

The Kings of Judah
Joash: His Mentor Dies
2 Chronicles 24
Lesson IV
Written: April 22, 1990

SCRIPTURE 2 CHRONICLES 24:1-27

Verse 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. **Verse 2** And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. **Verse 3** And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters. **Verse 4** And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD. **Verse 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. **Verse 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? **Verse 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. **Verse 8** And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the LORD. **Verse 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. **Verse 10** And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 15** But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. **Verse 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. **Verse 17** Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. **Verse 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.

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

2 Chronicles 24:1-27

We have been following the story of Joash as found in this 24th chapter. The boy king. Raised by a godly uncle and aunt. And in our last lesson, we were considering the plan that the uncle and the King had drawn up to raise money for the purpose of repairing the temple. As we concluded our lesson the last time, we stated that we liked the idea of an offering box in which people can truly give "freely". In giving that way, people can give without pressure of any kind. I often feel that we do wrong in passing an offering plate to an unbeliever. God does not want anything from an unbeliever! He expects His people to support the work of spreading the gospel.

Now let us read 2 Chronicles 24:10-11 and 2 Kings 12:10-11.

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

2 Chronicles 24:10-11

Verse 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.

Verse 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,
2 Kings 12:10-11

First we notice, the kings scribe AND the High priest's officer, came and emptied the chest. The book of Kings tells us that they "told the money", that is, they counted it, recorded the amount, and bagged it daily. There is a very important principle here. One man was not given this responsibility. Two people were appointed to the task of counting and giving account of the money received. And that is wisdom. And that is right.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:16-22 (1) Men were chosen by the Churches that had given the money. (2) These men were diligent in business. They were proven diligent. Men often proven diligent. Men often proven diligent in MANY things. They were proven, honest men. Why, even crooks want honest men to handle their money! (3) The men here described, are the only kind of men who qualify to handle Church funds. Paul also tells us that these men were chosen for two other reasons. 2 Corinthians 8:20..To avoid. being slandered or accused of being money raisers. Paul was very careful about this, and we should be too. 2 Corinthians 8:21 To provide things honest first in the sight of the Lord, then in the sight of men. We often hear that the Kings business requires haste. How often do we hear that the Kings business requires honesty?

Verse 16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

Verse 17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you. **Verse 18** And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches; **Verse 19** And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind: **Verse 20** Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us: **Verse 21** Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men. **Verse 22** And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which I have in you.

2 Corinthians 8:16-22

Over the years, I have endeavored to teach students, that if they become pastors, even in a small Church or congregation, that they never handle Church money alone. In fact I prefer that the pastor have nothing to do with handling money. I have pastored in five Churches and have never looked at the books. I did not want to know who gave or who did not give.

2 Chronicles 24:11, "there was much money and they gathered money in abundance..."

Again, proving to me that they were days of prosperity (it was not like the thirties!)

Biblical Illustrator:

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.

2 Chronicles 24:11

"The money flowed in. Nor was it given grudgingly, (vs 10 all the people rejoiced) Every person deposited his own money in the receptacle, which was inaccessible to any but the regularly appointed officers, and thus he could be reasonably sure that his money would be laid out for the purpose he intended. Herein lies the chief cause for the plans success. every piece of money was strictly accounted for, and there was no possible chance for the misuse of funds. People who give money have a right to know where it goes.. Men want honest dealing in Church affairs. (end quote)

And in the things of God we must be careful that we be good stewards of that which has been entrusted to us. It is no wonder that T.V. giving fell-off so drastically after the revelations of what was being done with the people's money. But stewardship is another subject.

5. 2 CHRONICLES 24:12-14 JEHOIADA'S LAST YEARS.

Verse 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. **Verse 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. **Verse 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 24:12-24

I first want to point out what I think to be a sad historical fact. It is true, the more things change the more they remain the same. Those who were responsible to gather the money, the priests (today the preachers) proved to be unfaithful. But as we notice in 2 Kings 12:15, the workmen who did the labour, the physical hard labour, were faithful. So much so that when the money was given to them, they did not even have to keep accounts. And when they finished the work, they faithfully returned the money that was left over. How easily they could have kept it, or purloined it for their own use. But they were faithful and honest.

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

2 Kings 12:15

And I have found, and it is very sad, that in matters of money, most often, what are to be considered "the common people", have been more honest with money than have been many a preacher and Church Leader. Not always, thank God, but certainly too often, it is so.

So we come to 2 Chronicles 24:14.

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 24:14

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The work is finished. The temple is repaired. The holy vessels are in place. And we read: "And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the Lord continually ALL THE DAYS OF JEHOAIDA." As we are about to see, it was the aged priest who kept things in order. Which reminded me of Judges 2:7 , "The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua." Then in Judges 2:10 "All that generation were gathered unto their fathers, and then arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord nor yet the works which he had done in Israel." Judges 2:11, "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and served Baalim." Judges 2:12, "And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers..."

