

## 21.10a Jehoram [Joram]<sup>5</sup> Ⓢ of Judah (2 Kings 8:16-24; 2 Chronicles 21:2-20)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- (optional) A 25–30-foot piece of string or rope in order to show the length of small and large intestines
- Note: The 2-page poster found at the end of this lesson shows Ahab’s line of Athaliah, Ahaziah, and Joram and Jehoshaphat’s line of Joram and Ahaziah to point out the same names. This poster indicates, as in a family tree, Athaliah’s connection to Ahab (daughter) and to Joram of Judah (wife).

### Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:

- *plague*: a very bad thing that happens to people. It might be sickness or something else. For example, some of the ten plagues in Egypt were lice, hail, frogs, rivers of blood, diseased cattle, locusts, darkness, and, finally, death to the firstborn.
- *bowels*: [see picture at the end of this lesson] a 25–30-foot tube in the body that digests food
- *tombs*: [see picture at the end of this lesson] graves. In Bible days, dead people were put into caves, and a stone was put across the cave’s entrance

### Scripture: (ESV)

2 Chronicles 21:1 Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers and was buried with his fathers in the city of David, and Jehoram his son reigned in his place. 2 He had brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat: Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariah, Michael, and Shephatiah; all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. 3 Their father gave them great gifts of silver, gold, and valuable possessions, together with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram, because he was the firstborn. 4 When Jehoram had ascended the throne of his father and was established, he killed all his brothers with the sword, and also some of the princes of Israel. 5 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. 6 And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for the daughter of Ahab was his wife. And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. 7 Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and since he had promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

8 In his days Edom revolted from the rule of Judah and set up a king of their own. 9 Then Jehoram passed over with his commanders and all his chariots, and he rose by night and struck the Edomites who had surrounded him and his chariot commanders. 10 So Edom revolted from the rule of Judah to this day. At that time Libnah also revolted from his rule, because he had forsaken the Lord, the God of his fathers.

11 Moreover, he made high places in the hill country of Judah and led the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom and made Judah go astray. 12 And a letter came to him from Elijah the prophet, saying, “Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father, ‘Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, 13 but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel and have enticed Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into whoredom, as the house of Ahab led Israel into whoredom, and also you have killed your brothers, of your father’s house, who were better than you, 14 behold, the Lord will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions, 15 and you yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels, until your bowels come out because of the disease, day by day.’”

16 And the Lord stirred up against Jehoram the anger of the Philistines and of the Arabians who are near the Ethiopians. 17 And they came up against Judah and invaded it and carried away all the possessions they found that belonged to the king’s house, and also his sons and his wives, so that no son was left to him except

Jehoahaz, his youngest son.

18 And after all this the Lord struck him in his bowels with an incurable disease. 19 In the course of time, at the end of two years, his bowels came out because of the disease, and he died in great agony. His people made no fire in his honor, like the fires made for his fathers. 20 He was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he departed with no one's regret. They buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

### **Introduction/Review:**

Elijah was God's prophet in Israel [locate] while Ahab and his son Joram were kings. At the same time Jehoshaphat was king in Judah [locate], and his son, also named Joram (or Jehoram) became king. I wonder if it was confusing to people to talk about the kings while both Jorams ruled.

"Joram—," one person might have begun.

"Which one?" asked his hearer.

"Oh, Joram in Israel."

"Okay. Thank you. Go on with your story."

### **Story:**

We have been telling you Bible stories that took place in Israel, but today's story takes place in Judah. Besides good King Jehoshaphat's firstborn son, Joram, Jehoshaphat had six other sons. He gave them wonderful gifts of silver, gold, valuable possessions, and strong cities, but Joram was the oldest. Therefore, Jehoshaphat made him king. In fact, Jehoshaphat and Joram reigned together for about three years.

Now, Jehoshaphat had been a great and good king—a little too friendly with wicked King Ahab and his son Joram but a king who taught his people the ways of God. What do you think? Would Jehoshaphat's son be a good king too? Will you be a good and kind person simply because your dad is? Maybe you will, or maybe you won't. Will you be a bad person if your dad is a poor example to you? Maybe or maybe not, but I hope not. The choice is up to you. Follow God's ways no matter what your parents may have done. That's the way to please God; He expects all people to obey His Word. He will bless.

