

BOOK OF 2 KINGS  
JEHOASH'S (JOASH'S) REIGN IN JUDAH  
2 KINGS 12:1-21; 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-27

BOOK OF 2 KINGS  
JEHOASH'S (JOASH'S) REIGN IN JUDAH  
2 KINGS 12:1-21; 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-27

**Introduction**

In our last study we saw how the **PROVIDENCE** and **SOVEREIGNTY** of the LORD brought king **JOASH (JEHOASH)** to the throne at seven years of age. (11:21)

We know that in his early and formative years he leaned heavily on the priest **JEHOIADA** that helped raise him and bring him to his rightful place on the throne of Judah.

What we will cover tonight is found in both **2 Kings 12** and **2 Chronicles 24**. Because it has more details, we'll mainly be in **2 Chronicles 24** though I may refer to **2 Kings 12** as well. In fact, we'll start with **2 Kings 12**.

**I. WE SEE JOASH'S GREAT BEGINNING AS KING!**  
(**2 KINGS 12:1-3; 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-3**)

*Verse two* mentions the **great influence** of his uncle, **JEHOIADA** the priest, on young **JOASH'S** life and reign! However, I want you to note this lasted only as long as **JEHOIADA** was alive to instruct him!

**Many of us have known some people like that in our lives.**

Hopefully WE are not of that number. I'm talking about people who were "**good**" as they were growing up under their dad, mom, or some other great influence in their life. But when those good influences were off the scene, they made a mess of their lives because they weren't true to their upbringing and allowed their lives to stray from that which is right!

**There comes a time when one has to learn to stand on their own two feet!** But when that time comes, it is best that they not forget the great instruction they have received in their lives both from **the LIVES OF OTHERS (example)** and **the LIPS OF OTHERS (instruction)!**

Solomon shared this great advice with his son and us in **Proverbs 1:8-9**  
"8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."

**Proverbs 3:1-6**— "1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

So, **JOASH** had a great beginning, but we see he had some problem areas. (**2 Kings 12:3**) That may not seem very significant, but if we give Satan an inch, he'll take a mile! That was **NOT** a good thing!

And later we will see how **JOASH** strayed even more from that great beginning he had under **JEHOIADAH** the priest!

**II. WE SEE JOASH WAS MINDED TO REPAIR THE HOUSE OF THE LORD!** (**2 CHRONICLES 24:4**)

That was one of the good things that came from **JOASH'S** reign!

The house of the **LORD**, His **TEMPLE**, had been partially damaged by **JOASH'S** late grandmother **ATHALIAH** to accommodate her idol worship of Baalim! (**2 Chronicles 24:7**)

**III. WE SEE JOASH SOUGHT TO PUT HIS THOUGHTS INTO ACTION!** (**2 KINGS 12:4-5; 2 CHRONICLES 24:5**)

No doubt the **LORD** put this on **JOASH'S** heart to do, but it took some action on his part to follow through with those good thoughts!

Now here is a thought for us to take from this: **All the good thoughts about what we WANT to do for the LORD are all for naught if we never take time to put any of it into action!**

**JOASH** called in the priests and Levites to begin the process of collecting a building fund from the people. In fact, he told them **to hasten to it!** But it says there that the Levites hastened not!

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS**  
**JEHOASH'S (JOASH'S) REIGN IN JUDAH**  
**2 KINGS 12:1-21; 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-27**

We are not told here if the Levites were just plain lazy, or if they didn't like the idea of pressing the people for money, or whatever else reason they might have had. And really, it didn't matter! They didn't hasten!

The **LORD** had placed this on the mind of **JOASH** and it needed to be done! In fact, it should have been done already! It was actually 23 years into **JOASH'S** 40 year reign before the work ever started on this! (*2 Kings 12:6*)

That is a sad commentary on the King, on his uncle **JEHOIADA** the priest, and on the other priests and Levites! The **TEMPLE** was in a state of disrepair for over 23 years!

**IV. WE SEE THE CALL FOR A COLLECTION AT THE TEMPLE BY JOASH! (*2 KINGS 12:7-10; 2 CHRONICLES 24:6, 8-11*)**

It appears by what we read in *2 Kings* that the Levites going out and collecting money for the project wasn't working very well. Well, at least it wasn't making it back into the building fund!

In fact, it appears that they were collecting money for the general fund rather than making sure that the money collected was going to the building fund! Whatever the case, there had been **NO** progress on repairing the breaches in the **TEMPLE**!

So **KING JOASH** stopped them from the method they were using to collect funds and instead he had his uncle **JEHOIADA** the priest make a chest with a hole in the top of the lid and put it by the altar where folks would come into the house of the **LORD**!

