

Chapter 11

Good morning and thank you for joining us. We're continuing our VBV study through the bible, so would you please turn to 2 Kings chapter 11?

We're gonna study chapters 11-13 as our pace picks up through 2 Kings. And this morning we see a variety of topics discussed, including murderous grandmas, a 7yr old king, building projects, counting tithes a failing faith, and finally the death of Elisha and the implications for us.

The title of this mornings message is Until the end
Let's pray

SHOW PIC If I were to say the word Grandmother, what comes to mind? I bet most of you would think of a sweet older lady, baking some cookies, giving out some hugs, a big warm smile, those type of things are what grandmas are typically known for right?

CLOSE PIC

But I bet when I said grandma none of you thought of a mass murderer!

Well this morning, that's exactly what we see. We're introduced to a woman named Athalia. She came from the lineage of the idolatrous King Ahab and the wicked, Queen Jezebel-they were her parents.

Athalia is living in the southern kingdom of Judah. She's the queen-mother. Her son, King Ahaziah, is killed by General Jehu as part of God's judgment on the house of Ahab. How

does Athalia respond to the death of her son?

1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. When Athaliah realizes her son, Ahaziah, is dead she makes herself Queen over Judah. And to solidify her reign she kills all of the heirs of her own son. She's a murderous grandma. She becomes the first, last, and only woman to sit on the throne in Israel and she rules because she's killed everyone who was next in line. But in midst of the genocide...

2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. One of the boys escapes. Jehosheba, scoops up the baby boy, Joash, and hides him from grandma. Has all the makings of a horror movie doesn't it?

3 So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land. They tuck Joash away in the Temple. And for the next six years while Athaliah rules Judah, the priest named Jehoiada the priest rears and trains Joash to be king. The Temple of Jehovah was a good hide-out – it was the one place the evil Athaliah would never visit...

Now this is more than just a history lesson. Remember, God had promised that a son of David would always sit on the throne of Israel. The ultimate fulfillment of that promise is Jesus. The Messiah was to be born of the lineage of David. Here, Athaliah

tries to cut off all her Davidic competition. She comes within one baby boy of success. If all the heirs of Ahaziah and David had been exterminated, Messiah could never have been born.

Throughout the scriptures we've seen many attempts by Satan to try and cut off the Messianic line. Pharaoh killing the 1st born sons, Naaman trying to kill the Jews, Herod killing all the little boys in Bethlehem. But Gods plans never fail!

4 In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds—of the bodyguards and the escorts—and brought them into the house of the LORD to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son. Under heavy guard, Jehoiada priest revealed the true heir to David's throne. Can you imagine the relief – the surge of hope? God's promises had not failed.

Now some scholars see a picture of end times events here. Today, the true King of the Earth is in the heavenly Temple, while Satan, the usurper, throws his weight around on earth. But at the end of a 7 year period – like we have here – Jesus will be revealed. The Bible calls the last seven years of the present age, "The Great Tribulation." At its close, Jesus will appear as King of kings and Lord of lords. He'll depose the usurper, the Antichrist, and retake the throne that rightfully belongs to Him. Imagine the surge of hope that will be felt in that day!

5 Then he commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king's house, 6 one-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the escorts. You shall keep the watch of the house, lest it be broken down. 7 The two contingents of you who go off duty on the Sabbath shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD for the king. 8 But you shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in." They can take no chances. This is top level security.

9 So the captains of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each of them took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. Jehoiada chose the Sabbath to crown the king – around the time of the changing of the guard. Two battalions of guards would be on hand. This way Jehoiada could mount extra security without attracting a lot of attention.

10-12

10 And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of the LORD. 11 Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, by the altar and the house. 12 And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony;[fn] they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"

The king's right to rule was based on the Law of God. Thus, the king of Israel was to have a crown and a copy - his own copy of the Scriptures.

In fact, the command goes even further than that. **Deuteronomy 17:18** "Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites."

Don't you wish today's politicians understood that the right to rule over human affairs is a sacred trust given by God – and that His word is to be the ultimate governor?

So here's the boy king. He's 7 years old. He's wearing a crown and holding the Bible.

