

2 Kings 8

Verses 1- 3

Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, “Arise and go with your household, and live wherever you can live; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it will indeed come on the land for seven years.” ² So the woman arose and acted in accordance with the word of the man of God: she went with her household and resided in the land of the Philistines for seven years. ³ Then at the end of seven years, the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to appeal to the king for her house and for her field.

Now Elisha spoke to the woman whose son he had restored to life, saying, “Arise and go with your household, and live wherever you can live; for the Lord has called for a famine, and it will indeed come on the land for seven years.”

See Chart 805

2nd Kings timeline

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
7	Arameans hear sound of a great army	m12	
7	Famine in Samaria ends	m13	
7	Unbelieving Officer gets trampled	m14	
8	Woman of Shunem goes to Philistia		848
8	7 years of famine in Israel		848 - 842
8	Woman of Shunem returns home		842
8	Rich woman gets income back	m15	842
8	Hazael becomes king of Aram		842
8	Ahaziah king of Judah	5s	841

² So the woman arose and acted in accordance with the word of the man of God: she went with her household and resided in the land of the Philistines for seven years.

See map 810



³ Then at the end of seven years, the woman returned from the land of the Philistines; and she went to appeal to the king for her house and for her field.

While the rich woman was in Philistia, her house and field were appropriated by someone and she had to appeal to the king.

Verses 4 - 6

⁴ Now the king was speaking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, “Please report to me all the great things that Elisha has done.” ⁵ And as he was reporting to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, “My lord the king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.” ⁶ When the king asked the woman, she told *everything* to him. So the king appointed an officer for her, saying, “Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now.”

⁴ Now the king was speaking with Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, saying, “Please report to me all the great things that Elisha has done.”

Some people think it is unlikely that the king would be talking freely with a leper so they argue that this event happened before Gehazi was stricken with leprosy. However, the time frame of these two events makes that impossible.

See chart 815

2nd Kings timeline			
Ch.	Event	Other	Year
3	Jehoram (Joram) king of Israel	9n	852
4	Water from Edom	m4	
5	Naaman healed of Leprosy	m9	
5	leprosy of Naaman clings to Gahazi		852 - 848
6	An ax head floats	m10	
6	Army struck with blindness	m11	
6	Famine in Samaria		
7	Arameans hear sound of a great army	m12	
7	Famine in Samaria ends	m13	
7	Unbelieving Officer gets trampled	m14	848
8	Woman of Shunem goes to Philistia		848
8	7 years of famine in Israel		848 - 842
8	Woman of Shunem returns home		842
8	King gives woman her income back	m15	842
8	Hazael becomes king of Aram		842
8	Ahaziah king of Judah	5s	841

⁵ And as he was reporting to the king how he had restored to life the one who was dead, behold, the woman whose son he had restored to life appealed to the king for her house and for her field. And Gehazi said, “My lord the king, this is the woman and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life.”

The timing of this event is the miracle. It is obvious that this did not happen by chance.

⁶ When the king asked the woman, she told *everything* to him. So the king appointed an officer for her, saying, “Restore all that was hers and all the produce of the field from the day that she left the land even until now.”

Her original act of kindness to the prophet Elisha paid huge dividends. Consider the following:

1. Previously she was unable to have a son and her husband was old but Elisha informed her that she would have a son within the next year.
2. Later when her son died, he was raised from the dead.
3. She was informed about the 7 year famine coming to Israel.
4. She had her house and land restored plus all the produce of the field for the years she was in Philistia.

Verses 7-9

Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad, the king of Aram, was sick, and it was told to him, saying, “The man of God has come here.” ⁸ And the king said to Hazael, “Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’” ⁹ So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels’ loads; and he came and stood before him and said, “Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’

Then Elisha came to Damascus. Now Ben-hadad, the king of Aram, was sick, and it was told to him, saying, “The man of God has come here.”

See Map 820



In chapter 6, Benhadad had sought to capture Elisha for revealing his plans to the king of Israel but the healing of Naaman must have put Elisha in good graces with the King of Syria.

Some people think Elisha came to anoint Hazael king in place of Ben-hadad but there is no record in the scriptures to support this view.

⁸ **And the king said to Hazael,** “Take a gift in your hand and go to meet the man of God, and inquire of the Lord by him, saying, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’”

In the near future Hazael will murder King Benhadad and seized his throne. An inscription of Shalmaneser III records his victory over Benhadad in 846 B.C. and another victory over Hazael, whom he described as ‘a nobody who seized the throne,’ in the year 842 B.C.

