

# 2 Kings 12 - Annals of Both Kingdoms: Jehoash's [Joash] Good Reign in Judah; Repairs to the Temple; Death of Joash

II. The divided kingdom from the North-South division until the Assyrian invasion (1 Kings 12:1—2 Kings 17:41)

(18) Joash's reign in the South (12:1-21)

The beginning of Joash's reign marks the commencement of over 100 years of consecutive rule by four men who were all judged as good kings. None of these four—Joash, Amaziah, Azariah (Uzziah), and Jotham—was as good for Judah as Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, or Josiah, but together they did provide the longest continuous span of God-approved leadership in Judah's history.

## 2 Kings 12

(18) Joash's reign in the South (12:1-21) (Cf. 2 Chr 24)

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12:31 [ISV] Jehoash [Joash] began to reign as king when he was seven years old,

**1** ascending to the throne in the seventh year of the reign of Jehu and then reigning for 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah from Beer-sheba.

**1** In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash [Joash] began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

- Jehoash was the youngest king to mount the throne of Judah; he was seven years old

— His reign began in 835 BC and ended in 796 BC, 40 years later. He was the son of Judah's most recent male king, Ahaziah; his grandmother was Athaliah

— With the beginning of his reign, Judah began to enjoy over 100 years of consecutive leadership by four men judged as "good" (Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, and Jotham)

— None of these four were as good as Asa or Jehoshaphat had been, or as good as Hezekiah or Josiah would be, but nonetheless together they provided the longest continuous span of God-approved leadership in Judah's history

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2 Jehoash [Joash] did what the LORD considered to be right during the entire time when Jehoiada the priest was instructing him,

2 And Jehoash [Joash] did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

- Jehoash did the Lord's will as long as his mentor Jehoiada the priest lived. But after Jehoiada died, Jehoash turned away from following the Lord.

— Joash's 40 year reign may be divided into two parts: before and after the death of his spiritual guardian, Jehoiada

— Without the moral and spiritual courage of this high priest [Jehoiada], Joash was as unstable as Lot without Abram

— Therefore, God showed His mercy to the people of Judah by extending Jehoiada's life to an amazing 130 years, longer than anyone on record during the previous 600 years (Cf. Ex 6:20)

— When Jehoiada died—evidently shortly after Joash's temple repairs were complete (2 Chr 24:15)—the king began to follow the advice of certain Judean officials who led him into unfaithfulness to *Yahweh*

— He stubbornly refused the warnings that God sent him by prophets (2 Chr 24:17-19) and by Zechariah, who had replaced his father as high priest (2 Chr 24:20-22). He even executed Zechariah.

— In the earlier years of his reign he was faithful to God, except that he allowed the high places of worship to remain in Judah (v3; Cf. Deut 12:2-7,13-14).

3 Only the high places did not end; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

3 Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

3 except that the high places were not demolished, so the people continued to sacrifice and burn incense on the high places.

3 But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

- During his years of faithfulness Joash ruled well, but he did not remove the high places (as was true of most kings of Judah), where the people made sacrifices and burned incense contrary to the Mosaic Law (Cf. Deut 12:2-7,13-14).

— These high places may have been regarded by Joash as relatively unimportant as they apparently were considered by his predecessors

**4** Then Jehoash [Joash] said to the priests, "All the money of the sacred offerings which is brought into the house of the LORD, in current money, *both* the money of each man's assessment *and* all the money which anyone's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the LORD,

**4** Then Jehoash [Joash] said to the priests, "All the money of the sacred things which is brought into the house of the LORD, in current money, *both* the money of each man's assessment *and* all the money which any man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the LORD,

**4** Jehoash [Joash] spoke to the priests about all of the proceeds of the consecrated gifts that were being brought into the LORD's Temple, cash from every man who was traveling through the area, cash obtained by personal assessment, and all the cash that came through voluntary gifts into the LORD's Temple:

**4** And Jehoash [Joash] said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's heart to bring into the house of the LORD,

- Prior to this time, temple expenses came out of the royal treasury, but Joash now moved this obligation to the private sector

**5** The priests are to take it for themselves, each from his acquaintance; and they shall repair damage to the house wherever any damage is found."

