

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 time in Israel's history after the nation was divided into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. All the kings of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord.

What sin did the kings and the people do that brought the Lord's judgment?
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, but they didn't listen. After 250 years of patiently waiting for the people to return to him, God brought the Assyrian army against Israel. Israel was defeated, and the people were scattered to other

nations. Point to #27 on the timeline where the Israel path ends.

Now we're going to go back and learn about some of the kings of Judah who came after Rehoboam, Solomon's son. Point to the Judah path after #24 on the timeline. Judah was ruled by the descendants of King David, a man after God's own heart. David received a special promise from God that the Savior, Jesus, would come from his descendants.

In today's lesson, an evil queen almost succeeds in destroying the royal line of King David! How will God keep his promise to David if his royal 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.

Slide #3

Slide #4

Slide #5

2 Kings 11:1-3

Who will read verses 1-3? Assign a reader. Who started destroying the royal family? Athaliah.

Athaliah, the mother of King Ahaziah, was an evil woman. She was the daughter of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel. What kind of king and queen were Ahab and Jezebel? Were they good or evil? Evil.

Slide #6

Show the Family Tree of Joash and point to each person as you talk about them. The Bible says that Ahab did more evil than all the other kings of Israel. He and Jezebel brought Baal worship to Israel and killed the prophets of God. Their daughter Athaliah married King Joram of Judah. Their son Ahaziah was killed after reigning only one year.

Athaliah decided that with her son dead, she could take over the throne of Judah and rule as queen. But she had to get rid of her grandsons first so none of them could take the throne. Ahaziah had many sons not shown here on the family tree, and Athaliah began putting them to death.

One of the princes was rescued. Who was it? Joash.

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

One brave woman named Jehosheba ran to the young Joash, who would've been about a year old, and took him and his nurse to the house of the Lord, which is the temple.

Refer to Jehosheba and Jehoiada in the family tree. Jehosheba was Joash's aunt, the sister of King Ahaziah, who had been killed. She was married to the high priest Jehoiada. That's probably why she took Joash to the temple where Jehoiada could help keep him safe.

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

The people of Judah did not like Athaliah ruling over them. She brought Baal worship to Judah just as her mother Jezebel had done in Israel.

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, the day came when Jehoiada decided it was time for Joash to be king. But who would protect the young king, now seven years old, from his evil grandmother and her soldiers?

Jehoiada had a plan. First, he called the captains of the guard to come to the temple. He showed them the king's son, Joash, and made them promise to protect him and help make him king. Then Jehoiada commanded the captains and their men to come on a certain Sabbath day when many people from Judah would be in Jerusalem. He gave them spears and shields that were

stored in the temple. The guards surrounded the temple to protect Joash.

Slide #7

Slide #8

2 Kings 11:12–14

Let's read what happened next from 2 Kings 11:12–14. Assign readers or read the passage.

What did Jehoiada do when he showed Joash to the people? Put a crown on him and anointed him king.

Slide #9

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. Jehoiada placed a crown on Joash and gave him the testimony, which is the law of God. The people were glad to see that a son of the king was alive. They clapped and shouted, "Long live the king!"

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 #10

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 the crime of trying to take over a country by removing the people in charge. But treason is what Athaliah did to take the throne that rightfully belonged to one of her grandsons. She was guilty of treason and murder.

Jehoiada commanded the captains to take Athaliah out of the temple and put her to death for her crimes. Then Jehoiada encouraged King Joash and all the people to make a promise to follow only the Lord. They went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. Joash was taken to the palace where he took his seat on the throne. The people of Judah rejoiced to have Joash as their king.

We see an important attribute of God in the account of the wicked Athaliah and young Joash. God used Jehosheba to rescue Joash so that the royal line of David could continue. But God 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.

Even in a scary situation where it looked like an evil queen would destroy David's family, God was in control and faithful to his promises.

Slide #11

Slide #12

Let's start the Class Notes. You will fill in the blanks using words from the word bank.

Who will read #1 and give the answer?

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

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

And #3, who will read about Jehosheba?

Choose a reader. Temple. Complete #3.

Who was the high priest for #4? Choose a reader. Jehoiada. 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 #13

Slide #14

2 Chronicles 24:1-4

Who will read verses 1-4? Choose readers. How old was Joash when he became king? Seven years old.

Joash was the youngest king of Judah! No other king began to reign at just seven years old. That would be a big responsibility to make decisions for an entire kingdom at such a young age.

If you were in charge, what is a law you would make that you think would help

people? Allow discussion.

Thankfully, Joash wasn't alone. He had the faithful priest Jehoiada guiding him. How long did Joash reign in Jerusalem? 40 years. What does verse 2 say about what kind of king Joash was? Was he good or evil? He was good during the days of Jehoiada. As long as Jehoiada was alive and helping Joash, Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. One of the good things he did is in verse 4. What did Joash decide to do? Restore the house of the Lord.

