

Lesson 101

God Protects Joash

Joash becomes king and repairs the temple.

Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Introduction

Refer to #24 on the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We have been learning about the nation of Israel after it was divided into two kingdoms—the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. All the kings of Israel (the northern kingdom) did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and they led the people into sin.

How did the kings and the people sin against God? Worshipped false gods; idolatry; disobeyed God's commandments.

The kings and the people they ruled did not obey the Lord and his commands. Instead, they became like the nations around them and worshipped false gods. God sent prophets like Elijah, Elisha, and Amos to warn the people to repent and turn from their sin.

Did the people listen to the prophets? No.

No, they didn't. God had to punish their sin by bringing the Assyrian army against Israel, and the people were taken away to

live far from home. Point to #27 on the timeline where the Israel path ends.

Now let's learn about some of the kings of Judah. Remember, the first one was Rehoboam, Solomon's son. Point to the Judah path after #24 on the timeline. Judah (the southern kingdom) was ruled by the descendants (people in the family line) of King David, a man after God's own heart. The Lord gave David a special promise that the Savior, Jesus, would come from his family.

However, in today's lesson, an evil woman tries to destroy all of David's royal line! How would God keep his promise to David if his descendants are killed? Let's find out what happened.

God Saves Joash

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Turn to 2 Kings 11 in your Bibles. It's one of the books of history in the Old Testament.

2 Kings 11:1-3

Slide #3

Slide #4

Slide #5

Slide #6

Who will read verse 1? Assign a reader.

Who started destroying the royal family?
Athaliah.

Show the Family Tree of Joash and point to each person as you talk about them.
Athaliah was the daughter of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel. Remember that Ahab and Jezebel were evil rulers. They worshipped Baal and killed the prophets of the true God.

Their daughter Athaliah was just as evil as her parents. She married King Joram of Judah, and they had a son Ahaziah, who became king after his father. When Ahaziah was killed, Athaliah decided that she would take over the throne of Judah and rule as queen.

First, she had to get rid of Ahaziah's sons so that none of them could take the throne. Ahaziah had many sons, and Athaliah put them to death. She killed her own grandsons so that she could rule Judah!

But, one of the king's sons was rescued. Let's read about him in verses 2 and 3. Assign readers.

Which of Athaliah's grandsons was rescued?
Joash.

Slide #7

Have the Illustrations (and/or objects) ready.

Show Illustration #1 or a baby doll. I have a few pictures (or objects) to help us learn some important things about Joash's life. This first one reminds us that God saved baby Joash from being killed. He was probably about a year old at the time. Ask a volunteer to keep the illustration or doll beside them until later.

Who rescued Joash before Athaliah could find him and put him to death? Jehosheba.

One brave woman named Jehosheba was able to take Joash and his nurse away from those who were trying to kill him. Refer to Jehosheba and Jehoiada on the Family Tree. Jehosheba was Joash's aunt. She was married to the high priest Jehoiada. That's probably why she hid Joash in the temple where Jehoiada could help keep him safe.

How many years did Joash stay hidden in the house of the Lord? Look in verse 3. Six years.

Slide #8

Show Illustration #2 (temple). Give to a volunteer to keep until later. During the six years Joash lived in the temple, Jehoiada the priest taught him the laws of God and how to be a good king. Finally, when Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada decided it was time for Joash to be king. But what about his evil grandmother who was ruling as queen?

Jehoiada had a plan. First, he called the captains of the guard and showed them the king's son, Joash. They all promised to protect Joash and help make him king. Then Jehoiada commanded them to come to the temple on a certain Sabbath day when many people would be there in Jerusalem. Together, they would secretly crown the new king.

Slide #9

2 Kings 11:12-14

Let's find out if the plan worked. Turn to 2 Kings 11. Listen as I read verse 12. Read the verse.

Jehoiada brought Joash out to the people. What did he put on Joash? A crown.

Slide #10

Slide #11

Show Illustration #3 or a toy crown. Right. A crown. Hand the illustration to a student or place the crown on a student's head. Joash was anointed as the king that day. What did Jehoiada give him after placing the crown on him? The testimony.