### ***Joram's reign***

So, back to Jehoshaphat's son, Joram. Was he a good king? The answer is . . . NO. He was the worst of all of Judah's kings so far! This is what he did. As soon as his father had died and he was set up as king, he slew all six of his brothers—killed them *and* some princes in Judah. The Bible says he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, who were all bad. Why would the son of such a good king act like the bad kings of Israel? Part of the answer is because he married wicked King Ahab's daughter, Athaliah. [Show poster.] She was as bad as her mother and father, and ✓she influenced her husband. The Bible says he "did what was evil in the sight of the Lord."

### ***God's warnings***

God has ways of warning us to turn around when we do wrong: He'll often send us little troubles in order to cause us to look back to Him. God sent some troubles to Joram, but Joram didn't pay any attention.

First, Edom, the people south and a little east of Judah [locate] had been servants to Judah for 150 years—since David's time. Now Edom rebelled. "We won't pay any more money to Judah. We won't serve Joram, king of Judah. We'll be our own independent country. We will *fight* against Judah!" they said. And they did. Oh, Joram tried to fight against them a little bit, too, but Edom won the battle and set up its own king. From then on, Edom continued to rebel against Judah.

Well, Edom was a foreign nation, but Joram also had trouble at home. Libnah, a city of the Levites in Judah [locate two-thirds of the way to the Mediterranean Sea from the northern Dead Sea], was so upset by

Joram's wicked ways and his turning away from the Lord that they, too, rebelled from Joram's authority over them at the same time as Edom did. They would no longer pay taxes to Judah's king but formed their own government.

[Sarcastically, speaking to Joram.] "Hello, Joram! Can you hear God speaking to you? Will you pay attention to God? Will you turn back to God? Oh, you think you might have trouble at home with your wife if you served God? Who's more important, Joram—God or your wife? Your wife? No, Joram! What are you doing now? Where are you going? What are you making in the hill country? Are you actually making high places to worship idols? No, Joram! The true God is to be worshiped at the temple in Jerusalem. What? You are making the people of Jerusalem be unfaithful to God? You are making Judah go astray?" Can't somebody stop him?!

### ***Elijah's letter***

Well, somebody did try to stop him—Elijah, God's prophet in Israel.<sup>1</sup> He sent this letter to Joram of Judah:

[Teacher, this letter is written out on a separate page at the end of this lesson for you to read as Joram might have read a scroll.] "Thus says the Lord, 'Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into unfaithfulness, as the house of Ahab led Israel into unfaithfulness, and also you have killed your brothers, who were better than you, behold, the Lord will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions. You yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels [Teacher, beware of reading the rest of this letter to small children] until your bowels come out day by day because of the disease.'"

Let's consider this letter. In school you will learn about cause and effect. Causes are why something happens. God lists three causes or reason why He will punish Joram. They are

1. Joram did not walk in the ways of his father and grandfather, who were good, but walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, who were bad.
2. Joram led Judah and Jerusalem into unfaithfulness, just as Ahab had led Israel into unfaithfulness
3. Joram had killed his brothers, who were better than he was.

These are the causes or reasons why God would punish Joram. Then God gives the effects or the consequences—the punishment, in this case—for Joram's bad choices:

1. The Lord would bring a great plague on his people, his children, his wives, all his possessions, and on Joram himself.
2. [Teacher, use discretion about Joram's specific disease. You might say it was a very painful disease of the intestines. Having said that, do not use the following description for young children.] Joram would have a severe and painful sickness that would cause his bowels to come out day by day.

### ***Joram's punishment***

These are terrible punishments for Joram's sin! Going our own way instead of God's rarely gives us blessing but punishment that we deserve. Joram certainly deserved hard punishment for his wicked ways. God had promised to cut off Ahab's line of descendants because of Ahab's wickedness. Now, here was Joram—just about as wicked as Ahab. But God did not cut off Joram's line because He had promised David that his line of descendants would last forever. That means that eventually a particular Son of David would rule forever. We know this Son is Jesus Christ.

So how did God carry out the first punishment—bringing a great plague? He "stirred up . . . the anger of the Philistines and the Arabians" [locate] against Joram. They came to Jerusalem, took away all his possessions [Teacher, check off *possessions* on poster found below]. They took away his sons except his youngest son, Ahaziah [check off *children*]. The Philistines and Arabian also took away his wives [check off *wives*]. All of

this is certainly a plague to Joram [check off Joram's name].

