

2 Kings 11-12; 2 Chronicles 22:10 – 24

Athaliah and Jehoash (Joash)

Lesson 9

Key Verse

... Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

—1 Corinthians 5:13b

Key Verse Thought: Read today's Key Verse. Can you describe a wicked person? Read the following definition to help you: **wicked person** means "of persons as in morally, meaning wicked, corrupt, or an evildoer." Today we will see a very wicked person that God's people "put away" (in the Old Testament they were often killed, whereas today we eliminate them from our lives).

Emphasis: We are to receive godly instruction, and eliminate the wicked from our lives.

Lesson Summary: In our last lesson, we looked at the disappointing son of good King Jehoshaphat, Jehoram. He walked in the ways of the kings of Israel – for wicked King Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, was his wife. He died of a sickness in his bowels because he rejected the Word of the Lord. We then remembered his son, Ahaziah who reigned only one year. He, too, was a bad king – walking in the ways of wicked King Ahab. Because Ahaziah visited the injured king of Israel at the same time God told Jehu to seek God's revenge upon the household of wicked King Ahab, King Ahaziah was killed.

At the death of King Ahaziah, his mother, Athaliah, killed all of the seed royal – or so she thought. King Ahaziah's sister and a nurse hid one son in the house of the Lord for six years. They hid the child from Athaliah who had made herself queen over Judah. In the seventh year of Queen Athaliah's reign, the priest Jehoiada revealed the king's son, Jehoash, to the people as their king. Jehoiada commanded the people kill Athaliah – and they did. The new king, Joash (Jehoash), was seven years old when he began to reign doing good all of the days of Jehoiada. "And Jehoash did *that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him*" (2 Kings 2:2). Jehoash was a good king. Jehoash saw the breaches in the

temple and had the people give money to repair them. After time, when the repairs had not been completed, Jehoiada bore a hole into the top of a chest to allow the people to put their money in the chest. The people brought the money, and the temple of the Lord was repaired.

Although Joash made many reforms in Israel, when Jehoiada died, he forsook God's Law, and God allowed the enemy to come up against Jerusalem. There was a conspiracy against King Joash, and he was killed.

Suggested Bible Reading to Prepare for This Lesson

- Monday: 2 Kings 11
- Tuesday: 2 Kings 12
- Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 22
- Thursday: 2 Chronicles 23
- Friday: 2 Chronicles 24
- Saturday: Proverbs 5

2 Kings 11-12; 2 Chronicles 22:10 – 24

Athaliah and Jehoash (Joash)

1. Queen Athaliah (2 Kings 11:1-20; 2 Chronicles 22:10-12)
 - Killed all of the royal seed – except for one hidden son
 - Joash revealed and Queen Athaliah killed
2. King Jehoash (Joash) (2 Kings 11:21 – 12:20; 2 Chronicles 23-24)
 - Jehoash becomes king at age seven and did right before the Lord all the days of Jehoiada
 - Jehoash planned to repair the Temple
 - Joash's reforms; Joash's failure

Note: Remember the steady decline of the kingdom of Judah we have seen. We saw the influence ungodly people had on the kings of Judah. Instead of returning to God as we have learned kings before had done, King Jehoram and King Ahaziah chose to walk in the ways of the kings of Israel. When they did that, God sent his judgment upon not only the nation, but also them personally: Jehoram died of a disease in his bowels, and Ahaziah was killed by Jehu.

1. Queen Athaliah (2 Kings 11:1-20; 2 Chronicles 22:10-12)

“And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal” (2 Kings 11:1). After Athaliah found out her son, King Ahaziah, was dead, she killed all of the rest of the royal family – except for one child that King Ahaziah’s sister and a nurse hid. “2. But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons *which were* slain; and they hid him, *even* him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. 3. And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land” (2 Kings 11:2-3). Athaliah made herself queen and reigned over Judah for over 6 years. See that she was the *illegitimate* queen of Judah. What is recorded about Queen Athaliah? Nothing. The only thing mentioned about Queen Athaliah was that she “reigned over the land.” She was an illegitimate ruler in the land of Judah – and God did not mention one thing she accomplished for Judah.

Notice the interesting additional information we find in the book of Second Chronicles.