⁹ So Hazael went to meet him and took a gift in his hand, even every kind of good thing of Damascus, forty camels' loads; and he came and stood before him and said, "Your son Ben-hadad king of Aram has sent me to you, saying, 'Will I recover from this sickness?'"

One camel load is about six hundred pounds.

The king of Syria knew that Elisha was a true prophet and a gift would not determine a favorable answer but nevertheless he sent a huge gift, hoping for a positive answer. It is interesting that there is no mention of him consulting the gods of Syria.

Verses 10-13

¹⁰ Then Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You will certainly recover'; but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die." ¹¹ And he stared steadily *at him* until *Hazael* was embarrassed, and *then* the man of God wept. ¹² And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" And he answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: you will set their fortified cities on fire, you will kill their young men with the sword, their little ones you will smash to pieces, and you will rip up their pregnant women." ¹³ Then Hazael said, "But what is your servant—a *lowly* dog—that he could do this great thing?" And Elisha answered, "The Lord has shown me that you *will be* king over Aram."

¹⁰ Then Elisha said to him, "Go, say to him, 'You will certainly recover'; but the Lord has shown me that he will certainly die." ¹¹ And he stared steadily at him until Hazael was embarrassed, and then the man of God wept.

Elisha told Hazel to say that the king would recover knowing full well that the king would die. He told Hazael to do this because Elisha knew that this was what Hazel had planned to do from the very beginning. Elisha then stared at Hazel to let him know that he was well aware of Hazel's plans to seize the throne.

¹² And Hazael said, "Why is my lord weeping?" And he answered, "Because I know the evil that you will do to the sons of Israel: you will set their fortified cities on fire, you will kill their young men with the sword, their little ones you will smash to pieces, and you will rip up their pregnant women."

Many people would be intrigued with the thought of knowing what will happen in the future, but when you're dealing with men like Hazael, it would become a nightmare.

¹³ Then Hazael said, “But what is your servant—a *lowly* dog—that he could do this great thing?” And Elisha answered, “The Lord has shown me that you *will be* king over Aram.”

Hazael said that he was only a slave of Benhadad and that he had no power to do such things but Elisha knew better.

Verses 14-15

So he left Elisha and came to his master, who said to him, “What did Elisha say to you?” And he answered, “He told me that you would certainly recover.” ¹⁵ But on the following day, he took the cover and dipped it in water, and spread it over his face, so that he died. And Hazael became king in his place.

Hazael suffocated Benhadad and took over the kingship.

See chart 825

Kings of Syria

King	Reign
Ben-Hadad I	885-865 BC
Hadadezer (Ben Hadad II)	865 - 842 BC
Hazael	842–805 or 796 BC
Ben-Hadad III	796 to 792 BC
Rezin	754 BC–732 BC

Verses 16-19

¹⁶ Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah became king. ¹⁷ He was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for eight years in Jerusalem. ¹⁸ He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's daughter was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord. ¹⁹ However, the Lord did not want to destroy Judah, for the sake of David His servant, since He had promised him to give him a lamp through his sons always.

¹⁶ Now in the fifth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah became king.

See chart 830

Southern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841-835	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835-796	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796-767	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

Eight of the southern kings reigned with their father for a number of years before they became the reigning King. This was a common practice among a number of nations including the Egyptians.

¹⁸ He walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as the house of Ahab had done, for Ahab's daughter was his wife; and he did evil in the sight of the Lord.

The record of Jehoram's reign is very brief here but a much fuller account of his wickedness is recorded in 2 Chronicles 21. The fact that his wife was the daughter of Jezebel explains his evil behavior.

¹⁹ However, the Lord did not want to destroy Judah, for the sake of David His servant, since He had promised him to give him a lamp through his sons always.

The sins of Jehoram should have resulted in the destruction of Judah but the Lord had made a promise to David that his line would sit on the throne.

See 2 Samuel 7:13-16

¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and with strokes of sons of mankind, ¹⁵ but My favor shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.””” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and all of this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

Verses 20-24

²⁰ In his days Edom broke away from the rule of Judah, and appointed a king over themselves. ²¹ Then Joram crossed over to Zair, and all his chariots with him. And he got up at night and struck the Edomites who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots; but his army fled to their tents. ²² So Edom has broken away from Judah to this day. Then Libnah broke away at the same time. ²³ Now the rest of the acts of Joram and everything that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ²⁴ So Joram lay down with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David; and his son Ahaziah became king in his place.

²⁰ In his days Edom broke away from the rule of Judah, and appointed a king over themselves.

See Map 835



The Edomite's were defeated by David and paid tribute to Israel until the end of Solomon's reign.