**5** let the priests take it for themselves, each from his acquaintance; and they shall repair the damages of the house wherever any damage may be found."

**5** "Let the priests get support for themselves from their own donors, and let them repair the Temple wherever a leak in need of repair is discovered."

**5** Let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found.

- Joash purposed to restore Solomon's temple which had fallen into disrepair and had suffered major damage during Athaliah's reign (Cf. 2 Chr 24:7)

— This was the first temple restoration project recorded in 1 or 2 Kings. Later, Hezekiah and Josiah also repaired the temple.

**6** But it came about that in the twenty-third year of King Jehoash [Joash], the priests had not repaired *any* damage to the house.

**6** But it came about that in the twenty-third year of King Jehoash [Joash] the priests had not repaired the damages of the house.

6 But 23 years into the reign of King Jehoash [Joash], the priests still had not repaired the leaks in the Temple.

6 But it was so, that in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash [Joash] the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house.

- The king planned to use the money brought by the people in regular census offerings (Ex 30:11-16), vow offerings (Lev 27; Num 30), and freewill offerings. But this plan did not work.

— Apparently revenue from these regular sources was insufficient to support the priests and Levites and also to pay for the temple repairs, or the priests did not cooperate with this plan. Josephus wrote that it was because the high priest didn't think anyone would willingly pay the money [*Antiquities*, 9:8:2]

7 So King Jehoash [Joash] summoned Jehoiada the priest, and the *other* priests, and said to them, "Why do you not repair damage to the house? Now then, you are not to take *any more* money from your acquaintances, but give it up for the damage to the house."

7 Then King Jehoash [Joash] called for Jehoiada the priest, and for the *other* priests and said to them, "Why do you not repair the damages of the house? Now therefore take no *more* money from your acquaintances, but pay it for the damages of the house."

7 So King Jehoash [Joash] called for Jehoiada the priest, along with other priests, and asked them, "Why haven't you fixed the leaks in the Temple? Stop receiving donations from your acquaintances for repairing the leaks in the Temple."

7 Then king Jehoash [Joash] called for Jehoiada the priest, and the other priests, and said unto them, Why repair ye not the breaches of the house? now therefore receive no more money of your acquaintance, but deliver it for the breaches of the house.

8 The priests then agreed that they would not take *any more* money from the people, nor would they repair damage to the house.

8 So the priests agreed that they would take no *more* money from the people, nor repair the damages of the house.

8 So the priests agreed to receive no more cash from the people, but they didn't repair the leaks in the Temple, either.

8 And the priests consented to receive no more money of the people, neither to repair the breaches of the house.

- Joash's impatience with the priests who were responsible for collecting the money (1 Kings 12:7; 2 Chr 24:5) suggests that they may not have wanted to divert any funds from their own support

— They had been using the money given them by the priestly treasurers for the regular expenses of temple service, which was probably legitimate

— So Joash told them to stop taking money from the offerings for this purpose since he was instituting a completely freewill offering approach, and appointed non-priests to supervise its administration. This plan proved effective.

- The priests agreed to separate this project from the regular temple service and to let other men be responsible for it

9 Instead, Jehoiada the priest took a chest and drilled a hole in its lid and put it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD.

9 But Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in its lid and put it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money which was brought into the house of the LORD.

9 So Jehoiada the priest grabbed a chest, bored an opening in its lid, and placed it next to the altar, on the right side as one enters the LORD's Temple. The priests who tended the entryway put all the money that was brought into the LORD's Temple into the chest.

9 But Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the LORD: and the priests that kept the door put therein all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD.

