

# THE BOY-KING JOASH

**BIBLE TEXT** : II Kings 11:1-21; II Chronicles 24:1-27

LESSON 319 Senior Course

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them"(Ecclesiastes 12:1).

## **BIBLE TEXT in King James Version**

### **2 Kings 11:1-21**

<sup>1</sup> And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

<sup>4</sup> And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, with the captains and the guard, and 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.

<sup>5</sup> And he commanded them, saying, This *is* the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you that enter in on the sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house;

<sup>6</sup> And a third part *shall be* at the gate of Sur; and a third part at the gate behind the guard: so shall ye keep the watch of the house, that it be not broken down.

<sup>7</sup> And two parts of all you that go forth on the sabbath, even they shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD about the king.

<sup>8</sup> And ye shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand: and he that cometh within the ranges, let him be slain: and be ye with the king as he goeth out and as he cometh in.

<sup>9</sup> And the captains over the hundreds did according to all *things* that Jehoiada the priest commanded: and they took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that should go out on the sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

<sup>10</sup> And to the captains over hundreds did the priest give king David's spears and shields, that *were* in the temple of the LORD.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and *gave him* the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.

<sup>13</sup> And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard *and* of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the LORD.

## **BIBLE REFERENCES:**

### **I The Crowning of a Boy-King**

1. Athaliah destroys all the seed royal of Judah and reigns over the land, II Kings 11:1, 3.
2. Jehosheba hides Joash in the Temple for six years, II Kings 11:2.
3. Jehoiada calls the rulers privately into the Temple, shows them the king's son, arms them, and places guards around the Temple, II Kings 11:4-11.
4. They anoint and crown the young king; the people clap their hands and rejoice, II Kings 11:12.
5. Athaliah hears the noise, comes into the Temple, is seized and slain, II Kings 11:13-16.
6. Jehoiada causes the people to make a covenant with the Lord; Baal's house is destroyed; and Joash is brought to the king's house, II Kings 11:17-21.

### **II The Repairing of the House of the Lord**

1. Joash begins to reign at the age of seven and does well all the days of Jehoiada, II Chronicles 24:1-3.
2. Joash decides to repair the House of the Lord and tells the priests and Levites to gather taxes from the people, II Chronicles 24:4, 5.
3. The people are dilatory about the matter and a chest is put at the gate of the Temple, II Chronicles 24:6-9.
4. Money is given in abundance and the Temple is repaired, II Chronicles 24:10-14.

### **III The Backsliding of a King**

1. Jehoiada dies and is buried among the kings, II Chronicles 24:15, 16.
2. Worldly princes seduce Joash to idol worship, II Chronicles 24:17, 18.
3. Prophets are sent to warn the people, II Chronicles 24:19, 20.
4. At the commandment of the king, Zechariah is stoned to death, II Chronicles 24:21, 22.
5. The Lord allows the Syrian army to execute judgment against Joash and the princes, II Chronicles 24:23, 24.
6. Joash is murdered by his servants, II Chronicles 24:25-27.

## **NOTES:**

The apostasy of the kingdom of Israel had spread to the kingdom of Judah. This falling away came about mostly through the unlawful marriages of their kings to women of idolatrous nations. The Law of Moses, given by God, had forbidden such marriages, because God knew that these idolatrous women would set up their idols and groves in the land that God had given to His people. These wicked women seemed to have a way of luring their husbands to worship with them. Ever since Eve enticed Adam to eat the forbidden fruit, ungodly women have played a role in leading men to forbidden grounds. Also, the greed for power seems to possess people in an almost incredible way. It seems that nothing is too low or base for some people to do in order to achieve their selfish desires or ends. We have here the story of a grandmother killing her grandchildren, that she might be queen and reign over the land.

This wicked grandmother's name was Athaliah. She was the daughter of Ahab and his idolatrous wife, Jezebel. Athaliah had married Jehoram, king of Judah. The back-ground of Athaliah's life was not good, and she followed all the wickedness and crime of her parents. She was further infuriated because Jehu was exterminating the house of Ahab in Israel, and she was

<sup>14</sup> And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner *was*, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.

<sup>15</sup> But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the host, and said unto them, 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.

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD'S people; between the king also and the people.

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the house of the LORD, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings.

<sup>20</sup> And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword *beside* the king's house.

<sup>21</sup> Seven years old *was* Jehoash when he began to reign.

## **2 Chronicles 24:1-27**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> And Joash did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

<sup>3</sup> And Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he begat sons and daughters.

<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass after this, *that* Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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?

<sup>7</sup> 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.

determined to destroy the house of David in Judah. She almost accomplished her purpose. But the Lord had promised David that a son of his should sit on the throne, and He saw to it that David's seed was not all destroyed.

When Athaliah began to kill all the royal family, Jehosheba, the wife of Jehoiada the priest and aunt of the son of Ahaziah, stole the infant son of the king and hid him in the Temple, and because of this the baby Joash was not slain with the others. It was easy to hide this baby in the Temple because the priests had sole charge of the Temple and there is little likelihood that the idolatrous usurper of the throne was found there very often.

## **Jehoiada's Plan**

Jehoiada, the High Priest, was a righteous man and he wanted to bring the people back to the worship of the true God. Idolatry had spread from the kingdom of Israel into the kingdom of Judah, and a temple to Baal had been erected. They had even taken the dedicated things from the House of God and put them in the temple of Baalim.

Possibly all those six years that the baby boy had been hidden in the Temple, Jehoiada was making plans to restore the kingdom to the rightful heir. He no doubt talked to the captains and elders and found out who were loyal to God. There were no spies in their ranks to carry the news to the wicked Athaliah.