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

Joash thought that the priests and Levites could take care of collecting money from the people to use for fixing up the temple. But they did not do it very quickly. So, Joash decided to make a chest and place it outside the gate of the temple so the people could bring their temple tax money and put it in there when they visited the city.

This worked really well because the people were glad to give money for the Lord's house. Whenever the chest was full, Joash and Jehoiada would empty it and give the money to those who could make repairs, like carpenters, stonemasons, and

metalworkers. Eventually, the temple was restored, and new utensils were made for the offerings.

People came to the temple and offered sacrifices as God commanded all the days of Jehoiada, the priest. Jehoiada lived to be 130 years old before he died. The people of Judah honored Jehoiada by burying him in Jerusalem with the kings because of all the good he had done for the nation.

Slide #15

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

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

Joash Turns from God

Now that Jehoiada, the king's godly advisor, was gone, would Joash continue to do good and obey God? Let's find out.

Slide #16

Slide #17

2 Chronicles 24:17–19

Look down in 2 Chronicles 24 to verses 17–19. Who will read those? Assign readers. Who did the king listen to after Jehoiada's death? Princes of Judah.

And what did these princes encourage King Joash to do? Abandon the house of the Lord and serve the Asherim and the idols.

Slide #18

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. Here he is bowing down to an idol with the princes around him.

God was angry with the king and the people of Judah for their sin. Whom did he send to bring them back to the Lord? Prophets.

Just as God had done for the kings and people of Israel, he sent his prophets to warn them of their sin.

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

King Joash committed the same sins as the other kings of Judah who refused to obey the Lord. Then Joash did even more evil.

Slide #19

Slide #20

2 Chronicles 24:20–22

Who will read verses 20–22 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 they sinned by breaking God's commandments. Because of this, God would forsake them, which means he wouldn't protect and bless them anymore.

Well, the people and King Joash didn't like this message. They wanted to keep sinning. What did Joash command the people to do? Stone Zechariah in the house of the Lord.

Stoning was a punishment they used in Bible times to kill people by throwing rocks at them. Zechariah hadn't done anything wrong or broken any laws, but Joash and the people killed him for speaking the truth. They murdered a priest and prophet of God.

What did Zechariah say as he was dying?
"May the Lord see and avenge!"

God did see the terrible sin Joash committed by killing an innocent man, the son of Jehoiada, who was like a father to Joash! God is holy and just, and he will punish sin, including the sin of a king.

God raised up the Syrian army to come against Judah. Even though Judah had a big army, God made them lose to the Syrians' small army. King Joash was wounded badly in the attack. Then two of his servants killed him when he was in bed. The people didn't even bury Joash with the kings of Judah. This was a dishonorable end for a king.

When we look at the life of Joash, would we say he was a good king or a bad king? Allow discussion.

Joash started his reign well. He followed the law of God and the advice of the godly priest Jehoiada. But once Jehoiada was gone, Joash quickly turned away from God and did evil by worshipping idols. Because of the bad decisions he made at the end of his life, all the good he had done was forgotten. The people turned away from God, and Joash ended up killing the son of Jehoiada and receiving punishment from God.

Slide #21

Slide #22

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. Stoned. Complete #8.

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

Complete #9.

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

Application

Slide #23

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God was faithful to keep David's kingly line from being

destroyed so the Savior could be born from his descendants. When Athaliah was killing all the royal children, Joash was rescued by his aunt and kept safe in the temple. When he was seven years old, Joash became king. As long as the priest Jehoiada was alive, Joash obeyed God and did what was right. He collected money and paid workers to repair the temple of God in Jerusalem.

But after Jehoiada died, Joash listened to the wrong people and turned away from God. He worshipped false gods and eventually killed Jehoiada's son for speaking God's message of judgment. God punished Joash and the people of Judah for their sin. The Syrian army defeated them, and Joash was wounded and then killed by his own servants.

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 decided to restore the temple when he was young. His desire to see the worship of God restored in Judah was good! The second lesson is that it is easy for us to listen to the wrong people and turn away from God.

What could Joash have done after Jehoiada's death to stay obedient to God?
Allow discussion.

Joash could have listened to people who loved God rather than those who wanted him to sin. Joash had a copy of the laws of God given in the first five books of the Old Testament. Refer to Genesis through Deuteronomy on the Books of the Bible Poster. He could have read and obeyed God's Word instead of listening to the princes of Judah.

We should read God's Word daily and surround ourselves with friends who love God. If you think you may be caring more about what your friends think or ignoring God's Word, take a moment during our prayer time to confess that to God and ask him to help you be obedient to him.

Lesson Review

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

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