- At Joash's instructions, Jehoiada bored a hole in the top of a large wooden chest and placed it on the north side of the altar of burnt offering in the temple courtyard

— The priests then put into the chest all the money the people brought for the temple renovation project

10 When they saw that there was a great *amount of* money in the chest, the king's scribe and the high priest went up and tied *it* up in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

10 When they saw that there was much money in the chest, the king's scribe and the high priest came up and tied *it* in bags and counted the money which was found in the house of the LORD.

10 As a result, whenever they noticed that there was a lot of money in the chest, the king's secretary and the high priest went forward, put the money in bags, counted the money that had been given over to the LORD's Temple,

10 And it was so, when they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and they put up in bags, and told the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

11 And they handed the money which was assessed over to those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and the

builders who worked on the house of the LORD;

11 They gave the money which was weighed out into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the LORD;

11 and disbursed the cash directly into the hands of those who did the work and who were in charge of the oversight of the LORD's Temple. They paid it to the carpenters and builders who worked on the LORD's Temple,

11 And they gave the money, being told, into the hands of them that did the work, that had the oversight of the house of the LORD: and they laid it out to the carpenters and builders, that wrought upon the house of the LORD,

12 and to the masons and the stonecutters, and for buying timber and cut stone to repair the damage to the house of the LORD, and for everything that was laid out for the house to repair it.

12 and to the masons and the stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone to repair the damages to the house of the LORD, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair it.

12 to masons and stonecutters, and for procurement of timber and quarried stone for making repairs to the LORD's Temple, and for all outlays needed for repairs of the Temple.

12 And to masons, and hewers of stone, and to buy timber and hewed stone to repair the breaches of the house of the LORD, and for all that was laid out for the house to repair it.

13 However there were not made for the house of the LORD silver cups, shears, bowls, trumpets, any receptacles of gold, or receptacles of silver from the money which was brought into the house of the LORD;

13 But there were not made for the house of the LORD silver cups, snuffers, bowls, trumpets, any vessels of gold, or vessels of silver from the money which was brought into the house of the LORD;

13 But no provision was included for the LORD's Temple from the money that was brought into the LORD's Temple for silver basins, snuffers, bowls, trumpets, or any vessels made of gold or silver,

13 Howbeit there were not made for the house of the LORD bowls of silver, snuffers, basons, trumpets, any vessels of gold, or vessels of silver, of the money that was brought into the house of the LORD:

- This money was not used for temple furnishings at first, but later the excess money received was used for that purpose (2 Chr 24:14)

14 for they gave that to those who did the work, and with it they repaired the house of the LORD.

14 for they gave that to those who did the work, and with it they repaired the house of the LORD.

14 because that money had been allocated to the workmen who were repairing the LORD's Temple.

14 But they gave that to the workmen, and repaired therewith the house of the LORD.

15 Moreover, they did not require an accounting from the men into whose hands they gave the money to pay to those who did the work, because they acted faithfully.

15 Moreover, they did not require an accounting from the men into whose hand they gave the money to pay to those who did the work, for they dealt faithfully.

15 Furthermore, they required no accounting from the men into whose hand they had paid the money to do the work, because the workers acted in good faith.

15 Moreover they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to be bestowed on workmen: for they dealt faithfully.

16 The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests.

16 The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it was for the priests.

16 The money from the guilt offerings and from the sin offerings was not brought into the LORD's Temple, because it was allocated to the priests.

16 The trespass money and sin money was not brought into the house of the LORD: it was the priests'.

- The money received from the people as part of their guilt and sin offerings was used for the support of the priests, not for the temple building project (Cf. 2 Chr 24:4-14)

- Several events transpired during the reign of Joash that are not recorded in 2 Kings but do appear in 2 Chronicles

— Jehoiada the high priest died at the uncommonly advanced age of 130 years (2 Chr 24:15-16)

— After Jehoiada's voice was silenced, Joash followed the counsel of certain Judean officials who advised him to do things that resulted in his turning from the Lord

— When the king did this, God sent prophets to warn the nation (2 Chr 24:17-19).

Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, who had replaced his father as high priest, also sounded a prophetic warning, but Joash had him stoned to death for his rebuke (2 Chr 24:20-22).

**17** Then Hazael the king of Aram went up and fought against Gath and captured it, and Hazael was intent on going up against Jerusalem.

17 Then Hazael king of Aram went up and fought against Gath and captured it, and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

17 Later, King Hazael of Aram invaded and attacked Gath, captured it, and then set out to approach Jerusalem.

17 Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

- Hazael king of Aram had defeated Israel during the reigns of Israel's kings Jehu and Jehoahaz (13:3,22) and then pressed south along the coast into Judah

— He captured Gath, the Philistine city that had been taken by Judah (Cf. 2 Chr 11:8), then sent a contingent of soldiers against Jerusalem. This unit destroyed "all the leaders of the people" (2 Chr 24:3).

18 So Jehoash [Joash] king of Judah took all the sacred offerings that Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had consecrated, and his own sacred offerings, and all the gold that was found among the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent *them* to Hazael king of Aram. Then he withdrew from Jerusalem.

18 Jehoash [Joash] king of Judah took all the sacred things that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things and all the gold that was found among the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent *them* to Hazael king of Aram. Then he went away from Jerusalem.

18 So King Jehoash [Joash] of Judah took all of the sacred things that his ancestors Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, along with his own dedicated things, and all the gold that could be located within the treasure vaults of the LORD's Temple and in the king's palace, and paid off King Hazael of Aram. Then Hazael left Jerusalem.

18 And Jehoash [Joash] king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem.

- To buy Hazael off, Joash gave him all the sacred objects and gifts that his forefathers and he had dedicated to the Lord, as well as all the gold in the temple and the palace treasuries (Cf. 2 Chr 24:23)

— Rather than turning to *Yahweh* for deliverance, Joash bought Hazael off with gold from the renovated temple. This ransom caused Hazael to withdraw his troops.

— Later, Hazael returned to Judah and Jerusalem with a small company of men, destroyed the nobles of Judah, and sent their spoil to the king of Damascus (2 Chr 24:23)

— The whole incident illustrates the weakness of Judah at this time which resulted from Joash's apostasy

**19** Now *as for* the rest of the acts of Joash and everything that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

**19** Now the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?

**19** Now the rest of the Joash's activities—everything he did—are written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah, are they not?

**19** And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

20 And his servants rose up and formed a conspiracy; and they struck and killed Joash at the house of Millo *as he was* going down to Silla.

20 His servants arose and made a conspiracy and struck down Joash at the house of Millo *as he was* going down to Silla.

20 His servants rose up in rebellion, formed a conspiracy, and assassinated Joash in the palace at the terrace ramparts while he was on his way down to Silla.

**20** And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew Joash in the house of Millo, which goeth down to Silla.

- Several of his officials conspired against him because he had slain the high priest Zechariah (2 Chr 24:20-22)

21 For Jozacar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck *him* and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and his son Amaziah became king in his place.

21 For Jozacar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck *him* and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Amaziah his son became king in his place.

21 Shimeath's son Jozacar and Shomer's son Jehozabad, his servants, attacked him and he died. They buried him alongside his ancestors in the City of David, and his son Amaziah became king to replace him.

21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, smote him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead.

- The assassins were Jozabad and Jehozabad, whose mothers, according to 2 Chr 24:26, were an Ammonitess and a Moabitess, respectively

— Joash was buried in the royal city (Jerusalem) but not in the royal tombs (Cf. 2 Chr 24:25) because he was not as respected as some of his ancestors. His son Amaziah succeeded him as king.

Once a promising, God-fearing young ruler, Joash died a disappointment. By bribing Hazael with Temple treasures, he tarnished his one great achievement, the Temple restoration.

Joash's reign started off well but ended poorly because he turned from Yahweh. Instead of continuing to follow the high priest's counsel, he silenced him by killing him. Consequently, God's blessing on his earlier years in office turned into chastening later in his life.