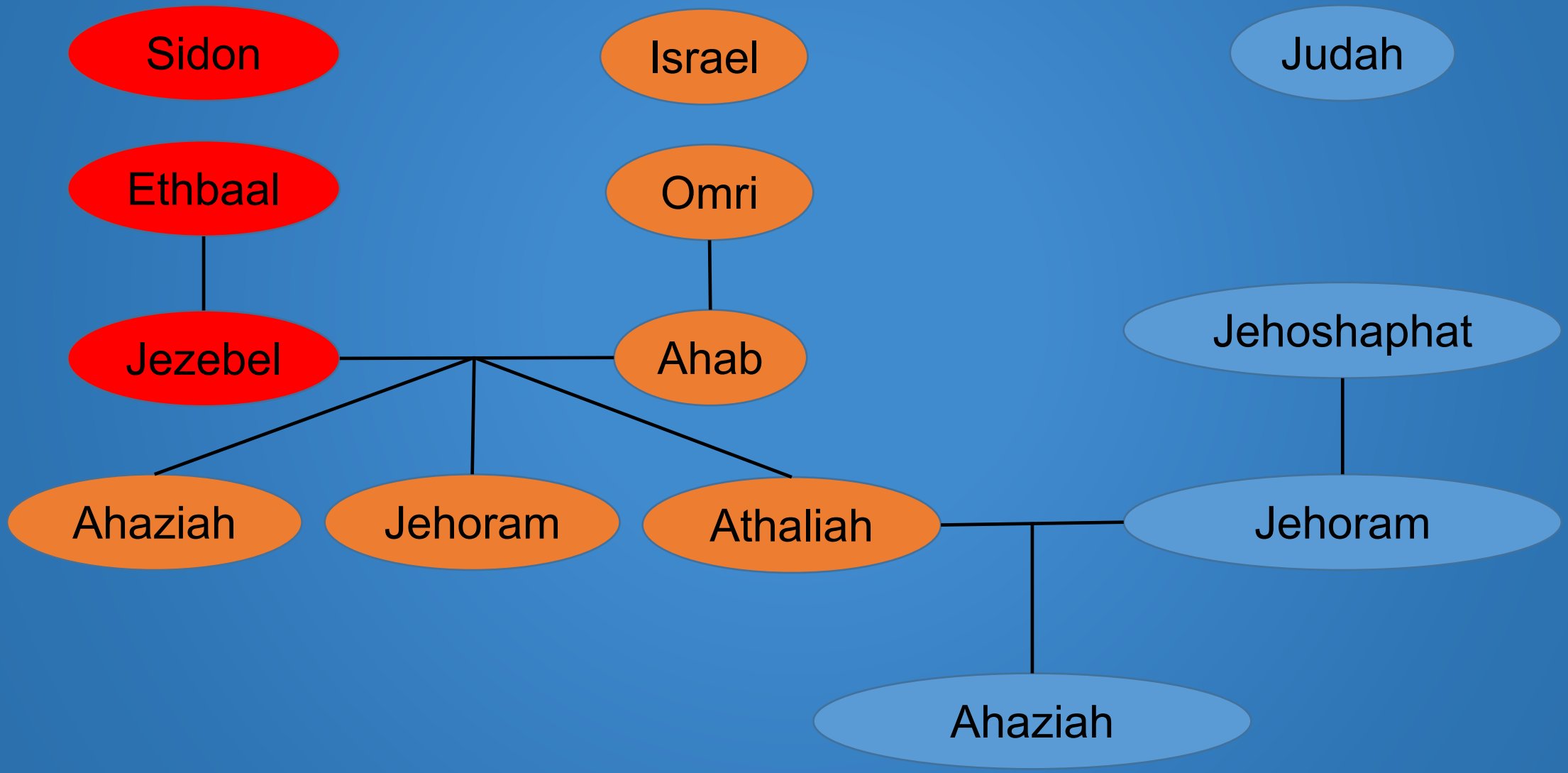
Lessons from Elisha

- The army of Aram attacked Israel.
- Elisha prayed and God struck them with blindness.
- He brought them into Samaria, and opened their eyes.
- The king of Israel wanted to kill them.
- But Elisha told him to feed them and send them home.
- God cared for the defeated army!

Lessons from Elisha

- 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for <u>any to perish but for all to come to repentance</u>.*
- Lesson: God cares for *all* people. He wants all to come to repentance, and be saved.