Slide #12

The testimony means the laws of God. Show Illustration #4 or a piece of paper rolled and tied up like a scroll. Give to a student.

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. When Jehoiada presented Joash to the people, they were glad to see that a son of the king was alive.

How did the people show their joy? Let's act that out. Lead the students in clapping and shouting, "Long live the king!"

Slide #13

But what about Athaliah? Let's find out what she did. Listen as I read verses 13–14.

Read the verses.

What did Athaliah do when she heard the noise? She went to the house of the Lord (temple) and saw the young king that she had tried to kill.

I bet she was surprised to see a young boy wearing the crown! She thought she'd killed all the sons of Ahaziah. What did she cry out? Treason!

Slide #14

Does anyone know what treason is? Allow guesses.

Treason: crime of trying to take over a country by removing the people in charge
Treason is when someone tries to take over a country by getting rid of the people in charge. Athaliah was saying Joash did this, but she was the one who had committed treason—and murder. She had killed her own family so that she could steal the throne. Jehoiada commanded the captains

to take Athaliah out of the temple and put her to death for her crimes.

Joash was taken to the palace where he took his seat on the throne. Jehoiada led the people and King Joash in making a promise to follow the Lord. Then the people tore down the place where they had worshipped the false god Baal.

Athaliah came close to wiping out David's royal line. But God was still in control. He kept his promise to David by saving his descendant, Joash.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Which attribute means God will always keep his promises? Faithful.

Pass out the Class Notes.

Let's start the Class Notes. You will fill in the blanks using the words at the bottom of the page.

Slide #15

Slide #16

Who will read #1 and give the answer?

Choose a reader. David. Have students complete #1.

Who will read #2 about Athaliah? Choose a reader. Queen. Complete #2.

And #3, who will read about Jehosheba?

Choose a reader. Temple. Complete #3.

Look at #4. Who was Jehoiada? Choose a reader. Priest. Complete #4.

Joash Repairs the Temple

Let's read a bit more about Joash. Turn ahead a few books to 2 Chronicles chapter 24.

Slide #17

2 Chronicles 24:1-2 & 4

Who will read verses 1-2 and 4? Choose readers.

How old was Joash when he became king?
Seven years old.

How many of you are seven years old?
Show of hands.

Joash was just your age (or a little younger) when he became king. He was the youngest king of Judah. Can you imagine becoming the ruler of a nation right now? What a big responsibility to make decisions for an entire kingdom! Thankfully, Joash had adults to help him, including the faithful priest Jehoiada.

How long did Joash reign as king in Jerusalem? 40 years.

What kind of king was Joash? Look at verse 2. Was Joash good or evil? He was good; he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

How long did Joash do what was right? All the days of Jehoiada the priest.

As long as Jehoiada was alive and helping Joash, Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Verse 4 tells us one of the good things he did. What did Joash decide to do? Restore the house of the Lord.

The temple was in bad shape. Athaliah's sons had broken into the temple and taken the gold and silver items to the temple of Baal. The building needed repairs because no one was taking care of it.

Slide #18

Show Illustration #5 or a jar of coins. In order to collect the money needed for repairs, Joash placed a money chest outside the gate of the temple. When the people visited the temple, they gladly brought their money and dropped it into the chest. They wanted to help fix up the Lord's house. Give the illustration or jar of coins to a student.

Slide #19

Show Illustration #6 or a toy hammer and give to a student. Whenever the chest was filled with money, the king and Jehoiada would empty it and use the money to hire carpenters, stone masons, and metal workers. These men worked on the temple until it was completely repaired.

Slide #20

Let's fill in some more Class Notes. Who will read #5? Choose a reader. Seven. Complete #5.

Who will read #6 about repairing the temple? Choose a reader. Money. Complete #6.

Joash Turns from God

As long as Jehoiada the priest was alive, King Joash and the people worshipped God in the temple as the Lord commanded. But what about after Jehoiada died? Did King Joash and the people continue to follow the Lord?

