

2 Chronicles 24 - Joash Becomes King, Repairs Temple; Apostasy of Joash; Death

IV. Judah's Kings (2 Chr 10:1—36:23)

(2) Reform and apostasy in Judah (2 Chr 12:1—36:14)

(H) Joash (24:1-27)

(a) Reforms (24:1-16)

(b) Apostasy (24:17-27)

2 Chronicles 24

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(a) Reforms (24:1-16) (Cf. 2 Kings 11:21—12:16)

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1 Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beersheba.

- Joash's life, as narrated here, proves again the principles that Chronicles stresses: God was faithful to His promise to provide rulers over His people from David's descendants
— Each king's success depended on his submission to God's authority as expressed in the Law of Moses and the announcements of the prophets
— The writer evaluated each king's success and measured it by his attitude toward prescribed worship that centered at the temple

2 Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

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2 Joash practiced what the LORD considered to be right during the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest,

2 And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

- Only while Jehoida was alive; after Jehoida's death, he then went downhill fast...

- 3 Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he fathered sons and daughters.
- 3 Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he became the father of sons and daughters.
- 3 who found two wives for him, so he fathered sons and daughters.
- 3 And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

Faithless Priests

- 4 Now it came about after this that Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD.
- 4 Now it came about after this that Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD.
- 4 Later on, Joash decided to rebuild the LORD's Temple,
- 4 And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

5 He gathered the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all Israel to repair the house of your God annually, and you shall do the work quickly." But the Levites did not act quickly.

5 He gathered the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all Israel to repair the house of your God annually, and you shall do the matter quickly." But the Levites did not act quickly.

5 so he assembled the priests and descendants of Levi and ordered them, "Go throughout the cities of Judah and take up a collection from all of Israel for the annual upkeep of the Temple of your God. And make sure that you act quickly." But the descendants of Levi did not act quickly,

5 And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

- Perhaps as much as 20 years later (Cf. 2 Kings 12:6) the young monarch decided to restore the temple, which had deteriorated during the apostate days of Athaliah

— To do so required the raising of funds, so he ordered the priests and Levites to go throughout the land and collect the temple taxes required by the Law of Moses (Cf. Ex 30:12-16). These may not have been gathered for many years.

— When the Levites were slow to act, Joash rebuked Jehoiada for not having seen the task to completion (v6)

— Part of the reason for the need of temple restoration was the fact that God's house had been looted and its contents used for the worship of the Baals (v7)

6 So the king summoned Jehoiada, the chief *priest*, and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the contribution of Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the congregation of Israel, for the tent of the testimony?"

6 So the king summoned Jehoiada the chief *priest* and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the levy *fixed by* Moses the servant of the LORD on the congregation of Israel for the tent of the testimony?"

6 so the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest and asked him, "Why haven't you required the descendants of Levi to bring from Judah and Jerusalem the tax levied by Moses, the LORD's servant, and the assembly of Israel for the Tent of Testimony?"

6 And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?

7 For the sons of the wicked Athaliah had broken into the house of God, and even used the holy things of the house of the LORD for the Baals.

7 For the sons of the wicked Athaliah had broken into the house of God and even used the holy things of the house of the LORD for the Baals.

7 Because that wicked woman Athaliah's family members had broken into the Temple of God and used the consecrated implements of the LORD's Temple for service to the Baals,

7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD did they bestow upon Baalim.

Temple Repaired

8 So the king commanded, and they made a chest and set it outside by the gate of the house of the LORD.

8 So the king commanded, and they made a chest and set it outside by the gate of the house of the LORD.

8 the king issued an order and a chest was made and set outside the entrance gate to the LORD's Temple.

8 And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD.

9 And they made a proclamation in Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the contribution *commanded by* Moses the servant of God on Israel in the wilderness.

9 They made a proclamation in Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the levy *fixed by* Moses the servant of God on Israel in the wilderness.

9 A public notice was sent throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring in the tax that Moses the servant of the LORD had levied on Israel when they were in the wilderness.

9 And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness.

10 All the officers and all the people rejoiced, and they brought in *their contribution* and dropped *it* into the chest until they had finished.

10 All the officers and all the people rejoiced and brought in their levies and dropped *them* into the chest until they had finished.

10 So all the princes and all the people gladly brought their tax and placed it into the chest until they had completed paying the tax.

