



## King Joash – The Power of Influence 2 Chronicles 24

The godly King Jehoshaphat compromised and married his son, Jehoram to the wicked daughter, Athaliah of the evil royals, King Ahab and Jezebel. Jehoram was an evil king like his father-in-law. As a result, God judged him and he died from a painful intestinal disease which he suffered with for years. His son Ahaziah became king for only a year since he followed his mother's evil advice. Ahaziah was with King Joram of Israel (his uncle) when he was killed by Jehu who was executing God's judgment of the family of Ahab. Athaliah seeking revenge, immediately killed all the royal heirs of Judah and took the throne for herself. However, God secretly spared the infant Joash, because Joash's aunt (Princesses Jehoshabeath, who was also married to the high priest, Jehoiada) hid him.

### Godly Influence - Jehoiada

Jehoiada hid Joash in the temple for six years while Athaliah reigned. When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada brought Joash out of hiding as the rightful heir. He presented Joash as king at the temple. Athaliah heard shouts from the coronation and went to the temple claiming treason. Guards arrested her, took her to the palace and executed her. Jehoiada ended Baal worship and restored the temple worship as it had been done during David's reign. While Jehoiada was priest, Joash followed God and the people had peace.

### Godly Influence's Result – Restoration and Worship

Joash's best achievement was the restoration of the temple. He commissioned the priests and Levites to go throughout Judah and collect the tax Moses had required to repair the temple. When the years passed, and nothing was done Joash confronted them. Joash told the people to come to the temple and pay the tax. Worshipers gladly came and brought the tax. The workers and materials were paid for, and the temple repaired.

### Ungodly Influence – Rulers of Judah

Jehoiada lived a long, godly and influential life. He died at the age of 130 and was so revered he was buried with the kings of Judah. Once he passed, Joash listened to the "rulers of Judah." They must have advised to be more lenient in matters of religion since they abandoned the temple and restored the worship of Baal.

### Ungodly Influence's Result – Idolatry, Murder, Assassination

God sent prophets to warn the people and the king, but they wouldn't listen. When Zechariah the son of Jehoiada warned God had abandoned them because they had abandoned God, at Joash's command they stoned Zechariah to death. God sent the Aramean army to attack Judah. Joash held them off for a while by sending the royal wealth and valuable items in the temple to Aramean king. But then the Aramean's attacked, killed leaders and plundered Judah. Joash, himself was injured in the battle. Two of his servants, angered that he had killed Zechariah, assassinated him.