Slide #21

Slide #22

2 Chronicles 24:17–19

Look at 2 Chronicles 24 verses 17–19. Follow along as I read. Read the verses.

The princes of Judah came to King Joash and gave him some very bad advice. Sadly, King Joash listened to them.

Look at verse 18. What did King Joash abandon, or give up? The house of the Lord. What did he begin to serve instead of God? The Asherim and the idols.

Slide #23

Slide #24

Show Illustration #7 or a figurine representing an idol. Asherim were wooden poles used in idol worship. Give the illustration or figurine to a student.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. This is terrible! Joash listened to these princes and chose to disobey God and worship idols, the false gods of other nations.

God was angry with the king and the people of Judah for their sin. Whom did God send to bring the people back to the Lord? Look at verse 19 again. Prophets.

Did Joash or the people listen to the prophets? No. They would not pay attention.

God sent one more person to speak to the people.

Slide #25

2 Chronicles 24:20

Let's see what happened. Who will read verse 20 in 2 Chronicles 24? Assign a reader.

Who spoke up to warn the people of Judah? Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada.

God called Jehoiada's son, Zechariah the priest, to stand up and tell the people that they had broken God's commandments. Zechariah warned that, because of their sin, God would forsake them. He wouldn't protect and bless them anymore.

The people and King Joash did not like this warning. They wanted to keep sinning. So Joash commanded the people to do an evil thing. He told them to kill Zechariah!

Did Zechariah do anything wrong? No!

Joash killed the son of Jehoiada, the man who had been like a father to him!

Slide #26

God is holy and just, and he will punish sin, including the sin of a king. When God saw this terrible sin that Joash had done, he sent the Syrian army to attack Judah.

Show Illustration #8. Even though Judah had a big army, God made them lose to the Syrians' small army. Give the illustration to a student. King Joash was wounded badly in the attack, and he was later killed by two of his own servants.

Isn't it sad that Joash's life ended this way? Even though he started out obeying God and doing good things, he turned away from God at the end. And because he never turned back to God, he is remembered for the evil he did instead of the good.

Slide #27

Slide #28

Let's finish the Class Notes. Who will read #7? Choose a reader. Idols. Complete #7. And what evil did Joash do in #8? Choose a reader. Kill. Complete #8.

How did God judge Joash and the nation of Judah for #9? Choose a reader. Army. Complete #9.

And #10? How is King Joash remembered? Choose a reader. Evil. Complete #10.

Application

Slide #29

Slide #30

Slide #31

Slide #32

Slide #33

Slide #34

Slide #35

Slide #36

Let's use the illustrations/objects some of you are holding to think about the life of Joash. Ask students to stand in front of the class and hold up their illustrations or objects. Review briefly the part of Joash's life each illustration/object represents: 1. Baby Joash is rescued; 2. He is hidden in the temple for six years and taught by the high priest; 3. Joash is crowned king at seven years old; 4. He is given a copy of God's law; he does right in the eyes of the Lord; 5. He collects money to repair the temple; 6. He hires people to repair and restore the house of the Lord; 7. After Jehoiada dies, Joash listens to the wrong people and begins to worship idols; Joash has Jehoiada's son killed for warning him about his idol worship; 8. He is punished for turning from God and the house of the Lord; God allows his defeat by a smaller army; Joash is wounded and killed.

The account of Joash in God's Word has important lessons for us today. The first is that God can use you no matter how old you are! God

wants you to love and serve him for your whole life, starting when you're young. Joash started off well at only seven years old. He followed the law of God and the advice of the godly priest Jehoiada. We should make sure we stay close to God, too, by praying and reading or listening to his Word each day.

The second lesson is that it is easy for us to listen to the wrong people and end up disobeying God. Once Jehoiada was gone, Joash listened to others who didn't love God, and he started worshipping idols with them. It's important for us to spend most of our time with friends who love God rather than with those who don't know him.

Reading God's Word and spending time with those who also want to obey God will help us grow in our love for God and serve him our whole lives.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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