But what was to come to Joram's body would be equally bad. The second effect was that terrible, painful disease of his intestines. For two years Joram suffered great agony. [Teacher, be discerning about using the following:] Day by day, his bowels (his insides) somehow (I don't know how) came out. What a gross thought, but what a wicked man! After two years of intense suffering, he died, but nobody cared or felt sorry.

"Don't bury him where his father is buried," people said. "He is not worthy even to have his dead body near good King Jehoshaphat's dead body." So they buried him in the city of David but not in the tombs of the kings.

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<sup>1</sup>How could Elijah warn Joram if he had already been translated to heaven? ✓ Perhaps Elijah had written the letter prophetically before his translation to heaven. Maybe he had Elisha deliver it to Joram about six years after he became king. On the other hand, this story might be out of chronological order, and Elijah might have been alive when his letter was sent to Joram. The chart found at [The Timeline Of Kings And Prophet | The Hesitant Prize Fighter \(wordpress.com\)](http://The Timeline Of Kings And Prophet | The Hesitant Prize Fighter (wordpress.com)) seems to defend the latter view, for it indicates Elijah's being alive during the first part of Joram's reign.

### **Lessons from This Lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
King Joram's line of kings, like Ahab's, could have been cut off. But God intended for Jesus to come from Joram's line of kings descending from David. Jesus is David's greater Son, who would come into the world to save His people from their sins.
- Sin promises great rewards, but they are truly punishments. Going our own way instead of God's way is a dangerous way to go. I pray that all of you will forsake your own way and go in the way God has showed us in His wonderful holy Word, the Bible. Do what Jesus commands in Matthew 22:37: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls, and with all your mind."

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: a tomb—a rounded, hollow piece with a flat "stone" to fit the entrance
- Snack: An unhealthy snack such as Twinkies® or Pop Tarts®
- Review questions: (Game: A student who answers a question correctly may find on the map found below, which the teacher has printed, a country, region, or city the teacher names. Use these locations: Israel, Judah, Edom, Libnah, Philistine States, Arabu Tribes [my guess that ✓Arabians came from this region since it is close to Philistia], the capital of Israel—Samaria, the capital of Judah—Jerusalem.)
  1. Israel and Judah had at least two kings with the same name. Give one of these names. [Joram; Ahaziah.]
  2. What did Jehoshaphat do for the six sons besides Joram? [Gave them gifts of silver, gold, and valuable possessions, together with fortified cities in Judah.]
  3. Who was Joram's wife? [Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.]
  4. How was Joram a bad king? Tell two things. [Slew his brothers; acted like the bad kings of Israel; led the people to idol worship.]
  5. What country and what city rebelled against Joram? [Edom; Libnah.]
  6. Who sent a letter of warning to Joram? [Elijah.]
  7. Name one country the Lord used to bring great plague on Joram's people, children, wives, and all his possessions? [Philistia; Arabia.]
  8. What part of Joram's body became painfully diseased? [His intestines/bowels.]

**Memory Verse:**

- Matthew 22:37: “Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’” To use the visual found at the end of this lesson, print and cut out the circle. Fold back the sections with *heart*, *mind*, and *soul*. When those words are spoken in the verse, reveal the words.

**Handwork:**

- Color the Matthew 22:37 visual.

plagues

bowels

tombs



**Waters Turn to Blood**  
Exodus 7:14-25



**Amphibians (Frogs)**  
Exodus 7:26-8:11



**Gnats (Lice)**  
Exodus 8:12-15



**Flies**  
Exodus 8:16-28



**Disease on Livestock**  
Exodus 9:1-7

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# The Ten Plagues of Egypt

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**Unhealable Boils**  
Exodus 9:8-12



**Hail and Fire**  
Exodus 9:13-35



**Locusts**  
Exodus 10:1-20



**Darkness**  
Exodus 10:21-29



**Death of First-Born**  
Exodus 11:1-12:36





Israel: Biblical Libnah Iron Age settlement from Kingdom of Judah 'found' in Tel Burna / [OrthoChristian.Com](http://OrthoChristian.Com)



[Teacher, roll this paper up like a scroll so that you can read it as Joram might have read his letter from Elijah.]

