

Week Five – Joash the Boy King and Figurehead

2 Chronicles 24 (also II Kings 11.21-chapter 12)

Purpose: We want discover positive character traits and recognize negative character traits in the people that want to lead us.

Method: We will do this by looking at a select group of leaders among the kings of Israel and Judah. We can't study all of the kings in a 10-12 week study. There are too many.

A key verse:

Ex 18:21 Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

To this point we have looked at:

- Rehoboam – The King who listened to bad **counsel**.
- Asa – The King who **almost** finished well.
- Jehoshaphat – The King who kept making terrible **alliances**.
- Ahaziah/Athalia – the **wimp** King and his **conniving** mother.

Today we will look at Joash – Boy King and figurehead.

Heritage:

Once again all of these kings in Judah are in the bloodline of King David. David had been promised that a descendant would always sit on the throne in Jerusalem as long as they obeyed and kept the covenant.

Solomon was a good king for the most part but he disobeyed in marrying foreign women, increasing wealth, buying horses and most of all in advancing horrible Moloch worship in his later days.

Rehoboam was Solomon's son and did both good and bad. He took bad advice and split the 12 kingdoms into two divisions. He also married poorly.

Abijah was Rehoboam's son. He was mostly a bad king and followed in the ways of the kings of Israel allowing Baal worship and marrying into the family of Ahab and Jezebel.

Asa was a very good king for most of his life. He did not finish well because when he got old, established and successful he forgot about God and took major dangers into his own hands.

Jehoshaphat came next the son of Asa. He was the missionary king so to speak. He promoted the teaching of the law of God among the people. He was a good king. His major downfall was always related to his wicked alliances with Ahab.

Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, was a bad king. He married one of **Ahab's** daughter's, Athalia (21.6). She influenced him. Later, v.18-20, The Lord struck him with an intestinal disease that resulted in his bowels falling out and then death. It is very important who we associate with because our kids may marry one of their kids. It is important whom a person marries.

Ahaziah son of Jehoram didn't live long and his wife Athalia seized power. We talked a lot about that last time.

Joash:

Background facts:

- Athalia has been deposed and killed because of her wicked seizure of power and the murder of the royal family.
- Jehosheba's daring faith in hiding Joash from Athalia's wrath has been rewarded by being installed as King.
- Judah has been enjoying blessings as Jehoida the Priest lead in the eradication of Baal worship and idolatry.
- As well Judah has prospered because for a time the king and the Priesthood was on the same page for positive reforms.
- God always has his people...

Situation:

This is the best of all situations (II Chronicles 24.1-3). The King is listening to the wisdom and spiritual direction of a godly priest, Johoida. While he does he rules

well. There is safety in seeking wise counsel. Once again we have a very young and inexperienced King who needs guidance and he needs the merciful hand of God on him. He prospered as long as he listened to good advice.

Reforms:

- Joash decided to **repair** the house of God (24.1).
- Joash **decreed** that the census taxes must resume (24.4-5).
- Joash **decried** the delay in the temple repairing process (24.5b-7).
- Joash devised an **alternative plan** for receiving the offerings (v.8-14).
 - It is was **visible** and encouraging (v.8-11).
 - It was **diligently** counted and **administered** (v.12-14). Reversals

Key verse: 2 Chronicles 24.2 Joash did *what was* right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

Notice in 24.15-16 Jehoida the Priest lived long, served well and then he died. With him died the good counsel in the ear of Joash.

- Joash was **indiscriminate** in his choice of counsellor (v.17).
- Joash revealed that his heart was not **loyal** to God (v.18).
- Joash and his new counsellors rejected the **merciful** warnings of the prophets sent to him (v.19).
- Joash was filled with murderous rage at God's **messenger** (v.20-21).
- Joash was disloyal to the God and to **Jehoida** who put him on the throne (v.22).
- Joash **reaped** what he sowed (v.23-27).

What can we learn about leadership from Joash?

- A leader can borrow brains; he can even borrow **wisdom**.
- A leader can never borrow **character**
- A leader can never borrow **conviction**.
- A leader will be revealed by the **counsellors** he chooses. Once again show me how a man's associates and friends are and I will tell you who he is.
- A leader that can't be corrected shouldn't be **selected**.
- A leader that will not be **accountable** is a leader that is destined to fall.
- A leader who has shifting loyalties will fall prey to **disloyalty**.

- A leader who has no principle other than doing what is necessary to stay in power is not a leader he/she is a **figurehead**, a puppet being controlled by winds of opinion.

We are talking about how to investigate those that would be king (leader).