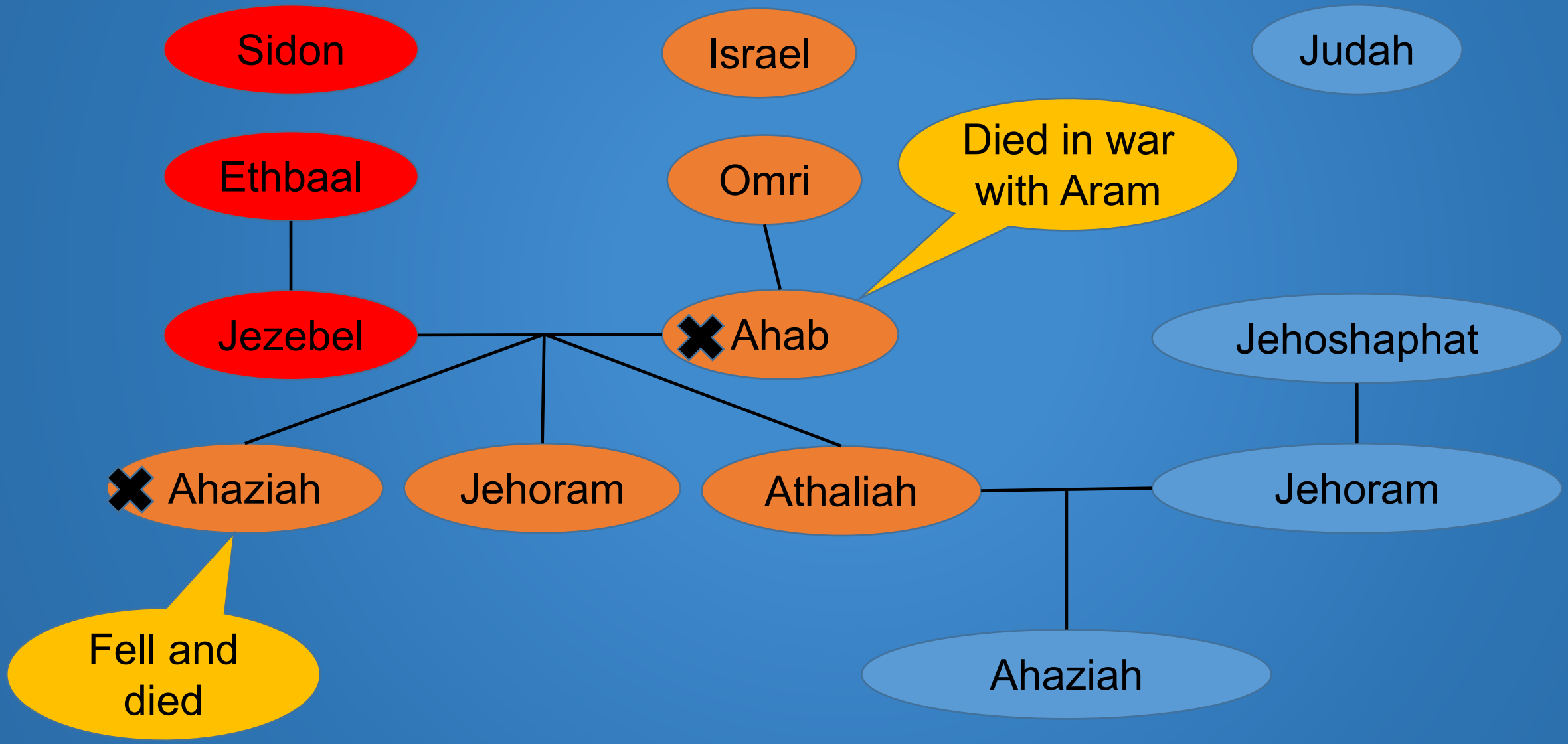
The fall of the House of Ahab



The fall of the House of Ahab

- Ahab was one of the worst kings.
- His wife Jezebel led Israel into all manner of sin.
- God used Elijah to bring judgement on Ahab.
- Ahab had died in a war with the Arameans.
- Ahaziah, first son of Ahab became king.
- Ahaziah, son of Ahab, had a fall and died with no sons.

The fall of the House of Ahab



The fall of the House of Ahab

- Jezebel brought corruption into Israel's royalty.
- Jehoshaphat's son Jehoram married a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, Athaliah.
- Jehoram would then bring idolatry into Judah because of his wife Athaliah.
- And he also murdered all his brothers!
- The bad marriage of Jehoram corrupted him and all Judah.