“Thus says the Lord, ‘Because you have not walked in the ways of Jehoshaphat your father, or in the ways of Asa king of Judah, but have walked in the way of the kings of Israel, and have led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem into unfaithfulness, as the house of Ahab led Israel into unfaithfulness, and also you have killed your brothers, who were better than you, behold, the Lord will bring a great plague on your people, your children, your wives, and all your possessions. You yourself will have a severe sickness with a disease of your bowels [Teacher, beware of finishing the letter if teaching small children] until your bowels come out day by day because of the disease.’”

*Elijah*

Ahab

Athaliah

Ahaziah

Joram



Israel





Jehoshaphat 😊

♥ Joram



Ahaziah



Joash



Jehosheba 😊

Judah

# Causes

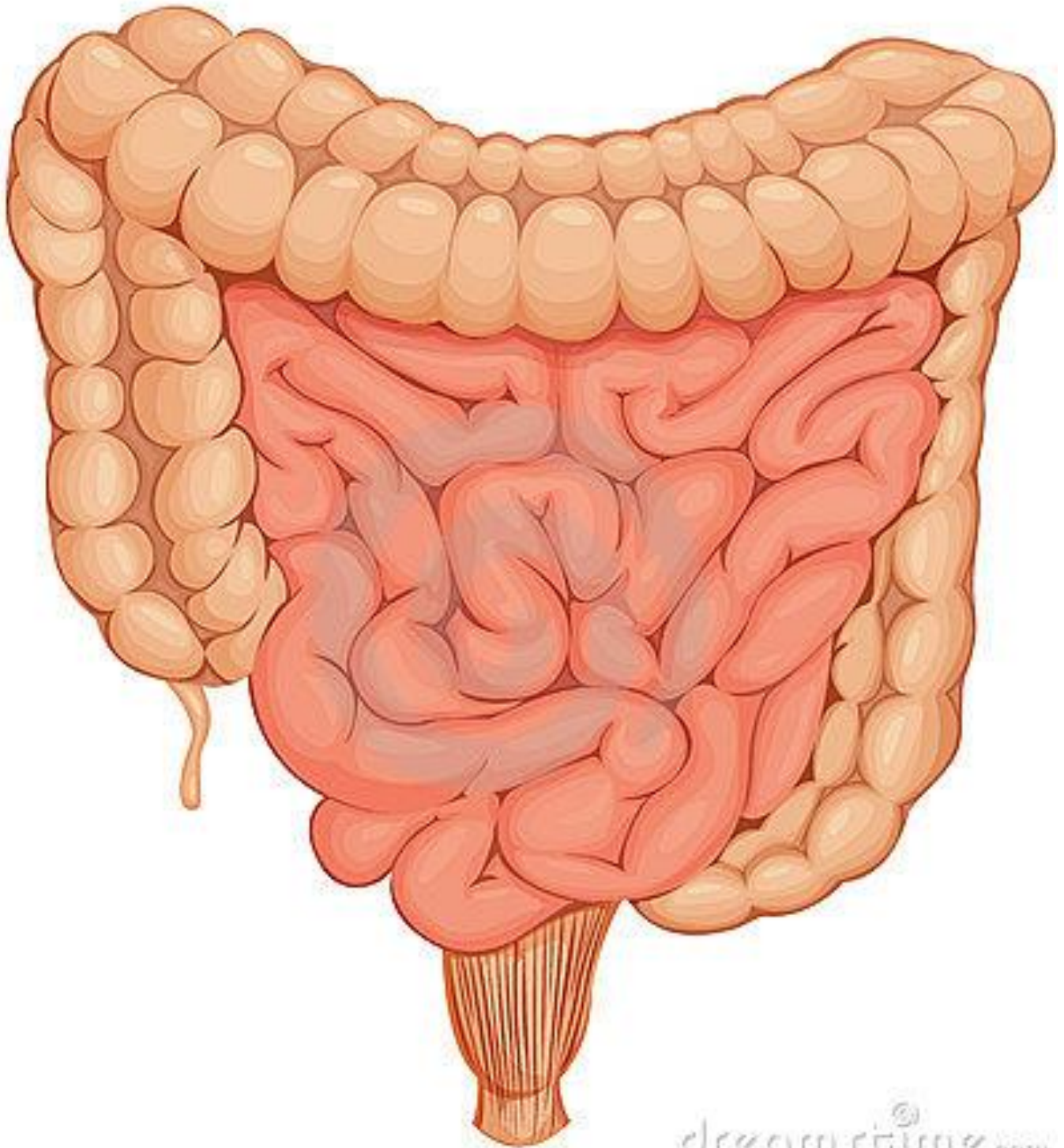
1. Walked in the ways of the kings of Israel.
2. Led Judah to unfaithfulness.
3. Killed brothers.

