

2nd Grade King

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2 CMCS Drama Dept presents: Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. Th-Sat.2-4, 9-11.

II. Slide3 Intro: 2nd Grade King

A. Tonight we move from the **northern kingdom** to the re-establishment in **Judah** of the *worship of Jehovah*.

B. Find some good life principles. *Showing faith & courage. Walking in the flesh or the spirit. Trusting when you just can't see it. Cleaning house/our personal temples. How to find joy & quiet in our lives.*

C. Slide4 Who is who? [characters we will study tonight] 9th cent bc.

1. **Athaliah** - Daughter of wicked king Ahab. Married Joram (Judah's king) & both returned *Judah to idolatry*. Ahaziah's mom. Becomes Judah's Queen after death of son. Slaughters all her sons, step-sons, grandchildren & step-grandchildren.
2. **Joash** - *Yahweh has given. a Baby saved the day.*
3. **Jehosheba & Jehoiada** - **great couple**. **He's** the high priest & a biblical hero. **She's** the daughter of king Joram, sister of king Ahaziah, aunt of baby Joash.

III. Slide5 2ND GRADE KING (11)

A. Slide6 **ATHALIAH, EVIL QUEEN MOTHER** (1-3)

B. After Ahaziah died, *Athaliah*, his mother, upset over her son's death, decided to put all of the royal family to death **and rule** in their place. [Athaliah was a *usurper* & an *illegitimate ruler*]

1. She is a descendant of Ahab, king of Israel, thus not part of the *Davidic line*. **And** in 2 Chron.24:7 she is appropriately called *that wicked woman*.

C. Slide7a Ready for destruction included **Joash**, the infant son of Ahaziah. **However**, in a manner reminiscent of *Moses' early life*, Joash was rescued from imminent death by his aunt, *Jehosheba*, & hidden away in the temple along with his nurse.

1. This husband & wife team had the same **faith & courage** as Moses' parents. Slide7b Heb.11:23 *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three*

months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command.

- D. Satan's seed tried to exterminate God's seed (Gen. 3:15), but God won the battle.
1. Athaliah, almost succeeds in eliminating the *Davidic royal line* and also threatens the fulfillment of *the promise of the Messiah*.
 - a) The future now rests in *1 little boy* whom God protected in the temple.
 2. *Slide8a* But also know, that it **looks like** that God's promise failed! Only this *1 couple* knows this boy is alive. They're down to only *1 little human* that could fulfill God's promise. For 6 years it **looks** to everyone else like *God's promised failed*, there will **not** be a descendant from David's house to sit on his throne.
 - a) *Slide8b* Only 7 years later does it come out that *God's promise didn't fail*.
 - b) Is there something in your life where it *seems* God's promise has failed you?
- E. *Slide9* **JOASH, BOY KING** (4-12)
- F. (4) Jehoiada is one of the true heroes of the bible.
1. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes and *exposed himself to great personal risk* in order to promote the career of someone else, a mere child, in fact, over his own career. *Jehoiada had a clear grasp of God's bigger picture*.
- G. Jehoiada gathered *Levites, heads of the families of Israel, and the palace guards*. And *showed them the king's son* (4). What a joyful event!
1. What will it be like for us, to be brought into the house of the Lord, and showed for the 1st time, *the Kings son?* :)
- H. (10) Jehoiada's use of these weapons symbolizes the return of the *Davidic dynasty* and legitimizes Joash's succession.
- I. (12) It was more than a change in government; it was also *a religious revival*.
1. Youthful Joash was given *the Law*, and the king vowed to serve the Lord and the people. Deut. 17:18,19
 - a) *Slide10* *When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. 19 He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the Lord his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions & decrees.*

J. Long live the king - Like in 2 Kings 9:13 *Then each man hastened to take his garment and put it under him on the top of the steps; and they blew trumpets, saying, "Jehu is king!"* Which is very similar to the description of *Jesus' triumphal entry* into Jerusalem (Matt 21:8).

K. Slide11 REFORMATION (13-21)

L. Once his throne was secured, the king permitted Jehoiada to **clean house** and **remove** the Baal worshipers and their idols.

1. Revival has its negative aspects of **judgment as well as** its **positive** steps of **dedication**. **Never** be content just by **shutting down evil** in your life, there is **much positive good** that needs doing.

M. Slide12 Gustave Dore, *The Death of Athaliah*.

N. Events around you may create doubts and fears in your heart, and you may wonder if God knows what is going on and if He cares.¹

1. Rest assured that God not only **knows and cares** but that **He is working out** His purposes in spite of the evil deeds of wicked people.
2. **God does not need great armies** to accomplish his plans. He can use **a boy 7 years old** to change the course of a nation.
3. Often when circumstances are the most difficult, God surprises you with a special victory. **Trust him!**

O. (20) **Rejoiced & quiet** - always takes place when we **deal with evil** in our lives **AND adjust our life to holy living**. **Rejoice & quiet**.

P. Slide13 **Also**, there is an application here that may speak to our **inner life**. A comparison here of **Athaliah & Joash** and our **flesh & spirit**.

1. There is this **strong and wicked Athaliah principal** in most of us. **Which strongly opposes all that is of God**. It **usurps** His place and desires to murder His seed w/in us.
2. **But** there is also a **holy but lowly Joash germ** in our **regenerate life** that is sometimes hiding in a remote part **closet of our life**, for years.

