



## THE FINAL DAYS OF ELISHA

### JEHOIADA GUIDES KING JOASH

**2 Kings 12:1-5** In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba. <sup>2</sup> Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him. <sup>3</sup> The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. <sup>4</sup> Joash said to the priests, "Collect all the money that is brought as sacred offerings to the temple of the LORD—the money collected in the census, the money received from personal vows and the money brought voluntarily to the temple. <sup>5</sup> Let every priest receive the money from one of the treasurers, and let it be used to repair whatever damage is found in the temple."

**2 Chronicles 24:9-10, 12-16** A proclamation was then issued in Judah and Jerusalem that they should bring to the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God had required of Israel in the desert. <sup>10</sup> All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full. ...<sup>12</sup> The king and Jehoiada gave it to the men who carried out the work required for the temple of the LORD. They hired masons and carpenters to restore the LORD's temple, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the temple.

<sup>13</sup> The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it. <sup>14</sup> When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the LORD's temple: articles for the service and for the burnt offerings, and also dishes and other objects of gold and silver. As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of the LORD. <sup>15</sup> Now Jehoiada was old and full of years, and he died at the age of a hundred and thirty. <sup>16</sup> He was buried with the kings in the City of David, because of the good he had done in Israel for God and his temple.

- 1.) At this point the temple at Jerusalem was 140 years old and needed repairs. What principles should we keep in mind when undertaking a church building project or restoration? What makes such a project or collection pleasing to the Lord?

**Isaiah 66:1-2** This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be? <sup>2</sup> Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the LORD.

**Acts 17:24-25** “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.”

**Matthew 18:20** “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

**Haggai 1:2-4, 7-8** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come for the LORD’s house to be built.’ ” <sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup> “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?” ... <sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD.

**2 Corinthians 8:5** They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.

**2 Corinthians 9:7** Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2.) Reflect on the “Jehoiada’s” in your own life. Who are the godly wise whom the Lord has used to guide and keep you in the way of righteousness and provide you with godly counsel?

**Proverbs 13:13-14** He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded. <sup>14</sup> The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

**Proverbs 16:20-23** Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD. <sup>21</sup> The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. <sup>22</sup> Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools. <sup>23</sup> A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

## JOASH TURNS TO EVIL

**2 Chronicles 24:17-25** After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. <sup>18</sup> They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God’s anger came upon Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>19</sup> Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.

<sup>20</sup> 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? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’ ” <sup>21</sup> But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD’s temple. <sup>22</sup> King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah’s father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, “May the LORD see this and call you to account.”

<sup>23</sup> At the turn of the year, the army of Aram marched against Joash; it invaded Judah and Jerusalem and killed all the leaders of the people. They sent all the plunder to their king in Damascus. <sup>24</sup> Although the Aramean army had come with only a few men, the LORD delivered into their hands a much larger army. Because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, judgment was executed on Joash. <sup>25</sup> When the Arameans withdrew, they left Joash severely wounded. His officials conspired against him for murdering the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they killed him in his bed. So he died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

1.) Conversely if we seek out wicked, foolish, sin-pursuing friends and company, we will be led to earthly and eternal ruin.

**Proverbs 13:20** He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

**Proverbs 22:24-25** Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

**1 Corinthians 15:32-34** If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." <sup>33</sup> Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." <sup>34</sup> Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

2.) Joash started out well with Jehoiada to guide him, but then he turned from the true faith. What lesson does that teach us?

**1 Timothy 1:18-20** Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, <sup>19</sup> holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. <sup>20</sup> Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

**1 Timothy 6:10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

## JEHOAHAZ KING OF ISRAEL

**2 Kings 13 1-9** In the twenty-third year of Joash son of Ahaziah king of Judah, Jehoahaz son of Jehu became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen years. <sup>2</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the LORD by following the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit, and he did not turn away from them. <sup>3</sup> So the LORD's anger burned against Israel, and for a long time he kept them under the power of Hazael king of Aram and Ben-Hadad his son.

<sup>4</sup> Then Jehoahaz sought the LORD's favor, and the LORD listened to him, for he saw how severely the king of Aram was oppressing Israel. <sup>5</sup> The LORD provided a deliverer for Israel, and they escaped from the power of Aram. So the Israelites lived in their own homes as they had before. <sup>6</sup> But they did not turn away from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, which he had caused Israel to commit; they continued in them. Also, the Asherah pole remained standing in Samaria.

<sup>7</sup> Nothing had been left of the army of Jehoahaz except fifty horsemen, ten chariots and ten thousand foot soldiers, for the king of Aram had destroyed the rest and made them like the dust at threshing time. <sup>8</sup> As for the other events of the reign of Jehoahaz, all he did and his achievements, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? <sup>9</sup> Jehoahaz rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. And Jehoash his son succeeded him as king.

1.) The reign of Jehoahaz marks the beginning of the end for the Northern Kingdom. What happened during his reign that showed that God was displeased with the people? Yet how did God continue to show incredible mercy (v. 4-5)?

## **JEHOASH KING OF ISRAEL & THE END OF ELISHA'S LIFE AND MINISTRY**

**2 Kings 13:10-25** In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash son of Jehoahaz became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years. <sup>11</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit; he continued in them. <sup>12</sup> As for the other events of the reign of Jehoash, all he did and his achievements, including his war against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? <sup>13</sup> Jehoash rested with his fathers, and Jeroboam succeeded him on the throne. Jehoash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.

<sup>14</sup> Now Elisha was suffering from the illness from which he died. Jehoash king of Israel went down to see him and wept over him. "My father! My father!" he cried. "The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" <sup>15</sup> Elisha said, "Get a bow and some arrows," and he did so. <sup>16</sup> "Take the bow in your hands," he said to the king of Israel. When he had taken it, Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. <sup>17</sup> "Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot. "The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" Elisha declared. "You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek." <sup>18</sup> Then he said, "Take the arrows," and the king took them. Elisha told him, "Strike the ground." He struck it three times and stopped. <sup>19</sup> The man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times." <sup>20</sup> Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. <sup>21</sup> Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.

<sup>22</sup> Hazael king of Aram oppressed Israel throughout the reign of Jehoahaz. <sup>23</sup> But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion and showed concern for them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To this day he has been unwilling to destroy them or banish them from his presence. <sup>24</sup> Hazael king of Aram died, and Ben-Hadad his son succeeded him as king. <sup>25</sup> Then Jehoash son of Jehoahaz recaptured from Ben-Hadad son of Hazael the towns he had taken in battle from his father Jehoahaz. Three times Jehoash defeated him, and so he recovered the Israelite towns.

- 1.) Jehoahaz' successor was Jehoash, whose name means "given by Jehovah." Did he live up to his name and express sincere faith when he wept over Elisha, or was he simply patronizing Elisha?
- 2.) Jehoahaz took the initiative to visit Elisha when Elisha was ready to die. The Lord blessed Jehoahaz. How? What showed that Jehoahaz' heart was not completely right with God?
- 3.) Even years after his death Elisha's bones "perform a miracle" by raising from the dead. What should this final miracle have communicated to the people?
- 4.) Some Christians struggle in their faith. They may look like hypocrites because they often fall, sometimes in very public ways. But are struggling Christians hypocrites?

### **PRAYER**

**NEXT WEEK – NEW STUDY – Hard Sayings of Jesus**