



During the reign of Jehu over Israel, chaos broke out in Judah. When Jehu killed Ahaziah, the dead king's mother, Athaliah, took advantage of the power vacuum to kill her grandsons and become queen. But King Ahaziah's sister Jehosheba saved alive one of her nephews, Joash, and thus she preserved the Davidic line. Then on the seventh year of Athaliah's reign, Jehoiada the priest led a coup to reinstate the Davidic line through Joash, who was seven years old. After Athaliah was killed, Joash ruled for 40 years and followed the Lord while Jehoiada still lived. Unfortunately, once his mentor died, Joash fell away from God and faced His judgment. In this study, we will look at how we all play a part in God's plans and what we can do to finish well.

Joash

1. Context

a. Not chronological

- i. 2 Kings is not always in chronological order.

b. Timeline

- i. The creation
- ii. The fall
- iii. The flood
- iv. The Abrahamic covenant
- v. The enslavement of Israel in Egypt
- vi. The exodus
 1. God used Moses to bring Israel out of bondage.
- vii. The promised land
 1. God used Joshua to lead Israel into conquering the promised land.
- viii. The judges
 1. God raised up judges to lead the people out of bondage and fix their eyes back on Him.
 2. The story of Samson took place in the time of the judges.
- ix. The kings
 1. Saul, David, and Solomon ruled over a united kingdom of Israel.
 2. During Rehoboam's reign, Israel was divided into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.
 3. In **2 Kings 9–10**, King Jehu wiped out Ahab's wicked line and high-ranking officials, then wiped out the prophets of Baal—just as the prophet of God had said.
 4. After Jehu's killing spree wiped out Ahab's sons, Ahab's daughter Athaliah ruled in Judah.

2. **2 Kings 11:1-21** – *“When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king’s sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land. In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds—of the bodyguards and the escorts—and brought them into the house of the LORD to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king’s son. Then he commanded them, saying, ‘This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king’s house, one-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the escorts. You shall keep the watch of the house, lest it be broken down. The two contingents of you who go off duty on the Sabbath shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD for the king. But you shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in.’ So the captains of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each of them took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of the LORD. Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, by the altar and the house. And he brought out the king’s son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, ‘Long live the king!’ Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, ‘Treason! Treason!’ And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, ‘Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her.’ For the priest had said, ‘Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD.’ So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses’ entrance into the king’s house, and there she was killed. Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the LORD’s people, and also between the king and the people. And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and*

images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD. Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings. So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house. Jehoash was seven years old when he became king."

3. Learning from **2 Kings 11**

a. Athaliah

- i. Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, the rulers of Israel.
- ii. When Athaliah saw that Jehu had killed her son Ahaziah, she returned to kill the other heirs to the throne.
- iii. After killing the royal sons, Athaliah declared herself queen in the southern kingdom of Judah.
 1. Athaliah succeeded in killing six of the seven sons of Ahaziah.
 2. **DISCUSS:** How does the survival of the Davidic line despite the various killing sprees during the time of the kings testify to the character of God (**2 Samuel 7:8–9, 16–21, 28–29**)?

b. Ahaziah

- i. Ahaziah was the son of Athaliah who ruled in Judah until he was killed by Jehu.

c. Jehosheba

- i. Jehosheba was the daughter of Athaliah and sister of Ahaziah.
- ii. Jehosheba hid her nephew Joash—the son of Ahaziah—from the slaughter of Ahab's sons.
 1. **DISCUSS:** How can we boldly do what is right regardless of circumstances? How has God helped you follow Him courageously?
- iii. Jehosheba was married to Jehoiada the priest (**2 Chronicles 23–24**).

d. Jehoiada

- i. Jehoiada was the priest who secured the throne for Joash.
 1. Jehoiada's plot happened during the seventh year of Athaliah's reign.
 2. Jehoiada told the guards to protect Joash and to kill the queen when she came out.
- ii. Jehoiada was the father of Zechariah the priest.
- iii. Jehoiada mentored Joash.
- iv. Jehoiada helped the people of Judah return to God.

1. Jehoiada made a covenant between the king, the people, and the Lord to follow God.
2. Under Jehoiada's direction, the people tore down the temple of Baal.
3. **DISCUSS:** Revival begins with the tearing down of idols. What idols has God called you to tear down so you may follow Him with an undivided heart?
4. During Jehoiada's time, the people of God had rest.
5. **DISCUSS:** How does obedience to God allow us to experience His rest?

e. Joash

- i. Joash, or Jehoash, was the only living son of Ahaziah
 - ii. Joash ruled over Judah for 40 years.
- f. We all have a role in God's plan, whether we understand it or not.
- i. God's plan was to continue the Davidic line.
 1. This is important because the Messiah would be the Son of David.
 - ii. Whether Jehosheba saved Joash with the goal of protecting the Davidic line or not, she became part of fulfilling God's plan.
 1. Jehosheba impacted Israel for the next 40 years.
 2. Jehosheba impacted the Messianic line.
 3. Jehosheba preserved a life, and by doing good in the moment, she positively impacted the future of her people.
 4. **DISCUSS:** When did you do the right thing and only later understood the great impact of that one decision?