As they would come to the **TEMPLE**, they could see the need! The state of disrepair was right there before their eyes! It was hoped that their eyes would affect their heart in their giving! It worked!

**V. WE SEE THEY HIRED WORKERS TO REPAIR THE BREACHES! (*2 KINGS 12:11-16; 2 CHRONICLES 24:12-13*)**

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS**  
**JEHOASH'S (JOASH'S) REIGN IN JUDAH**  
**2 KINGS 12:1-21; 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-27**

**VI. WE SEE THE MONEY THAT WAS LEFTOVER FROM REPAIRING THE TEMPLE WAS USED TO MAKE VESSELS FOR THE HOUSE OF THE LORD! (*2 CHRONICLES 24:14*)**

This allowed them to get the **TEMPLE** up and running like it should have been before **ATHALIAH** and her administration had damaged it!

Note that last phrase of *verse 14*.

**VII. WE SEE THE DEATH OF JEHOIDAH THE PRIEST! (*2 CHRONICLES 24:15-16*)**

**JEHOIDAH** lived to be 130 years old! (When it says he was "*full of days*" that denotes that he lived a good long life for the time he lived!)

And when he died he was honored for his faithfulness to God and God's House by being buried in the city of David among the kings!

**VIII. WE SEE JOASH AND JUDAH FALL INTO IDOLATRY! (*2 CHRONICLES 24:17-18*)**

The godly wisdom, influence, and direction of his uncle **JEHOIADA** the priest was no longer physically present for **KING JOASH**!

What a sad commentary that we see here that **KING JOASH** did not appropriate the benefits that his uncle afforded him!

He allowed himself to be swayed here by the "*princes of Judah*" who were supposed to be the elders, the spiritual leaders of the **LORD'S** people! (These were the spiritual predecessors of the Pharisees!)

But remember *2 Kings 12:3* that we shared earlier?

*2 Kings 12:3– "But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places."*

Their idolatrous tendencies derived from their former Baal worship that had been taken away from them, but had not been eradicated!

And here we see they easily persuaded **KING JOASH** toward idolatry!

BOOK OF 2 KINGS  
JEHOASH'S (JOASH'S) REIGN IN JUDAH  
2 KINGS 12:1-21; 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-27

They forsook the House of the **LORD** God and served groves and idols!

And because of their trespass against the **LORD**, His wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem!

**IX. WE SEE THE LORD SENT THEM PROPHETS TO CALL THEM TO REPENTANCE, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN!**  
(2 CHRONICLES 24:19-22)

Vs 19

We are not told the names nor the number of the Prophets that the **LORD** sent to them. But the **LORD** was gracious to send them!

There are only two remedies for **APOSTASY—REPENTANCE** or **JUDGMENT!** And because **JOASH** and **JUDAH** refused to **REPENT**, their fate was sealed!

Vs 20

The **LORD** sent one last Prophet to them—**ZECHARIAH**, **JEHOIADA** the priest's son, which would also have been **KING JOASH'S** cousin! (There are 27 people in Scripture by that name)

Vs 21

**JOASH** nor the people of **JUDAH** cared for **ZECHARIAH'S** message so they killed the messenger! They stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the **LORD!**

Vs 22

What a disgrace **JOASH** wound up being! Forgotten was all the kindness **JEHOIADA** had bestowed on the king!

**ZECHARIAH'S** final words had to be both haunting and daunting to **JOASH!** "**The LORD look upon it, and require it.**"

BOOK OF 2 KINGS  
JEHOASH'S (JOASH'S) REIGN IN JUDAH  
2 KINGS 12:1-21; 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-27

**X. WE SEE THE LORD'S JUDGMENT CAME UPON JOASH AND JUDAH FROM THE WICKED NATION OF SYRIA!**  
(2 CHRONICLES 24:23-27)

There appears to be a little time before judgment came here—it came toward the end of the year. There usually is time before judgment comes! We're not told, but maybe the **LORD** in His longsuffering still gave them a space of time to repent! But they didn't!

*Ecclesiastes 8:11-13 – "11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. 12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: 13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."*

Vs 23

The Syrian army destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people. How fitting that the ones who talked **JOASH** into the move toward idolatry were the first ones targeted to be destroyed and spoiled! **2 Kings 12:18** indicates that **JOASH** sent the Syrian king gold from the Temple to keep him from an even larger invasion!

Vs 24

The Syrians were able to come with "**a small company of men**" to defeat Judah's "**very great host**" because the **LORD** was in it! "*The LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers.*"

Notice the last phrase of **verse 24**.

Vs 25-27

**JOASH'S** judgment was from God as much as his coming to power in the first place was of God! But God will not be mocked!

Next week, **LORD** willing, we will see his son **AMAZIAH** reign in his stead!