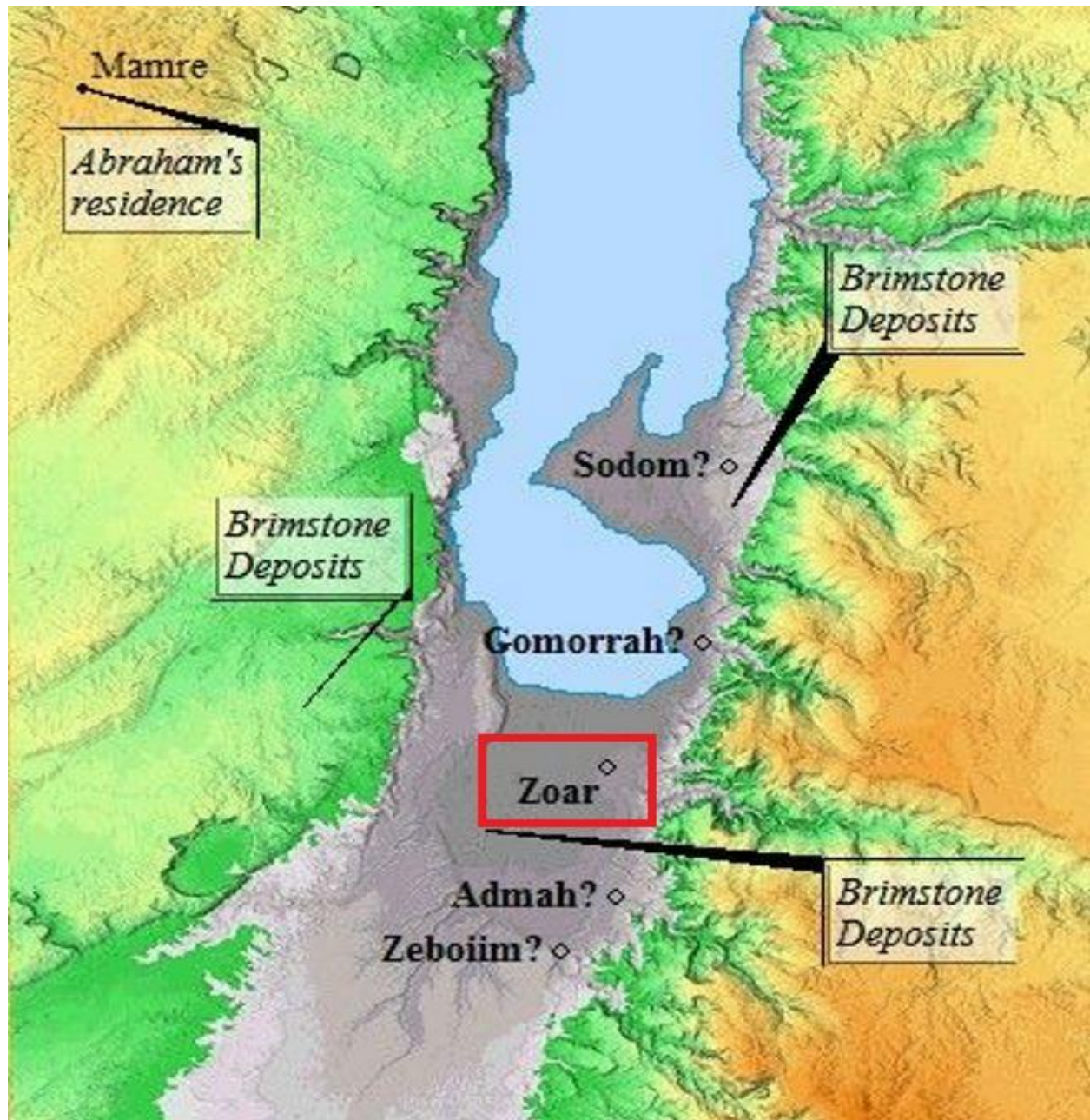
Then they revolted and became an independent nation but after a period of time they once again came became a vassal of Judah during the reign of Jehoshaphat.

However, this revolt against Joram resulted in their independence and they remained an independent nation from this point on.