4. **2 Kings 12:1-21** – *"In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him. But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. And Jehoash said to the priests, 'All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD—each man's census money, each man's assessment money—and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found.' Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple. So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, 'Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple.' And the priests agreed that*

they would neither receive more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple. Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD. So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD. Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD, and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple. However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD. But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it. Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully. The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests. Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem. Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? And his servants arose and formed a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla. For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place."

5. Learning from **2 Kings 12**

a. Joash

- i. Joash was the king of Judah.

b. Jehoiada

- i. Jehoiada helped Joash rebuild God's temple.

1. We do not know why, but 23 years of Joash's reign went by before the temple was rebuilt.
2. There was some miscommunication about what was happening to the funds given to the temple until Joash and

Jehoiada got serious and said all the funds that came would be for the rebuilding of the temple.

- ii. Jehoiada was Joash's advisor.
- c. Hazael
 - i. Hazael was the king of Syria, or Aram.
 - ii. When Hazael rose against Jerusalem, Joash gave him the treasures from God's house to buy himself safety.
 - 1. Before Joash gave Hazael these treasures, he was seriously wounded.
- d. Amaziah
 - i. Amaziah was Joash's son who reigned after his father's death.

6. Additional context from **2 Chronicles 24**

- a. Joash's moral decline
 - i. While Jehoiada was alive, Joash followed God.
 - 1. **2 Chronicles 24:2** – *"Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest."*
 - 2. **2 Chronicles 24:14b** – *"They offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada."*
 - 3. **DISCUSS**: Is your relationship with God wholly dependent on other people, or do you lean on the Lord?
 - ii. After Jehoiada's death, politicians came and persuaded Joash to follow idols.
 - 1. **2 Chronicles 24:17–18** – *"Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them. Therefore they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served wooden images and idols; and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass."*
 - 2. **DISCUSS**: What qualifications do you have for what advice you receive? What is the danger of not having qualifications?
- b. Zechariah's warning and prophecy
 - i. Zechariah the priest was the son of Jehoiada.
 - ii. Zechariah prophesied against Joash.
 - 1. **2 Chronicles 24:20–22** – *"Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, 'Thus says God: "Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you."' So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court*

of the house of the LORD. Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son; and as he died, he said, 'The LORD look on it, and repay!'"

2. **DISCUSS:** How do you keep the kindness of God toward you fresh in your mind?

c. God's judgment

- i. **2 Chronicles 24:23–25** – *"So it happened in the spring of the year that the army of Syria came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the leaders of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the LORD delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died. And they buried him in the City of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings."*

1. God delivered Joash into the hands of the Syrians, though they were smaller than the Judean army.
2. Joash's servants took vengeance against Joash for spilling the blood of the sons of his mentor Jehoiada.

d. A bad end

- i. A good start does not guarantee a good end.
 1. Joash abandoned the Lord and the temple that took so long to restore.
 2. Despite Hazael's smaller army, Joash panicked and trusted in wealth rather than in God.
 3. **DISCUSS:** When in trouble, who or what do you run to? How do we remember to trust in God our refuge?

e. How to finish well

- i. We must fix our eyes on Jesus to finish well.
 1. **Hebrews 12:1–3** – *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured*

such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (NIV)

2. **DISCUSS:** What are some practices you have that help you fix your eyes on God?
- ii. Moses conveyed God's instructions for how kings should behave 400 years before Joash—before King Saul ever rose to the throne.
 1. **Deuteronomy 17:14–20** – *“You are about to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you take it over and settle there, you may think, ‘We should select a king to rule over us like the other nations around us.’ If this happens, be sure to select as king the man the LORD your God chooses. You must appoint a fellow Israelite; he may not be a foreigner. The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt to buy horses, for the LORD has told you, ‘You must never return to Egypt.’ The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the LORD. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself. 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. 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 and decrees. This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.” (NLT)*
- iii. **Jeremiah 17:5–6** – *“Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord. That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes. They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives. But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.” (NIV)*
 1. Let us follow God's instructions so we can finish well:
 - a. We must write God's Word.
 - b. We must read God's Word.
 - c. We must observe God's Word.

d. We must trust God's Word.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James (NKJV)