And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

Judges 2:7

And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

Judges 2:10

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:

Judges 2:11

And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that *were* round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger .

Judges 2:12

Please notice the steps. They knew not the Lord of their fathers. They did evil. They served Baalim. They forsook the Lord. What downward steps are here!

God has established a law, and it does not fail. When the children of saved parents are brought up not knowing the Lord, they will fall into evil. And as a result they will serve Baal or idolatry. And when they do that, the choice is no longer theirs to make. They then MUST forsake the Lord. In Christianity Today February 5, 1990 I read the words of an Anglican Bishop as to what is happening in England. "After learning that in the major Charismatic songbooks, only 1 percent of the hymns contain references to the cross, he fears the doctrine of the atonement is being ignored. I'm about to start a 'red party...that's red for the atonement. The Church has lost sight of the centrality of the cross. For many Christian young people today, the greatest sins are experiments on animals and wearing fur coats, rather than the sins that are particularly given priority in the New Testament such as sleeping with someone else, says the earnest Bishop. In other words, they go to Church on Sunday but don't care who they sleep with on Saturday night.

Now the Scriptures are clear. Such conduct is evil. . Remember Judges: They did evil. They served Baal. They forsook the Lord. He was no longer part of what they were doing.

In a Sunday School lesson at Raymore last June, based on Ezekiel 8:6-18 (perhaps we should read it) A sister, one of the class, commented, "Today nothing is sin anymore". And I say, this is serious business. A form of godliness that denies the power thereof.. power to deliver from sin and the practice of sins , will produce the Apostate Church which will be on earth when Jesus returns to the clouds.

Verse 16 And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east. **Verse 17** Then he said unto me, Hast thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah that they commit the abominations which they commit here? for they have filled the land with violence, and have returned to provoke me to anger: and, lo, they put the branch to their nose. **Verse 18** Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Ezekiel 8:6-18

I personally believe the Apostate Church is being formed, produced in every denomination now. Only a few godly Jehoiada's are holding back the flood-tide of evil within the Churches. And I could hope and pray that you and I will be among these who together, hold back, t least for our time, the tide of evil that is sweeping the world and invading the Church.

6. 2 CHRONICLES 24: 15-16 JEHOIADA WAXES OLD.

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

2 Chronicles 24:15-16.

I clipped this out of THT JEWISH VOICE last week. "The older generation of Christians today are despised and generally considered out-dated relics of the past, yet they made a greater impact in their generation than the Christians of this generation".

I remember dear Sister Scamahorn saying to me "If you are going to live, you have to get old". What she said didn't mean as much to me then as it does now! I am thankful there is no sin in getting old. And furthermore, we "wax old" and it is not by choice or design on our part. We cannot stop the process. We really become poor models of the evolutionary theory! Someone has said we are prime prospects for euthanasia. Grandma Kettles, my wife's mother, often said "old age doesn't come alone." For many or perhaps most, life just becomes more difficult and complicated with age.

When we get old we begin to see as we did not and could not see when we were young. Now we begin to see how much time we spend on things that really do not matter. We can see the pitfalls that a younger generation are sure to fall into, except for the mercy and grace of God. With age we can see trends that now we know are not good. All this and much more comes with "waxing old".

We are told that Jehoiada was "full of days." The same is said of Abraham in Genesis 25:8. And of Isaac in Genesis 35:29. Exactly what is meant I am not sure. I remember someone saying ,it means "satisfied with years." I wonder if it also means, he lived as long as he desired to live. He reached a time in life when he really desired to depart? Life had become too great a burden?

Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full *of years*; and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 25:8

And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, *being* old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 35:29

We are told he was 130 years old. Last fall we had the privilege of meeting and getting to know a grandmother of one of our students (Mrs Redman). In September she celebrated her 100th birthday and her advise to us was, "don't live this long, I'm too old".

In verse 2 Chronicles 24:16 we read: " And they buried him in the city of David among the Kings BECAUSE.." That statement speaks volumes about this man of God. During the first 23 years of the reign of Joash (from his seventh to his thirtieth year) the people recognized that the true leader in the Nation, was not the man on the throne, it was not the man who held the position; the true leader was this aged spiritual man.

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.

2 Chronicles 24:16

When the history of the men of our generation is finally revealed, as one day it will be, we too will discover that the true leaders have been the spiritual men. Those who behind the scenes have been "leaders" but never "lords" over God's heritage.

The last part of 2 Chronicles 24:16 reveals why he had a kings burial. "Because he had done good in Israel, BOTH toward God and toward his house." It was Jehoiada, whose heart was in the house of God, it was not the king. It was Jehoiada who was zealous for true worship, not the king. It was Jehoiada who hindered the worship of Baal and Asteroth, not the king. And because Jehoiada was true to his God, he was true to Israel.

That principle is everywhere in Scripture. It is not those who are tolerant towards evil; it is not those who conform to the world; it is not the spineless individuals who do good in this world. It is the man or individual who first is true to God, who will do the most good in the world. And only the future will fully reveal that fact.