²¹ Then Joram crossed over to Zair, and all his chariots with him. And he got up at night and struck the Edomite's who had surrounded him and the captains of the chariots; but his army fled to their tents

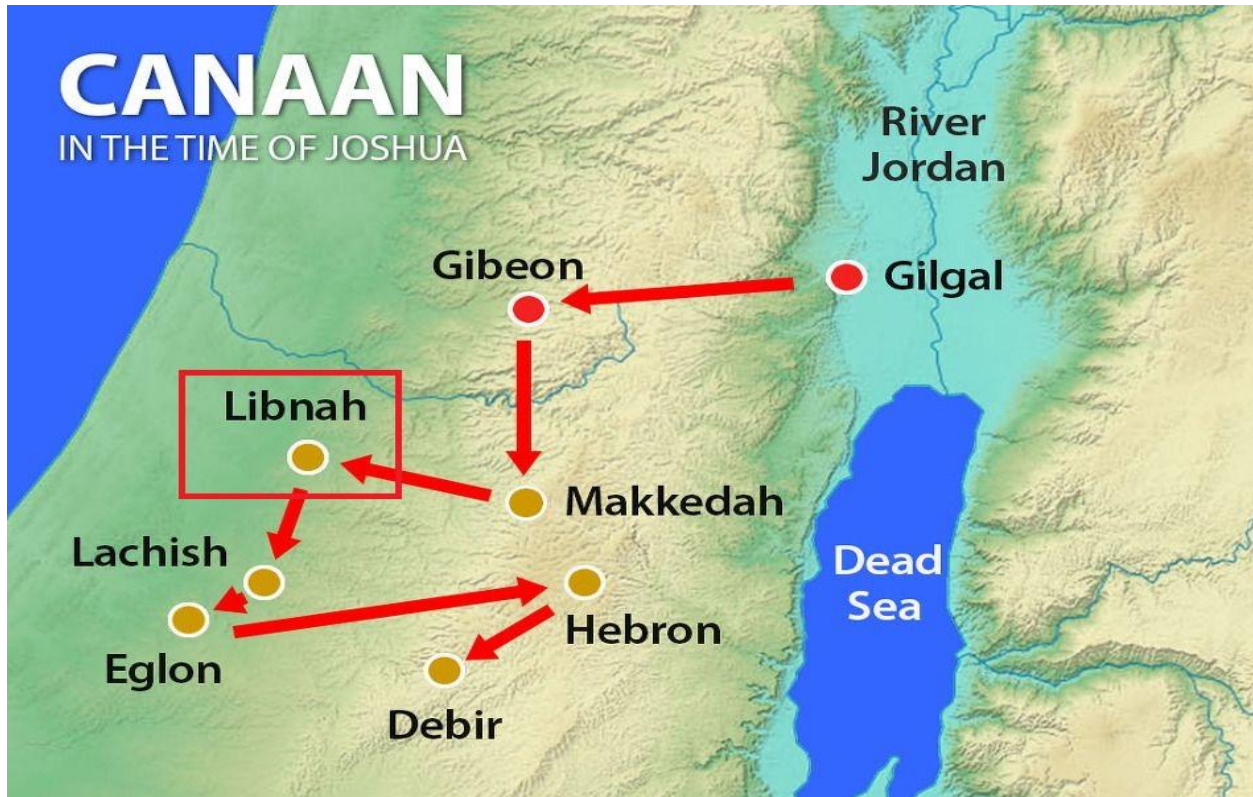
Jehoram's army was surrounded by the Edomite troops at Zair (Zoar) but he was able to break through and escape with his life. However, the rest of the army escaped as best they could.

See Map 840



²² So Edom has broken away from Judah to this day. Then Libnah broke away at the same time.

See Map 845



It is not clear why Libnah, a town or city in Judah, broke away from the southern kingdom but one might guess it had something to do with taxes.

Verses 25-29

²⁵ In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign. ²⁶ Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri king of Israel. ²⁷ He walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did evil in the sight of the Lord, like the house of Ahab, because he was a son-in-law of the house of Ahab. ²⁸ Then he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead, and the Arameans wounded Joram. ²⁹ So King Joram returned to have himself healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Arameans had inflicted on him at Ramah when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel because he was sick.

²⁵ In the twelfth year of Joram the son of Ahab king of Israel, Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah began to reign. ²⁶ Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah the granddaughter of Omri king of Israel.

See chart 850

Southern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
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6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
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8	Amaziah	796	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

The reign of Ahaziah was very brief, lasting only about a year. His mother, Athaliah, was the granddaughter of Omri.