13-15

13 Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. 14 When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"

15 And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD." Don't turn the Temple of God into a place of execution as they kill the grizzly grandma.

16-18

16 So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and there she was killed.

17 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people. 18 And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD. Remember, Athaliah was the Jezebel of Judah. Just as Jezebel brought Baal worship to the northern kingdom of Israel, her daughter brought the same abominable practices to the southern kingdom.

Jehoiada cleans house in Jerusalem. He wipes out any traces of Baal.

19-20

19 Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings. 20 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house. The Davidic heir – the rightful king of Judah - is back on the throne

21 Jehoash was seven years old when he became king. **SHOW PIC** And legend says his first royal decree was... Hear ye, Hear

ye, video games and soda for everyone! j/k. But how does a 7 year old rule a nation? Let's find out... **CLOSE PIC**

Chapter 12

1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash[fn] became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. 2 Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

This turns out to be a sad summary of Joash's life – he followed God only as long as he followed Jehoiada. 2 Chronicles 24 tells us after Jehoiada died Joash turned to idols. Tragically, as soon as Jehoiada passes away, Joash walks away from the Lord.

And this is true of many believers today – they'll walk in the Spirit as long as they're in the shadow of a man. A godly influence is good, but at some point it needs to become a personal resolve.

You can ride the coat-tails of a friend's faith for only so long. We all need to learn to stand on our own.

3 But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. Jehoash failed to obey God and centralize worship in Judah. God wanted all Israel to worship at the Temple. This was God's way of maintaining orthodoxy. If people were allowed to build their own high place, or altar, and worship individually deviations would creep in. Idolatry would find a foothold because convenience, not God's word, would become the standard.

And if we're not careful, we can let similar high places come into our lives. Those places where we try to strike a compromise between our convenience, and the demands of discipleship.

When Jehoash took the throne it had been 135 years since Solomon built the Temple. It was due a face lift. In verse 4 he sets out to make needed repairs. A Temple face lift will be costly, so he does some budgetary management.

4-5

4 And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD—each man's census money, each man's assessment money^[fn]—and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, 5 let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found." Joash allocates funds, but the work doesn't get done...

6-8

6 Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple. 7 So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple." 8 And the priests agreed that they would neither receive more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple." In other words, don't take future funds for repairs, until the money they'd already accumulated was depleted.

The king also changes collection procedures. Rather than using Temple taxes, they employ a voluntary system of giving.

9 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD. It was an offering box. Jehoash adopts the C3 method of collections. Just drop it in the box.

10 So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD. " Notice here, two men always counted the money. No one ever counted it alone. There was accountability. This is our policy as well.

11-12

11 Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, 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 builders who worked on the house of the LORD, 12 and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple. Why did the temple need repair? Cuz it was used! Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of an ox.

13-15

13 However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles

of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD. 14 But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it. 15 Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully. As we saw earlier the Jews employed systems of accountability, but no system is foolproof. Given enough time and opportunity unscrupulous people will beat any system. That's why the best safeguard is not a system, but men of integrity and honesty.

16 The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests. This was the priests wages.

17-18 war is on the horizon, and a tragedy unfolds

17 Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. 18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem.

When the king of Syria threatens to attack – rather than trust the Lord, Joash uses the Temple treasures to pay a bribe. He refurbishes the temple, only to undermine the project because he doesn't fortify his faith.

And here's the application for us-we are the NT temple! And we need to constantly do those things that build up our faith. Read the Word, pray, fellowship, worship, serve, and share our faith... So what if we work out, and eat right, to build up our physical temple if we're depleting it internally?

19-21

19 Now the rest of the acts of Joash,[fn] and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

20 And his servants arose and formed a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo,[fn] which goes down to Silla. ” In the end, Joash was assassinated.

21 For Jozachar[fn] the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer,[fn] his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

Chapter 13

1 In the twenty-third year of Joash[fn] the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned seventeen years. After two chapters in Judah, the focus shifts to the northern kingdom of Israel. Jehu is succeeded by his son, Jehoahaz. This was the beginning of God's promises to Jehu. In 2 Kings 10 God had promised that Jehu would have a son to reign in his place to the fourth generation.