The fall of the House of Ahab

- 2 Cor 6:14 *Do not be bound together with unbelievers …*
- Avoid deep relationships such as marriage with unbelievers.
- You may think that you would like to save them.
- But usually they will corrupt you.
- The corruption can have generational consequences.

The fall of the House of Ahab

- Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat (not the king of Judah) was from Israel.
- Elisha anointed Jehu to be king of Israel.
- And to finally and completely exterminate the contamination of Jezebel from Israel.
- His brothers, and all Israel rallied around Jehu.

The fall of the House of Ahab

- Jehoram king of Israel and his nephew Ahaziah king of Judah, were at war with the Arameans.
- Jehoram was injured and fled to Jezreel.
- Jehu came to Jezreel, and killed the injured Jehoram.
- Jehu then killed Ahaziah king of Judah.
- Then Jehu killed Jezebel, the queen-mother who brought all the corruption into Israel and Judah.

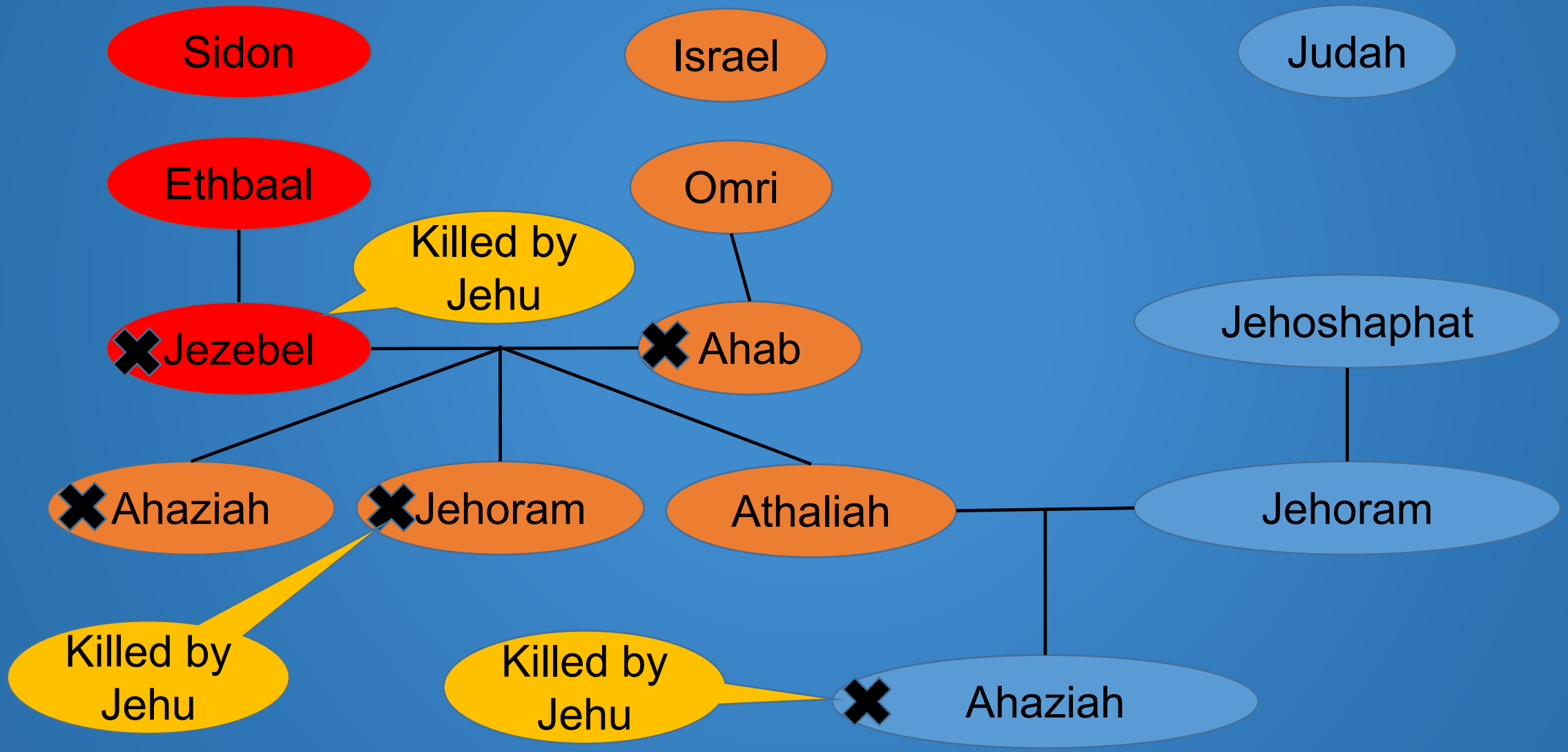
The fall of the House of Ahab

- Then Jehu killed the 70 sons of Ahab.
- And also 42 relatives of Ahaziah.
- Finally, Jehu setup a trap to capture and kill all the Baal worshippers.
- He announced a Baal Conference, and worshippers of Baal came.
- He then massacred them.
- The house of Baal was made into a toilet!

The fall of the House of Ahab

- Jehu exterminated Jezebel,
- And her son king Jehoram (aka Joram),
- And her grandson Ahaziah of Judah,
- And all of Ahab’s 70 sons,
- And all of Ahaziah’s 42 relatives,
- And all the Baal worshippers!
- He only left behind Athaliah, the mother of Ahaziah, since she was in another nation, Judah.

The fall of the House of Ahab



The fall of the House of Ahab

- 2 Kings 10:30 *The Lord said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in executing what is right in My eyes … your sons of the 4'th generation shall sit on the throne of Israel*."
- Lesson: There is great blessing in following the Lord's command. The blessing continues to generations.

The fall of the House of Ahab

- But unfortunately, Jehu did not carefully continue in the Law of the Lord.
- He did not depart from idolatry.
- And he died, and his son Jehoahaz became king of Israel.

