

2 Kings Lesson 12

2 Kings Chapter 12

Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

e-Email: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Memory verses for this week: *Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

Introduction: In chapter 11, we studied about young Joash being appointed as the king of Judah. He had been hidden by Jehosheba for over six years in bedchambers of the priests so that he would not be killed.

This chapter records the repair of the Temple of Jehovah under the reign of Joash. Record is then made of the incident of Joash and Hazael of the Syrians, and then the chapter concludes with the ignoble end of Joash. II Chronicles chapter 24 presents the unseemly details of his final years.

I. The Reign of Joash

2Ki 12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

2Ki 12:2 And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

2Ki 12:3 But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

Further detail concerning young king Joash is noted. He reigned a total of forty years. His mother was originally from Beersheba. Though Jehoiada the high priest was not his father; he had raised Joash from infancy. He had been mentor to the young king and for all practical purposes had been as a father to him.

Significant is the statement that Joash did right in the sight of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada. However, in II Chronicles 24:22, record is made of his rapid spiritual decline after the death of Jehoiada.

2Ch 24:22 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.

2Ch 24:23 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.

2Ch 24:24 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.

God had clearly commanded in the Law that Israel was to sacrifice to Him only in the place which the Lord should choose.

Deu 12:14 But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.

Deu 12:26 Only thy holy things which thou hast, and thy vows, thou shalt take, and go unto the place which the LORD shall choose:

Deu 12:27 And thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, upon the altar of the LORD thy God: and the blood of thy sacrifices shall be poured out upon the altar of the LORD thy God, and thou shalt eat the flesh.

Other high places were an accommodation to the idolatry of the nations around them. They were a form of compromise which quickly led to idolatry altogether. Though Joash, in general, did right during the tenure of Jehoiada, he never went to the trouble to eliminate the spurious high places around Judah.

2Ki 12:4 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,

2Ki 12:5 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.

The record now turns back to the early years of the reign of Joash. Joash directed that funds coming into the Temple should be used to repair and restore the Temple complex. It evidently had fallen into disrepair during the reign of Athaliah and her predecessors. No doubt this was through the influence of Jehoiada. The priests' were faithless in their duties and responsibilities, perhaps from apathy.

2Ch 24:4 And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the LORD.

2Ch 24:5 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.

2Ki 12:6 But it was so, that in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house.

2Ki 12:7 Then king Jehoash 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.

2Ki 12:8 And the priests consented to receive no more money of the people, neither to repair the breaches of the house.

After being on the throne for twenty-three years, the Temple had still not been repaired. It is not clear if the people were derelict in their giving or if the priests had converted the funds for their own use. The latter likely is the case which caused the people to lose confidence. The result was that the Temple saw little repair.

In verse 7, we find the king suspected what was going on and ordered the priests to stop receiving any monies from the Temple (which they otherwise were due). It all was to go to the repair of the Temple. They stopped receiving these funds. However, however, they still neglected to repair the Temple. Anytime religious leaders take money for personal use and not for the work of God, there will be judgment coming. Our current situation within our government seems to be of a similar nature. Everyone seems to look for what is best for me without regard to all Americans.

F. B. Meyer said this about the advice young King Joash received.

So long as the good priest lived, the young king did well. How much we owe to the presence of wise, strong men to advise and assist us! But neither king nor priest dared to go to the furthest limit of reform, 2Ki 12:3. This failure bore disastrous fruit in after-years. It is a mistake to cut off weeds on the surface; they will sprout again and give trouble. If thy right hand cause thee to offend, *cut it off*.

The Temple had suffered terribly under Athaliah, 2Ch 24:7. The king might well take an interest in its reconstruction, because of the shelter it had afforded him from his enemies. The first attempt to raise a renovation fund was a failure. It was in the wrong hands. The priests appear to have appropriated for their own use offerings intended for Temple repair. A change was therefore required, and their receipts were limited to the sin-offerings. As soon as a clear chance was given to the people, their free-will gifts totaled a large amount, which justified the resumption of the work. Certainly the promptness and integrity of the men who did the work put to shame the lethargy and peculation of the priests. Trust the people! This is not the last time that the heart of the masses was more to be trusted than the priestly caste.

2Ki 12:9 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.

2Ki 12:10 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.

The temple was repaired by unusual means. Rather than the normal channels for handling Temple monies, Jehoiada placed a chest beside the altar of sacrifice at the Temple for the express purpose for the repair of the Temple. All funds which were brought to the Temple were deposited therein at the order of the high

priest.

Accordingly, the people gave generously for the repair of the Temple. Lest there be any question of propriety, Jehoiada brought the king's secretary to account the funds received. This is the first mention of a mite box in the bible.

John Gill said this about the chest.