2 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did

not depart from them. Of the 19 kings in Israel a similar statement was made about each one.

3 Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days. This one simple verse contains so much. The northern kingdom of Israel was now conquered by the Syrians to the north.

4 So Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them. Jehoahaz was like so many people – the only time he sought the Lord was when he was in trouble. What a merciful God we have don't we? But like so many people today, once God delivers them from the trial, they refuse to be a disciple.

5 Then the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents as before." An unnamed deliverer led Israel in revolt against Syria. For some reason God didn't see fit to give us his name – but be certain, he has not been forgotten in heaven.

This is a reminder not everyone who serves the Lord and makes a critical contributions to God's kingdom gets mentioned in the credits at the end of the movie... C3 is the classic example. Our unnamed servants are the backbone of our church.

6-7

6 Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin, but walked in them; and the wooden image^[fn] also remained in Samaria. 7 For He left of the

army of Jehoahaz only fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and ten thousand foot soldiers; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing. Despite God's deliverance Israel refused to repent.

8 Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 9 So Jehoahaz rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Joash his son reigned in his place.

10 In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash[fn] the son of Jehoahaz became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned sixteen years. One of the problems you encounter when you read 2 Kings is the overlap of names. There's 2 Jehorams, 2 Joashes, 2 Jeroboams - different men, same names. The Joash in chapters 11 and 12 is king of Judah - the boy king who's hidden by the priest. The king in chapter 13 is Joash of Israel – son of Jehoahaz.

11-13

11 And he did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, but walked in them.

12 Now the rest of the acts of Joash, all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 13 So Joash rested with his fathers. Then Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

Jeroboam II as history knows him - gets named after the northern kingdom's first king - and ends up ruling 41 years - longest of the kings of Israel. But before we get to Jeroboam II, an event occurs in the reign of Joash... Elisha contracts a fatal illness

14 Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" We're not given Elisha's age at this point, but commentators suggest about 100 years old.

Elisha had been a fixture in Israel for a very long time. He'd been a beacon of truth and righteousness in a wicked land. King Joash pays the sick prophet a visit. Evidently he expects Elisha to depart the earth like Elijah - in a fiery chariot. The king cries out, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

But Elisha doesn't escape death like his predecessor. It's interesting, Elisha healed others, but when it came time for God to take him, his illness proved fatal. Not all God's servants are healed in this life. Elisha will die, but first God uses him to utter a deathbed prophecy...

15-18

15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. 16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

17 And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them." " All this was assurance that God would fight for Israel and would deliver Israel from the army of Syria.

18 Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. 19 And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times." Apparently, Elisha could tell the king's lack of fervor in that moment was indicative of his overall lack of faith.

The king was willing to fight, and trust, and commit, and obey... only to a point. This is our problem at times. We pray for a miracle for a little bit of time, then we lose hope and faith that'll it'll get done.

20 Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. " Notice the simplicity of the statement. The implication is a simple burial rather than a state funeral. When Elisha died he wasn't given a hero's burial. It was a no-frills funeral.

Now we're about to read a very bizarre encounter-let's finish the chapter 21-25

21 So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

Israel Recaptures Cities from Syria

22 And Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. 23 But the LORD was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them, because of His

covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them or cast them from His presence.

24 Now Hazael king of Syria died. Then Ben-Hadad his son reigned in his place. 25 And Jehoash^[fn] the son of Jehoahaz recaptured from the hand of Ben-Hadad, the son of Hazael, the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel. His three victories fulfilled Elisha's deathbed prophecy.

But almost in a nonchalant way we read that in the heat of battle, a dead man was inadvertently thrown into Elisha's tomb. But when his body touched Elisha's bones, he immediately came back to life. Since Elisha was dead there was no question that the power was God's, not the Elisha.

And as we close there's a picture here for us. Like the dead man in this passage, we must die to self if we are going to truly experience life. **Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.**

Jesus didn't say this to burden us but to liberate. Have you noticed the more we think about ourselves and live for ourselves, the more miserable we become.

But the more we die to self and take up the cross, the more we spring to life. **Matthew 16:25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

How do we do this? It starts in the mind. Romans 12 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.