10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.

11 It happened that whenever the chest was brought to the king's officer by the Levites, and they saw that the money was substantial, the king's scribe and the chief priest's officer would come and empty the chest, and pick it up and return it to its place. They did this daily and collected a large amount of money.

11 It came about whenever the chest was brought in to the king's officer by the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, then the king's scribe and the chief priest's officer would come, empty the chest, take it, and return it to its place. Thus they did daily and collected much money.

11 Whenever the chest was brought to the king's officials by the descendants of Levi, the royal secretary and the chief priest's designated officer would come, empty the chest, and take it back to its place. They did this day after day until they had collected a large amount of cash.

11 Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

12 The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the LORD.

12 The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the LORD.

12 Both the king and Jehoiada paid the money to those who were working to maintain the service of the LORD's Temple, and they, in turn, hired masons and carpenters to restore the LORD's Temple. Iron and bronze workers also were brought in to repair the LORD's Temple.

12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also

such as wrought iron and brass to mend the house of the LORD.

13 So the workmen labored, and the repair work progressed in their hands, and they restored the house of God according to its specifications and strengthened it.

13 So the workmen labored, and the repair work progressed in their hands, and they restored the house of God according to its specifications and strengthened it.

13 As a result, the workmen did their labor, and the repair work progressed steadily under their supervision, and they restored God's Temple back to what it should be, and strengthened it, too.

13 So the workmen wrought, and the work was perfected by them, and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it.

14 When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; and it was made into utensils for the house of the LORD, utensils for the service and the burnt offerings, and pans and utensils of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually, all the days of Jehoiada.

14 When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; and it was made into utensils for the house of the LORD, utensils for the service and the burnt offering, and pans and utensils of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

14 When they had completed the work, they brought what was left of the money to the king and to Jehoiada, and it was used to cast utensils for the LORD's Temple that were to be utilized for daily service and for burnt offerings, for incense vessels, and for both gold and silver vessels. Burnt offerings were offered on a regular basis in the LORD's Temple throughout Jehoiada's lifetime.

14 And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the LORD, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.

Joash Apostasizes and Kills Jehoiada's Son (Zechariah)

15 Now Jehoiada reached a good old age and he died; he was 130 years old at his death.

15 Now when Jehoiada reached a ripe old age he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old at his death.

15 Eventually, Jehoiada grew old and died at the age of 130 years, after having lived a full life.

15 But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died.

- The fact that Jehoiada lived to be 130 years old testifies to his godly character, since the Mosaic Law promised long life to the godly (Cf. Deut 4:40; 5:16; 22:6-7; Prov 3:1-2,16; 10:27)

16 And they buried him in the city of David with the kings, because he had done well in Israel and for God and His house.

16 They buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done well in Israel and to God and His house.

16 He was buried in the City of David among the graves of the kings, because he had accomplished many good things in Israel on behalf of God and his Temple.

16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house.

17 But after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and bowed down to the king, and the king listened to them.

17 But after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and bowed down to the king, and the king listened to them.

17 But after Jehoiada had died, officials from Judah came, bowed down to the king, and the king listened to what they had to say.

17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.

- Unfortunately, however, Jehoiada died and with him died the spirit of reformation...

— The priests were to instruct the kings in God's Law (cf. 26:16-18). As long as Joash listened to this instruction, he succeeded. When he stopped listening, he began to fail: He began to lead the people away from God.

— Joash's apostasy is a repetition of Rehoboam's. He too listened all too readily to bad advice, and then used all his energies to put it into execution.

18 And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols; so wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.

18 They abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols; so wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guilt.

18 They abandoned the LORD's Temple and the God of their fathers, and they served Asherim and idols. As a result this guilt of theirs resulted in wrath coming upon Judah and Jerusalem.

18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.

19 Yet He sent prophets to them to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.

19 Yet He sent prophets to them to bring them back to the Lord; though they testified against them, they would not listen.

19 Nevertheless, God sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD.

19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

- As long as Jehoiada lived, the princes did not dare go into idolatry. Jehoiada maintained a very strong influence.

- Joash is a young king and probably very lenient. These princes pledge allegiance to him, but they go out and worship idols again.