See chart 855

Northern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Jeroboam I	930	909	22	
2	Nadab	909	908	2	
3	Baasha	908	886	24	
4	Elah	886	885	2	
5	Zimri	885	885	7 days	
6	Omri	885	874	12	
7	Ahab	874	853	22	
8	Ahaziah	853	852	2	
9	Jehoram (aka Joram)	852	841	12	
10	Jehu	841	814	28	

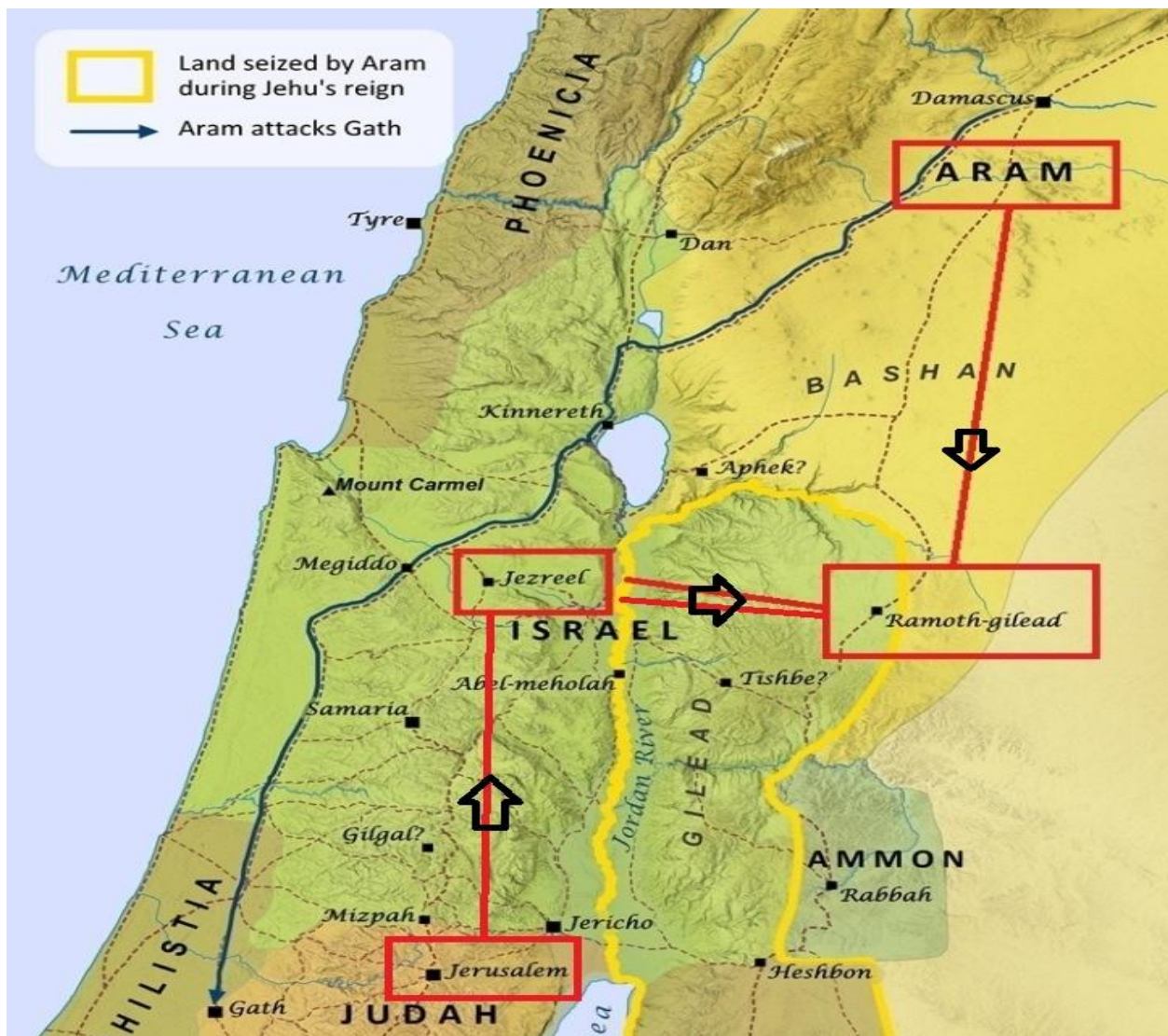
²⁷ He walked in the way of the house of Ahab and did evil in the sight of the Lord, like the house of Ahab, because he was a son-in-law of the house of Ahab.

See chart 855 above

The house of Ahab began with his father Omri but Ahab was more evil than his father because of his wife Jezebel. The other descendants of Ahab that became king were evil but not to the extent of Ahab and Jezebel.

²⁸ Then he went with Joram the son of Ahab to war against Hazael king of Aram at Ramoth-gilead, and the Arameans wounded Joram.

See map 860



²⁹ So King Joram returned to have himself healed in Jezreel of the wounds which the Arameans had inflicted on him at Ramah when he fought against Hazael king of Aram. Then Ahaziah the son of Jehoram king of Judah went down to see Joram the son of Ahab in Jezreel because he was sick.

Joram went home to Jezreel to be healed and Ahaziah went back to Jerusalem. However, sometime later Ahaziah went to Jezreel to see Joram who was now sick from his injuries.