But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. (2 Chronicles 22:11)

Did you notice? “... Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him ...” The king’s sister who saved Joash was the wife of Jehoiada the priest. Makes much more sense why she hid him in the house of the Lord! Joash remained hidden with Josheba (Jehoshabeath), former King Ahaziah’s sister, and her husband, Jehoiada the priest, in the house of the Lord for six years.

In the seventh year of Queen Athaliah's reign, this man stepped forward to do a very important thing for the country of Judah. He was Jehoiada, and he was a priest of the house of God. He sent and fetched rulers and captains (in 2 Chronicles 23:2-4 we read he also included the Levites) of the people to gather them together – for he had a plan. "... Jehoiada ... brought them to him into the house of the LORD, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the LORD, and shewed them the king's son" (2 Kings 11:4b). After Jehoiada called the people together, he revealed the king's son to them. Jehoiada and the people made a promise together with this young king. "... And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David" (2 Chronicles 23:3b).

Jehoiada had a plan to make young Joash the king of Judah. Read the plan in 2 Kings 11:5-8 and 2 Chronicles 23:4-11. After dividing the men into three groups, they each had their place in order to protect the king's son "... and be ye with the king as he goeth out and as he cometh in" (2 Kings 11:8). After dividing them into three groups, the men were to guard completely their new king – with weapons in hand.

Notice who was to be the personal guards of the king:

6. But let none come into the house of the LORD, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they *are* holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD. 7. And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever *else* cometh into the house, he shall be put to death: but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out (2 Chronicles 23:6-7)

The Levites were to surround the king, with weapons in hand, prepared to protect the king's life by killing anyone who came against him.

The men who took care of the house of the Lord and the things of the Lord were to take care of God's king in the house of the Lord. "So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded ..." (2 Chronicles 23:8a). And notice something else: "9. Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that *had been* king David's, which *were* in the house of God. 10. And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side

of the temple, along by the altar and the temple, by the king round about” (2 Chronicles 23:9-10). Jehoiada gave the men the weapons that had belonged to King David to protect this young king.

These men committed to help Jehoiada make young Joash their king in place of Queen Athaliah. They protected their king. “And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, round about the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, along by the altar and the temple” (2 Kings 11:11). After positioning all of the people, each with weapon in hand: “Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king” (2 Chronicles 23:11). Then Jehoiada brought out young Joash (Jehoash), the king's son, and put the crown upon him, gave him the testimony (the Law of God), and they made him king. After they anointed him, they clapped their hands and said “God save the king” (2 Kings 11:12).

When Athaliah, the self-appointed queen of Judah, heard the noise, she went to the temple of the Lord. She saw the new king along with the princes and trumpeters heralding, with all of the people of the land rejoicing, “... and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason” (2 Kings 11:14). Read what Jehoiada commanded. “... Have her forth without the ranges: and him that followeth her kill with the sword. For the priest had said, Let her not be slain in the house of the LORD” (2 Kings 11:15b). They were to take her out away from the soldiers and away from the house of the Lord and kill her – and kill anyone who followed her. “And they laid hands on her; and she went by the way by the which the horses came into the king's house: and there was she slain” (2 Kings 11:16).

However, eliminating the wicked queen was not enough.

16. And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people.

17. Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. 18. Also Jehoiada appointed the offices of the house of the LORD by the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the house of the LORD ... (2 Chronicles 23:16-18a)

The people had to commit their hearts and lives to God. They had to destroy the idols and restore the right worship of the one true God. Jehoiada reinstated the orderly worship that was in the Law of Moses and that had been established by King David. Did you notice what was given to the new king? He was given not only a crown, but also the testimony (the Law of the Lord). He was given God's Word to read and know. It was only then that he would understand what it was God expected of him as the king of God's people. Jehoiada was a positive influence upon Joash's life.

“And all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet, after that they had slain Athaliah with the sword” (2 Chronicles 23:21).

A Deeper Path: See if you understand why Jehoiada had Queen Athaliah killed after reading the following verse. “7. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. 8. I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD” (Psalm 101:7-8). Jehoiada helped the people understand the importance of destroying all the wicked of the land (that was why he said to kill any who followed her as well). Today, we do not literally kill the wicked people we encounter, but we are to eliminate them from our lives. “11. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 13. But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person” (1 Corinthians 5:11, 13). Wicked people will affect us, so we must keep them out of our lives.