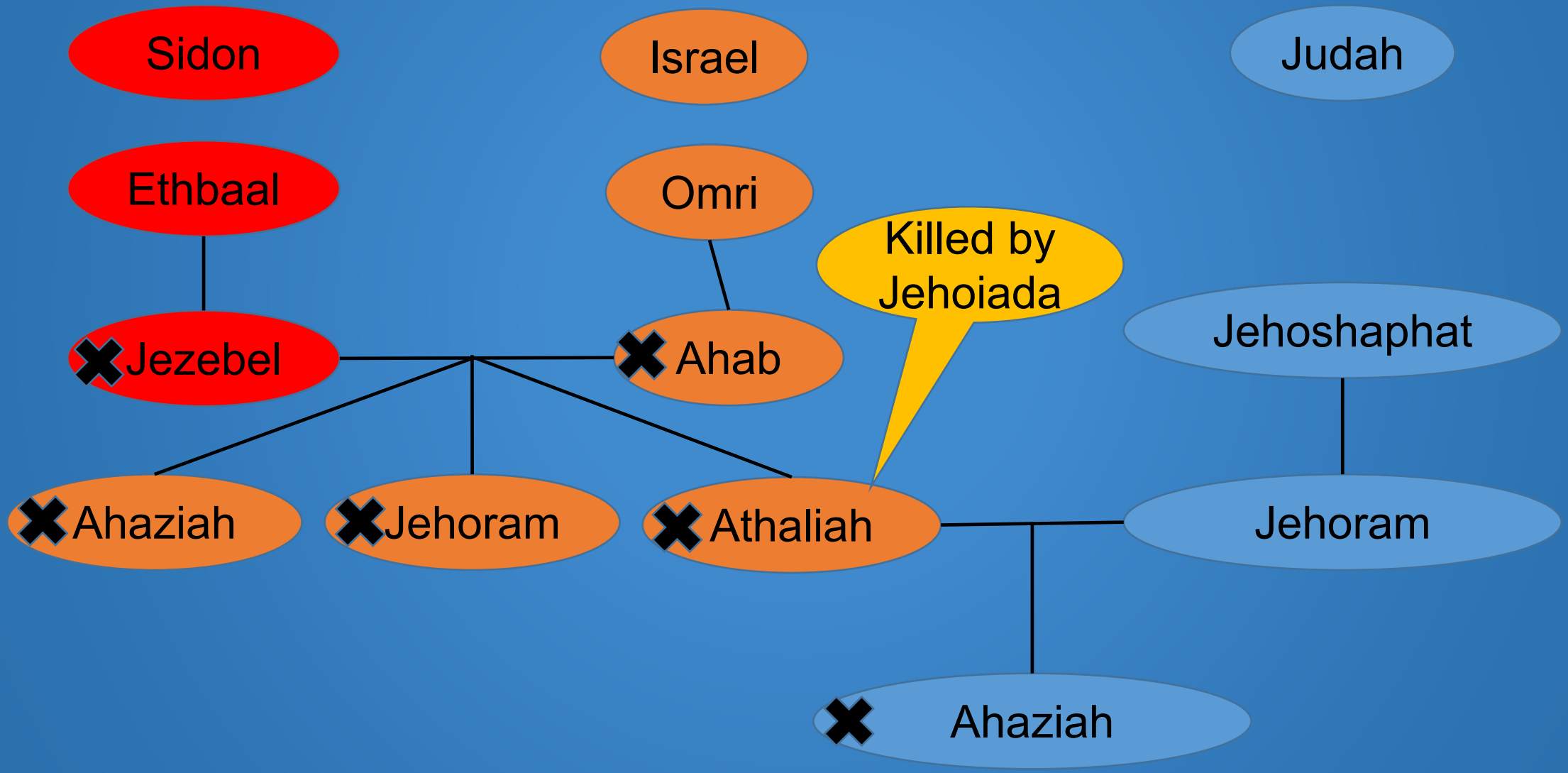
The Legacy of Ahab in Judah

- Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, queen-mother of recently killed Ahaziah decided she wanted to be queen of Judah.
- She attempted killed of *all but one of her own grandchildren (children of her son Ahaziah)!*
- Her sister-in-law Jehosheba (Jehsebeath) hid one of Athaliah's sons, Joash.
- Joash was hidden in the Temple for 6 years.

The Legacy of Ahab in Judah

- Athaliah ascended to the throne by murdering her own grandchildren.
- Meanwhile Joash grew up in secret in the Temple, under the tutelage of the godly priest Jehoiada.
- Jehoiada groomed Joash to be king.
- In Joash's seventh year in the Temple, Jehoiada organized a coup to oust Athaliah.
- Athaliah was ousted, and killed by Jehoiada, and Joash installed as king in Judah.

The fall of the House of Ahab



The Fall of the House of Ahab

- Ahab king of Israel killed by a random arrow in a battle.
- Ahaziah king of Israel, son of Ahab fell through a lattice and died.
- Ahab's 70 sons were killed by Jehu.
- Ahaziah's 42 relatives were killed by Jehu.
- Jezebel queen of Israel was killed by Jehu.
- Jehoram king of Israel, son of Ahab was killed by Jehu.
- Ahaziah king of Judah, grandson of Ahab was killed by Jehu.
- Athaliah queen of Judah, daughter of Ahab, mother of Ahaziah was killed by Jehoiada.

The Legacy of Ahab in Judah

- Joash was 7 when he became king of Judah!
- His name was changed to Jehoash.
- He followed the Lord all the days of the godly priest Jehoiada, his stepfather.