20 Then the Spirit of God **covered** Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest like clothing; and he stood above the people and said to them, "This is what God has said, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the LORD, He has also abandoned you.'"

20 Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people and said to them, "Thus God has said, 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has also forsaken you.'"

20 Then Jehoiada the priest's son Zechariah was clothed by the Spirit of God, and he stood above the people and told them, "This is what God has to say: 'Why are you breaking the LORD's commandments. You'll never be successful! Because you have abandoned the LORD, he has abandoned you.'"

20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you.

- "...covered" - the Hebrew text literally says that the Spirit of God "clothed Himself" with Zechariah

- In His mercy, God sends prophets to warn them, but they will not listen. So God sends a message by a man who is the son of Jehoiada (and the cousin of Joash, Cf. 22:11).

21 So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the house of the LORD.

21 So they conspired against him and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD.

21 But the people conspired against him, and at the direct orders of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD's Temple.

21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.

- Zechariah was killed in the same courtyard where Jehoiada and his sons had anointed Joash as king; it was also in the same place (the temple) that Joash was protected during his childhood from evil Athaliah

— Ironically, Jehoiada sought to protect the sanctity of the temple from murder (Cf. 23:14-15), but his own son was murdered there

- Since the people refused to respond properly to Zechariah, judgment followed (v22-27)

22 So Joash the king did not remember the kindness which *Zechariah's* father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as *Zechariah* died he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

22 Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which his father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as he died he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

22 This is how King Joash failed to remember the kindness that Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him: he killed his son. As he lay dying, Zechariah cried out, "May the LORD watch this and avenge."

22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it.

- This so infuriated the mob that they stoned Zechariah to death in the temple courtyard! Even Joash, forgetting the kindness of Jehoiada to him, took part in the murder of Zechariah.

— As Zechariah expired, he pronounced a divine curse on the king

The Death of Joash (Cf. 2 Kings 12:19-21)

23 Now it happened at the turn of the year that the army of the Arameans came up against *Joash*; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed all the officials of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoils to the king of Damascus.

23 Now it happened at the turn of the year that the army of the Arameans came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed all the officials of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.

23 At the end of that year, the Aramean army attacked Joash. They invaded Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed every senior official among the people, and sent all of their possessions to the king of Damascus.

23 And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus.

- God often uses enemies as instruments of judgment...

24 Indeed, the army of the Arameans came with a small number of men; yet the LORD handed a very great army over to them, because Judah and Joash had abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers. So they executed judgment on Joash.

24 Indeed the army of the Arameans came with a small number of men; yet the LORD delivered a very great army into their hands, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash.

24 The Aramean army attacked with only a small force, but the LORD delivered a much larger army into their control because Judah had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors. And so the Aramean army carried out God's judgment on Joash.

24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash.

25 When they left him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they murdered him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

25 When they had departed from him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and murdered him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

25 After the Arameans left him very sick, Joash's own servants conspired against him because Joash had murdered Jehoiada the priest's son, and they killed him on his sick bed.

25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchres of the kings.

- Jehoiada the priest had been buried with honor; now Joash the king is buried with dishonor

— So we see that Joash at the beginning led a revival under the influence of Jehoiada; but, after Jehoiada's death, he lapsed into a state of apostasy

26 Now these are the men who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess.

26 Now these are those who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess.

26 The conspirators included Shimeath the Ammonite's son Zabad and Shimrith the Moabite's son Jehozabad.

26 And these are they that conspired against him; Zabad the son of Shimeath an Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith a Moabitess.

27 As to his sons and the many pronouncements against him and the rebuilding of the house of God, behold, they are written in the treatise of the Book of the Kings. Then his son Amaziah became king in his place.

27 As to his sons and the many oracles against him and the rebuilding of the house of God, behold, they are written in the treatise of the Book of the Kings. Then Amaziah his son became king in his place.

27 Records concerning his sons, the various prophetic statements rebuking him, and records of the reconstruction work on God's Temple are written in the Midrash of the Book of the Kings. Joash's son Amaziah reigned in his place.

27 Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burdens laid upon him, and the repairing of the house of God, behold, they are written in the story of the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

- To the names of the two assassins (also given in 2 Kings 12:21) the Chronicler added that they were an Ammonite and a Moabite. Apparently this was his way of blaming foreigners for this deed against an anointed son of David.