We already know the importance of obeying parents, but sometimes God places someone other than parents as one's authority. It is important to obey that authority as well. “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation” (Hebrews 13:7). Most importantly recognize it is someone who not only teaches the Word of God, but also lives a life pleasing to God.

2. King Jehoash (Joash) (2 Kings 11:21 – 12:20; 2 Chronicles 23-24)

After Queen Athaliah was dead, Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people – they would be the Lord's people. “And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and

slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD” (2 Kings 11:18). The people were ready to serve God under the direction of Jehoiada, who helped the new, young, King Jehoash. “Seven years old *was* Jehoash when he began to reign” (2 Kings 11:21).

Do you remember the interesting thing we learn in Second Chronicles? It was that Joshosabeath was the wife of Jehoiada the priest. That helps us to understand another reason why Jehoiada was such a positive influence upon Joash’s life – he was Joash’s uncle! “And Jehoash did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him” (2 Kings 12:2). Nevertheless, in verse three we read there was still a problem. “But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places” (2 Kings 12:3).

1. Joash *was* seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem ... 2. And Joash did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest ... 4. And it came to pass after this, *that* Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD. (2 Chronicles 24:1-4)

Jehoash decided it was time to repair the house of the Lord. The house of the Lord, the Temple, was in disrepair. Joash sent the priests and Levites to gather money to repair the house of the Lord. “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” (2 Chronicles 24:7).

Jehoash saw the need and wanted the Temple repaired. “4. And Jehoash 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, 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” (II Kings 12:4-5). However, after time, the house of the Lord was still not being repaired. “But it was *so, that* in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house” (2 Kings 12:5). The priests were told to no longer receive money from anyone, but to deliver it directly to the Temple.

King Joash commanded a chest be set at the gate of the house of the Lord, and he made a proclamation throughout the land.

9. ... to bring in to the LORD the collection *that* Moses the servant of God *laid* upon Israel in the wilderness. 10. And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.” (2 Chronicles 24:9-10) See also: “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. (2 Kings 12:9)

The people brought the money until there was much money in the chest. Then the king’s scribe and the high priest took the money and gave it to workmen (the carpenters, masons, hewers of stone) to build and gave money to the men to buy timber, stone and all needed to repair the house of the Lord. “But they gave that to the workmen, and repaired therewith the house of the LORD” (2 Kings 12:14). See what happened after much money was brought. “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. 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” (2 Chronicles 24:13-14).

However, Jehoiada grew old, 130 years old, and died.

Then tragedy befalls Judah. “17. Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. 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 again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear” (2 Chronicles 24:17-19). When they did wrong, they rejected the prophets God sent to correct them.

Read what happened after this:

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.
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.” (2 Chronicles 24:20-21)

Notice that the king commanded Jehoiada’s son, Zechariah, be stoned – because he asked why the king had quit obeying God and instead had forsaken Him. “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*” (2 Chronicles 24:22).

Moreover, we can understand that God did.

Read what Jesus said:

50. That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; 51. From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation. 52. Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.” (Luke 11:50-52)

Zacharias in those verses is referring to Zechariah that Joash had stoned. Jesus revealed to them that God had not forgotten, and it would be required of this generation. Along with all of the other prophets that had been shed from the foundation of the world.

After this, Hazael, king of Syria, came up against Jerusalem to take the city. King Jehoash sent all of the hallowed things other kings of Judah had dedicated, and he took all the gold found in the treasures of the house of the Lord and the king’s house and sent them to Hazael, king of Syria, “... and he went away from Jerusalem” (2 Kings 12:18b). And at the end of that year, the Syrians came and destroyed all of the princes, sending the spoil to the king of Damascus. “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” (2 Chronicles 24:24). When Syria left, King Joash’s own servants conspired against him and killed him – because of the death of Jehoiada’s son. “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” (2 Chronicles 24:25).

“... And Amaziah his son reigned in his stead” (2 Chronicles 24:27b).

A Deeper Path: We read that Jehoash was a good king. “And Jehoash did *that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him*” (2 Kings 12:2). When Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord, he led the people of Judah to follow the Lord as well. Part of their doing what was right was repairing the breaches in the temple. Notice the influence good King Jehoash had upon the entire country of Judah. Just as it was important for the king of Judah to be instructed by God’s man to help him choose what was right in the sight of the Lord, we too, need the instructions of God’s people to help us learn to do what is right. A godly pastor, godly Sunday School teachers, and godly parents are all instrumental in helping us learn how to live a life pleasing to God.