- He restored the Temple, which had been destroyed by his wicked mother Athaliah.
- He restored the holy things of the Temple taken by his wicked brothers for Baal worship.

The Legacy of Ahab in Judah

- But … unfortunately, after Jehoash's mentor Jehoiada died, he forsook the Lord (2 Chron 24:17-27).
- Zechariah, son of Jehoiada challenged Jehoiada.
- 2 Chron 24:20 *… Because you have forsaken the Lord He has also forsaken you*.
- Jehoash then had Zechariah stoned to death.

The Legacy of Ahab in Judah

- Jehoash did not remember the kindness of Zechariah's father Jehoiada showed him.
- The cruelty and godlessness of his grandmother Jezebel lived on in Judah!
- The curse from Jezebel had now invaded Judah's royalty.
- Stay tuned for further installments on Judah's corruption!

Summary
God Answers Prayer

- God used Elisha mightily in the midst of a very ungodly Israel.
- 2 Chron 16:9 *For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro through the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.*

Summary
Sin results in Judgement

- Ahab transgressed and married Jezebel.
- His entire life was one of rebellion against the Lord.
- Jezebel incited him to idolatry and murder.
- In judgement, Ahab and Jezebel died as predicted by Elijah.

Summary
Sin Results in Consequences

- Sometimes the consequences affect entire kingdoms.
- The entire family of Ahab in Israel was wiped out.
- Jehoshaphat was a godly king, who made a very regrettable choice in giving his son Jehoram in a marriage alliance with Athaliah daughter of Jezebel.
- It resulted in generations of tribulation for Judah.