¹ Warren Wiersbe, With The Word, pg.217.

- a) Thank God it cannot be *discovered or destroyed*. It is *hidden with Christ in God*.
 - b) But it is exposed to *great opposition*, & the conflict in the *outward life* is in the highest degree *painful*.
3. Then there comes a moment when suddenly it **breaks** from its hiding place, **and** in some moment of **revival**, it assumes its rightful position **on the throne**.
- a) **What predominates in you? *Flesh for spirit? Self or Christ? Athaliah or Joash?***
4. **Slide14 Gal.5:16,17 nlt *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. 17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.***

IV. Slide15 **TEMPLE REPAIRS (12)**

A. Slide16 **WONDERFUL BEGINNINGS (1-3)**

- B. (1) The high priest Jehoiada was the young king's *spiritual guide*, and at the beginning of his reign, Joash was willing to follow.
 - 1. **Do you let others strengthen you in the faith, and do you appreciate their ministry to you?**

C. Slide17 **RENOVATIONS (4-16)**

- D. (4) Remember, this was his home for the first seven years of his life.
- E. (7) **Why are you not repairing the damage in the temple?** The passage implies not only **neglect** and **apathy** on the part of the priests, **but also dishonesty**. For years, it seems, they have taken the money without making the repairs. [eg. *mispending* designated gifts]
 - 1. **What area of your spiritual temple/your body have you allowed to deteriorate?**
 - 2. **What if God asked you that question tonight? Why are you not repairing the damage in your temple?** Is it **neglect** (too busy focusing on others things), **apathy** (or laziness, indifference, unconcern), **or possibly dishonesty** with yourself?

- F. (9,10) Joash responded to their neglect by initiating a more secure system for collections. The priests were not the proper parties to receive or collect money (sad). The high priest put *an offering box* right by the altar by the gate of the house of the Lord. The people responded *generously* so that soon there was enough money to complete the work.
1. **Did you know:** (fun facts about CM) That our founding pastor, Bob Chappell started from day 1 with *agape boxes in the back*, that have continued to this day....which came from **this verse**.
 - a) **Did you also know** that God has been faithful since Dec of 1985 to take care of us financially, & we are debt free today. (32 yrs, next month)
 - b) To which we exclaim with the Psalmist in 126:3 *The Lord has done great things for us, And we are glad*. [msg, God was wonderful to us; we are one happy people]
- G. (11-16) **Construction workers integrity** - So honest and faithful were the workers that no special accounting was even made as the funds were spent.
- H. As we talked about this past Sunday, *Reformation Sunday*. It is **not** about *a one time reformation* **but** a *continual* reformation **in the church & in our lives**.
1. **Why?** Because *the house of God is always needing repair*.
- I. **Slide18 INVASION & ASSASINATION** (17-21)
- J. 2 Chron. 24 informs us that when godly *Jehoiada* died, **the king** began to *backslide* and actually went into *idolatry*.
- K. Unfortunately, this leader's faith was tied to another leader **and not** to the Lord directly.
1. It is not enough to promote *religious works*, we must have *true devotion* to God in our hearts.
 2. **Is your faith propped up by others?** Your spouse, your mentor, your counselor, your discipler? What will you do when your "props" are gone?
- L. God sent prophets to warn the king, **but** he would not listen. One of these prophets was *Zechariah*, the son of the high priest Jehoiada and Joash's cousin. 2 Chron. 24:20-22...
1. **Slide19** *Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: Why do you disobey the Lord's commands and keep yourselves from prospering? You have abandoned the Lord, and now he has abandoned you!" 21 Then the*

leaders plotted to kill **Zechariah**, and King Joash ordered that they stone him to death in the courtyard of the Lord's Temple. 22 That was how King Joash repaid Jehoiada for his loyalty—by killing his son. Zechariah's last words as he died were, "May the Lord see what they are doing and avenge my death!"

2. Instead of listening to him, Joash commanded him to be stoned in the temple court.

a) **Slide20** Jesus referred to this murder in Matt. 23:34-35 *Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, 35 that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous **Abel** to the blood of **Zechariah**, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.*

b) Remember, 2 Chron is the last book in the bible...Hebrew bible that is. So from Genesis to Malachi. A to Z. **Whole range of OT history is indicated.**

M. Being spiritually *backslidden*, Joash was unable to cope with the Syrian invasion, so he tried to bribe **Hazael** by giving him the wealth of God's house.

1. How often God's people rob the Lord in trying to solve their problems, **instead of** turning to the Lord in confession.
2. **Joash** himself was murdered by *some of his own servants* as they sought to avenge the deaths of **Jehoiada's innocent sons**.

N. (19-21) After **Jehoash** had ascended the throne, he restored temple worship and stability to the monarchy...*at least for a time*. :(

1. After the death of Jehoiada, he turned away from God to idolatry (2 Chr 24:17-22).
2. Eventually, Jehoash had Jehoiada's son **Zechariah** murdered **and** was himself murdered by his officials as he lay in bed (2 Chr 24:21,22, 25).

O. **Read vs.2 again** - Never put your spiritual eggs in someone else's basket. Joash only did well when his mentor was alive.