Finally, Jehoiada brought the captains, with their men, into the House of the Lord. He then armed them and placed them around as guards and as witnesses. Then he brought in the boy, Joash, and showed him to them. What a thrilling revelation it must have been to these faithful men to see the king's son! They rejoiced! We rejoice, too, when God's Son – Jesus Christ, He who is to be King of kings — is revealed to our soul.

## **The Coronation of a Young King**

The captains obeyed the orders of Jehoiada, the High Priest. God was with them, and their plan was a success. If we are on the side of the right and have the Lord with us, victory is assured. The coronation was held, no doubt, on one of the festival days when the people from all over the land were in Jerusalem. Joash was brought into the Temple and placed by a pillar, at the location where kings were ordinarily placed when they were crowned.

The diadem, the testimony, and the anointing oil were three things essential to the consecration of a king. The diadem was his crown. The testimony was the Law that he was sworn to obey, and the anointing with the holy oil was to separate and dedicate him to the work God had called him to do. This is the first account we have of a child being crowned king.

## **A Covenant**

Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people, that they should be the Lord's people. What a revival! Immediately the people went to the house of Baal and broke it down, tore down the idolatrous altars and broke the images into pieces, and then slew the priest.

When Jesus comes into the heart, the devil with all his altars is cast out. There is no more idol worship when the Lord is enthroned. When Israel obeyed the commands of God they were a happy people. At this time they praised the Lord and clapped their hands for joy, because the land was freed from the tyranny and idolatry of Athaliah.

## **Repairing the House of the Lord**

As the king grew older he noticed that the House of the Lord needed repairing. Seemingly the priests and Levites had become accustomed to seeing the cracks and crevices and the broken-down walls, and had no concern for the conditions that existed. It is possible to drift along carelessly and never see the things that need to be done in our own hearts and also for the Lord. Even the first request of the king went by unheeded, but when he brought them to task about it they went to work. Many times the



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

<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

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

<sup>14</sup> 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.

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

<sup>16</sup> 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.

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

<sup>18</sup> 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.

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

<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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*.

Lord has to apply some form of discipline and bring His people to task because of their negligence. The Bible says of the Christian that he is "not slothful in business" but is "fervent in spirit; serving the Lord" (Romans 12:11).

Jehoiada took a chest and bored a hole in the lid of it and set it by the altar. Even today we hear about Jehoiada's chest. Singularly enough the plan of having a chest, or an offering box, by the door of the House of God, seems to have followed down through the years.

When Jesus was on earth there was a chest by the Temple door. One day he watched the rich men casting in their gifts; and while He stood there he saw a poor widow cast in two mites. He called His disciples and said: "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all; for all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had" (Luke 21:3, 4).

Ever since the Apostolic Faith Work was organised, we have used the same plan of financing the church, placing a receptacle near the entrance of the church for tithes and freewill offerings. There have been no public collections taken. No collection plates have ever been passed. No open Bible has been placed on the altar for the people to pass by and lay their offerings on, to make a public show of their giving. Jesus said, "When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:3, 4).

When Jehoiada placed the chest at the Temple door, the hearts of the people were stirred to give; and money came in, in abundance for the repair of the House of the Lord. "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:6, 7). So faithful did the contractors deal that they did not even keep an account of the money placed in their hands. We do not hear about any labour trouble either.

### The Backsliding of a King

In this lesson we see the great and powerful influence of a godly man. So long as Jehoiada lived he wielded a strong hand over the church and state. He put down idolatry in Judah, and his influence over the king kept the king walking in the right path. Jehoiada governed the state in the name of the king, and when he died he was buried among the kings. That demonstrated the high esteem in which he was held by the people.

After Jehoiada's death it was proved that King Joash really was a weak king. The devil slipped in with his emissaries and the king lacked courage and stability. He did not seem able to say No to what was wrong. The princes seduced him with their flattering words. "With flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak" (Psalm 12:2). Thus we find that when the strong arm of his righteous uncle, Jehoiada, was removed, Joash had no steadfastness in his heart and soon succumbed to the enticing words of the enemy. "He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Mark 13:13). David the Psalmist once wrote: "Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men" (Psalm 12:1).

### Warnings by the Prophets

The Lord did not let Joash and the people fall into the enemy's hands without giving them plenty of warning. "He sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear." Finally, as a last warning, the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he said unto them: "Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? Because ye have forsake the LORD, he hath also forsaken you." At the commandment of the king this prophet was stoned to death. Even kings may forget, but the Lord never! It was this prophet's father and mother who hid the king and spared him

<sup>23</sup> 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.

<sup>24</sup> 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.

<sup>25</sup> 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.

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

<sup>27</sup> 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.

from being murdered in his infancy. Their kindness was soon forgotten, but the Lord did not forget. It was just a year later that the Syrian army came against Judah and Jerusalem. They destroyed all the princes, sent the spoils they took to Damascus, and left the king sick and helpless. Then his own servants murdered him. Thus came the tragic end of one who turned his back on God and on the true worship of Jehovah.

### **QUESTIONS**

1. How and by whom was the infant son of the king saved from being murdered?
2. Who reigned over the land at this time?
3. How old was Joash when he was crowned king?
4. Tell Jehoiada's plans for having Joash crowned king.
5. What three things were necessary for a king's coronation?
6. What did Joash observe about the Temple?
7. What did he tell the priests and Levites to do?
8. After Jehoiada's death what happened to the king?
9. Were the last days of Joash peaceful?