But Jehoiada the priest took a chest,.... By the commandment of the king, 2Ch 24:8, to put the money collected into, to prevent any fraud, or suspicion of any:

and bored a hole in the lid of it; to drop the money into, by which means it could not be taken out without taking off the lid:

and set it beside the altar; the altar of burnt offering, in the court:

on the right side, as one cometh into the house of the Lord; that is, on the north; for the entrance into the temple was at the east: in 2Ch 24:8, it is said to be set without at the gate of the house; which Dr. Lightfoot (k) thinks respects another time, and that either another chest was made, or the same that was first placed by the altar, in the court of the priests, and so in their hands, and the money not coming in apace, was removed without the court at the entrance of it, whither the people brought it readily:

and the priests that kept the door; the door of the outward court, the Levites, the porters, or rather, as the Targum, the priests, the treasurers, who were appointed to this service in the room of the others dismissed; and so Kimchi and other Jewish commentators interpret this of the keepers of the vessels of the sanctuary, and not of the doors of it:

these put therein all the money that was brought into the house of the Lord; by the people from the several parts of the country, who, by proclamation, were required so to do, and very readily did, 2Ch 24:9.

2Ki 12:11 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,

2Ki 12:12 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.

2Ki 12:13 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:

2Ki 12:14 But they gave that to the workmen, and repaired therewith the house of the LORD.

After being properly accounted, the monies were disbursed to the job superintendents who in turn paid the various craftsmen: carpenters, stone

masons, and stone cutters. These therefore set about to effect the necessary repairs to the Temple. In verse 13, we still find many things not being done properly. Though the renovation of the Temple complex itself proceeded, at this point, nothing was done to upgrade the various instruments and utensils used for service. The work focused only on structural repairs.

2Ki 12:15 Moreover they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to be bestowed on workmen: for they dealt faithfully.

2Ki 12:16 The trespass money and sin money was not brought into the house of the LORD: it was the priests'.

To the credit of the overseers of the renovation, they ordered themselves in such a fashion that they were completely trusted. As a testimony to the ages, "they dealt faithfully." Total honesty is a rare gem indeed. As prescribed by the Law of Moses, monies brought to the Temple for trespass and sin offerings went to the priests for their living. This evidently was by those who lived a distance who brought monies to the Temple to purchase cattle for sacrifice. The remainder became the priests. Everyone who works is due a wage, but we must be sure we are fair and honest in all of our dealings.

Luk 10:7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire

Matthew Henry in his commentary talked about the lack of discipline the priests showed in maintaining oversight of the money.

Little money was raised. Either the priests were careless, and did not call on the people to pay in their dues, or the people had so little confidence in the priests' management that they were backward to pay money into their hands; if they were distrusted without cause, it was the people's shame; if with, it was more theirs. But what money was raised was not applied to the proper use: *The breaches of the house were not repaired; the priests thought it might serve as well as it had done, and therefore put off repairing from time to time.* Church work is usually slow work, but it is a pity that churchmen, of all men, should be slow at it. Perhaps what little money they raised they thought it necessary to use for the maintenance of the priests, which must needs fall much short when ten tribes had wholly revolted and the other two were wretchedly corrupted.

II. Joash is Chastened by God

2Ki 12:17 Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

2Ki 12:18 And Jehoash 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.

Hazael, king of Syria went up and fought against Gath and took it. He then turned his armies toward Jerusalem. The record in II Chronicles 24:23-24 makes clear

that this event took place after the death of Jehoiada and the treacherous treatment Joash bestowed upon Jehoiada's son, Zechariah.

2Ch 24:23 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.

2Ch 24:24 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.

It was at this time that Joash allowed the nation to slide back into idolatry.

2Ch 24:17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.

2Ch 24:18 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.

2Ch 24:19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

God began to chasten Judah. If you are the Lord's, and you walk not in His ways, you can be sure that correction will come. I know as a child I did not like it when I received a spanking, but I praise God that my parents loved me enough to correct me.

Heb 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Heb 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

The invasion by Hazael of Syria clearly was its chastisement. Gath was to the west along the coast of the Mediterranean. The Syrians essentially had Jerusalem at their mercy. In desperation, Joash raided the treasuries of the Temple and the palace to pay off Hazael. Having received such a pay off, Hazael retreated. Clearly, the hand of God was no longer upon Joash.

2Ki 12:19 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?

“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?*” This clearly references Joash in the 24th chapter of II Chronicles.

2Ki 12:20 And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew Joash in the house of Millo, which goeth down to Silla.

2Ki 12:21 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 account of II Chronicles 24:25-27 notes that the uprising against Joash was for his treachery against Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada. Though Joash had been a good king through the influence of Jehoiada the priest, he quickly backslid. God's blessing was removed and it likely was at God's dispensation that Joash was shamefully removed from his throne. After his burial, his son, Amaziah ascended the throne.

Conclusion : Those who are entrusted to carry out Gods work should do so faithfully and act openly in the sight of Gods people especially in the matter of finances. The Lord prevails on behalf of them whose hearts are perfect towards Him.

KJV Bible Studies are prepared and distributed free of charge. The lessons may not be sold without consent. If you have questions or wish to discuss the lessons, or possibly need help in finding Jesus Christ as your Personal Lord and Savior, contact us at the email below.

Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Website: www.KjvBibleStudies.net

e-Email: mailKjvBibleStudies@gmail.com

Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.