# Effects

1. Great plague on people and family.\*
2. Great disease in his bowels.

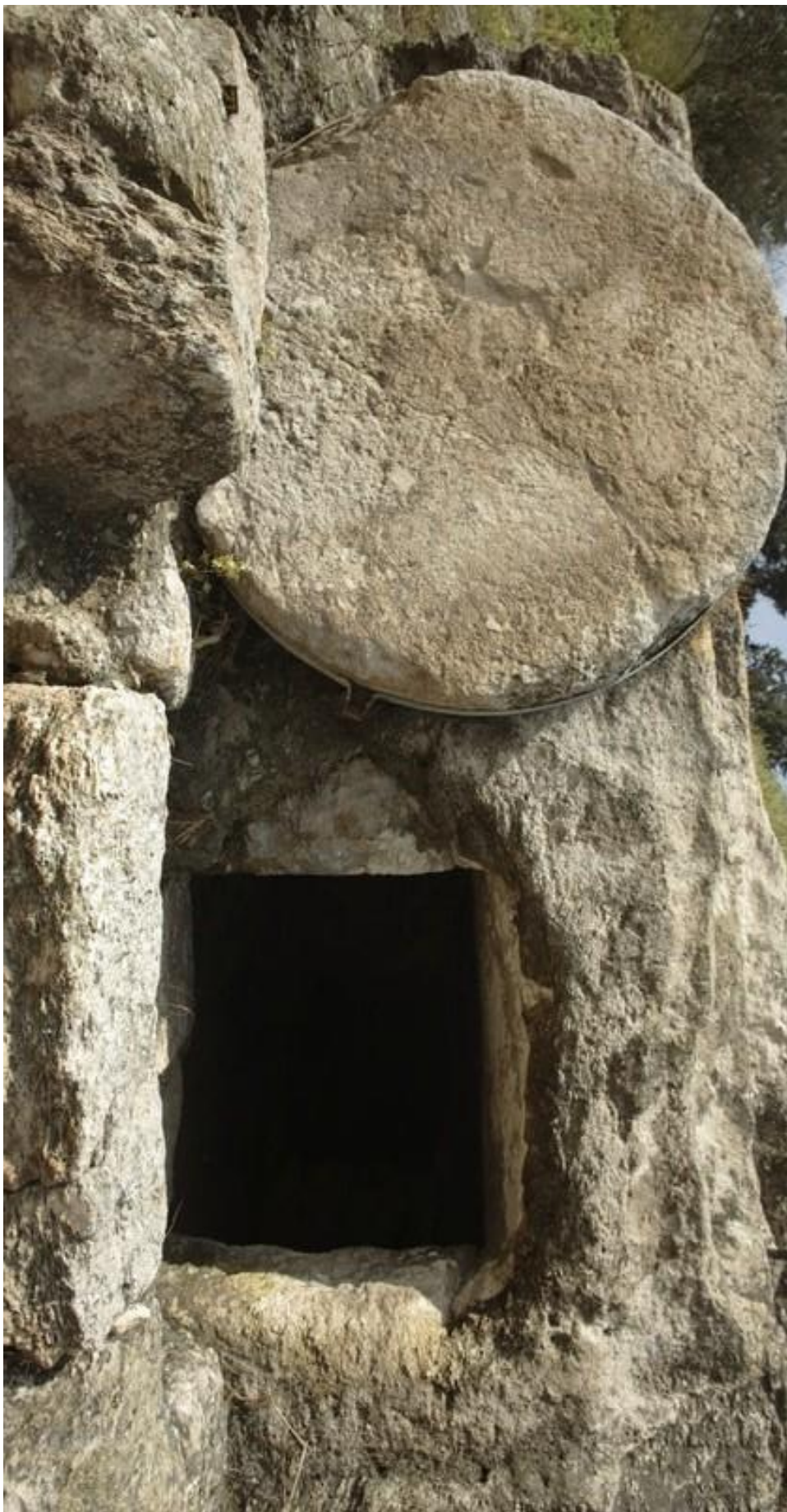
\*Lose

- x possessions
- x children
- x wives

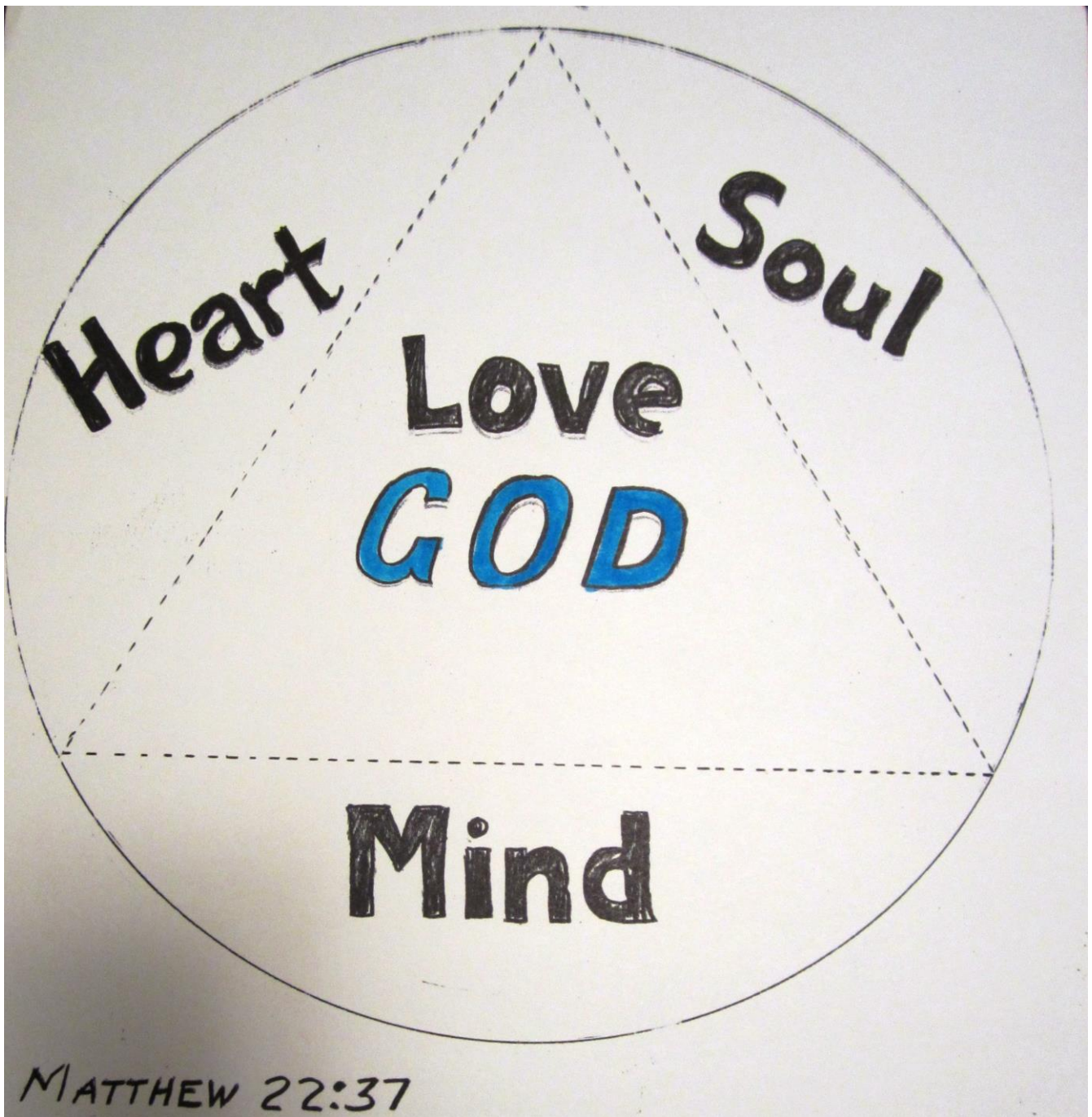


Large and small intestines (bowels) <http://worldartsme.com/images/intestines-clipart-1.jpg>





[The Empty Tomb of Jesus: 10 Things You Should Know \(crosswalk.com\)](https://www.crosswalk.com) [photo should be shown in landscape orientation]



Cut out the circle; fold back at dotted lines; reveal words as they occur in the verse.