The word **instruction** in 2 Kings 12:2 means “to shoot; to lay (a foundation); like an archer, because archers send forth arrows – the most common use has to do with shooting arrows, or teaching by words.” Consider that meaning as you read what a parent is to do for their children in the following verses. “3. *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* 4. *As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.* 5. *Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate*” (Psalms 127:3-5). When children are instructed in the ways of God, they are truly a blessing to not only their parents, but also a mighty influence upon the world in which they live.

As for teachers, see 2 Timothy 2:2. “*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*” If you are a teacher, know that what you teach other people should help them become better

Christians who, with their lives, can teach others also – just as Jehoiada taught King Jehoash. Remember that King Jehoash led the nation to repair God’s house.

Note: Remember that just because someone says it is okay to do something, it does not necessarily make it so. Obeying God should always be most important! However, we are warned not to reject the person God has placed in a position of authority.

Remember Hebrews 13:17: “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.” This verse is to be applied by teachers *and* students!

2 Kings 11 – 12 at a Glance:

Chapter 11: When King Ahaziah’s mother, Athaliah, saw her son was dead, she killed all of the seed royal – except for Joash (King Ahaziah’s sister took him and hid him in the house of the Lord for six years); Jehoiada, the priest, called all of the rulers together and revealed Joash to them – for he was the king’s son; the people crowned Joash making him king; when Athaliah heard, she went to the temple and the people took her out and killed her; Joash was seven years old when he began to reign.

Chapter 12: Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord; he designated monies to repair the breaches of the house of the Lord – when he did not see repairs, the priest, Jehoiada, bore a hole in a chest and set it by the door for the priests to put the money brought into it. Then the money was used to repair the breaches of the house of the Lord; Hazael, king of Syria, came up against Judah and Jehoash gave him all of the gold from the Lord’s house and the king’s house. His servants rose up, conspired against Jehoash, and killed him. Amaziah, his son reigned in his stead.

2 Chronicles 22:10 – 24 at a Glance:

Chapter 22:10-12: Athaliah killed all of the seed royal, all but Joash that Jehoshabeath hid for six years

Chapter 23: Jehoiada gathered the Levites and made a covenant with the king (Joash) before the Lord; they protected Joash and introduced him as king; Athaliah killed and the broke down the house of Baal; placed King Joash on the throne

Chapter 24: Joash gathered money to repair the Temple; king commanded a chest be at the gate of the Temple; took the money and hired workers to repair the Temple; after Jehoiada died, God sent Zechariah to speak against Joash (for forsaking God) and the king had him stoned; God sent Syria against Judah; a conspiracy against Joash & they killed him.

Reinforcement: Notice how the nation had changed after learning of two bad kings in our last lesson compared to what the nation had been like with good kings. Remember the influence that wicked King Ahab and his family had upon King Jehoram (for he was married to Athaliah, Ahab's daughter), and the tragedy it brought Judah. In this lesson, we read that she killed all of her own grandsons (except for one hidden) to become the queen.

Especially remember the influence that the godly priest, Jehoiada, had upon the young king Jehoash. Recognize that Jehoash was willing to listen to Jehoiada and learn from him – and it did the nation much good. The people came together, brought money and repaired God's house. We need to learn to choose right (learning from godly people as King Jehoash did) as opposed to wrong (when King Jehoram married Athaliah, wicked King Ahab's daughter). We must remember that the choices we make affect others around us – whether it is for good or for bad. We saw a brief time of revival during Joash's kingdom. However, we also saw that when his godly counselor died, he forgot God. More than that, he rejected and even killed, Jehoiada's son that God had sent to warn him of his wrong. Read what had been recorded for him to read and remember. “18. *But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.* 19. *And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish*” (Deuteronomy 8:18-19). We should remember this verse, even today. Remember that an idol can be anything that takes precedence over God. King Joash was killed by his own servants.

We have learned today what affect wicked people can have upon lives. We should also learn today that it is important to eliminate wicked people from our lives.

Closing: It would be good to close with a short prayer reinforcing today's lesson. Always include any prayer requests you may have. *Today, pray that we will learn of the things of God and refuse the wicked people of this world.*