

The Rest of the Story

The Last time I spoke I stressed the importance of a mother's influence upon her children.

Today we are looking at the importance of influences in general.

In particular we focus our attention on Jehoiada's influence upon king Jehoash (Joash).

Key verses: 2 Kings 12:2 (ESV) And **Jehoash** did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all his days, **because Jehoiada the priest instructed him.**

2 Chronicles 24:2 (ESV) And **Joash** did what was right in the eyes of the Lord **all the days of Jehoiada the priest.**

Theme: Lessons from Jehoiada's influence in the life of Jehoash.

Before we learn the lessons we need to consider the type and extent of Jehoiada's influence over Jehoash (Joash).

I. Jehoash was instrumental in establishing Jehoash as king over Judah.

A. Jehoash was spared from death as a child.

2 Kings 11:1 (ESV) Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family.

2 Kings 11:2 (ESV) 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 put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death.

2 Kings 11:3 (ESV) And he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the LORD, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

B. While Jehoash is still a child, Jehoiada establishes him to be king over Judah.

1. Jehoiada takes measures to see to it that the child king is protected.

2 Kings 11:4 (ESV) **But in the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of the Carites and of the guards, and had**

them come to him in the house of the LORD. And he made a covenant with them and put them under oath in the house of the LORD, and he showed them the king's son.

2 Kings 11:5 (ESV) And he commanded them, "This is the thing that you shall do: one third of you, those who come off duty on the Sabbath and guard the king's house

2 Kings 11:6 (ESV) (another third being at the gate Sur and a third at the gate behind the guards) shall guard the palace.

2 Kings 11:7 (ESV) And the two divisions of you, which come on duty in force on the Sabbath **and guard the house of the LORD on behalf of the king,**

2 Kings 11:8 (ESV) **shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand. And whoever approaches the ranks is to be put to death.** Be with the king when he goes out and when he comes in."

2 Kings 11:9 (ESV) The captains did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and they each brought his men who were to go off duty on the Sabbath, with those who were to come on duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

2 Kings 11:10 (ESV) And the priest gave to the captains the spears and shields that had been King David's, which were in the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 11:11 (ESV) And the guards stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, around the altar and the house on behalf of the king.

2. Then publicly Jehoiada makes Jehoash king.

2 Kings 11:12 (ESV) **Then he brought out the king's son and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony. And they proclaimed him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"**

3. Jehoiada then removes all opposition to the king.

2 Kings 11:13 (ESV) When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she went into the house of the LORD to the people.

2 Kings 11:14 (ESV) And when she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar, according to the custom, and the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets. And Athaliah tore her clothes and

cried, "Treason! Treason!"

2 Kings 11:15 (ESV) **Then Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains who were set over the army, "Bring her out between the ranks, and put to death with the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest said, "Let her not be put to death in the house of the LORD."**

2 Kings 11:16 (ESV) So they laid hands on her; and she went through the horses' entrance to the king's house, and there she was put to death.

II. Jehoiada was instrumental in Jehoash's spiritual renewals.

- A. Jehoiada had caused Joash to enter into a covenant with God and the people.

2 Kings 11:17 (ESV) **And Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and people**, that they should be the Lord's people, and also between the king and the people.

- B. The results of that covenant.

1. Baal worship was removed.

2 Kings 11:18 (ESV) **Then** all the people of the land went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 11:18 (ESV) Then **all the people of the land went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.** And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the LORD.

2. The temple was guarded against retaliation.

2 Kings 11:18 (ESV) Then all the people of the land went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. **And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the LORD.**

3. The king was guarded on the way to the palace.
2 Kings 11:19 (ESV) And he took the captains, the Carites, the guards, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, marching through the gate of the guards to the king's house. And he took his seat on the throne of the kings.

4. The people were pleased with what had been done.

2 Kings 11:20 (ESV) **So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been put to death with the sword at the king's house.**

- III. Next we have a summary statement concerning the reign of Jehoash and his spiritual reforms.

2 Kings 11:21 (ESV) Jehoash was seven years old when he began to reign.

12:1 (ESV) In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

2 Kings 12:2 (ESV) **And Jehoash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all his days, because Jehoiada the priest instructed him.**

2 Kings 12:3 (ESV) Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.

- A. Jehoash has the temple repaired.

1. Jehoash charges the priests to repair the temple that had fallen into disarray because of the false worship of Baal.

2 Kings 12:4 (ESV) **Jehoash said to the priests,** "All the money of the holy things that is brought into the house of the LORD, the money for which each man is assessed—the money from the assessment of persons—and the money that a man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the LORD,

2 Kings 12:5 (ESV) let the priests take, each from his donor, **and let them repair the house wherever any need of repairs is discovered.**"

2. However, the priests were slow in carrying out the work.

2 Kings 12:6 (ESV) **But by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, the priests had made no repairs on the house.**

3. Jehoash confronts Jehoiada about the delays.

2 Kings 12:7 (ESV) **Therefore King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the priest and the other priests and said to them, “Why are you not repairing the house? Now therefore take no more money from your donors, but hand it over for the repair of the house.”**

4. The priests will no longer be over the work of repairing the temple.

2 Kings 12:8 (ESV) So the priests agreed that they should take no more money from the people, and that they should not repair the house.

5. The repairs are completed.

2 Kings 12:9 (ESV) Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in the lid of it and set it beside the altar on the right side as one entered the house of the LORD. And the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 12:10 (ESV) And whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, the king’s secretary and the high priest came up and they bagged and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 12:11 (ESV) **Then they would give the money that was weighed out into the hands of the workmen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD. And they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the LORD,**

2 Kings 12:12 (ESV) and to the masons and the stonecutters, as well as to buy timber and quarried stone for making repairs on the house of the LORD, and for any outlay for the repairs of the house.

2 Kings 12:13 (ESV) But there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, snuffers, bowls, trumpets, or any vessels of gold, or of silver, from the money that was brought into the house of the LORD,

2 Kings 12:14 (ESV) for that was given to the workmen who were repairing the house of the LORD with it.

2 Kings 12:15 (ESV) And they did not ask for an accounting from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to pay out to the workmen, for they dealt honestly.

2 Kings 12:16 (ESV) The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests.

- B. After the temple repairs are completed, the kingdom is threatened by Hazael king of Syria.

2 Kings 12:17 (ESV) **At that time** Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath and took it. But when Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem,

1. Jehoash places his confidence in money rather than God by plundering the temple and using the wealth of the temple to bribe Hazael.

2 Kings 12:18 (ESV) **Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred gifts that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah his fathers, the kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred gifts, and all the gold that was found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent these to Hazael king of Syria.** Then Hazael went away from Jerusalem.

2. The scheme seems to have worked bringing about Hazael's withdrawal.

Kings 12:18 (ESV) Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred gifts that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah his fathers, the kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred gifts, and all the gold that was found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent these to Hazael king of Syria. **Then Hazael went away from Jerusalem.**

3. One wonders why there is such a shift in Jehoash's behavior.
 - a. Jehoash had been ardently involved in repairing the temple and participating in its worship.
 - b. Now Jehoash plunders that very same temple in order to buy off the king of Syria.
 - c. What gives?

4. We discover that there is much more to the story than meets the eye.

2 Kings 12:19 (ESV) 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?

- IV. Now our attention is directed to 2 Chronicles where we learn more concerning the importance of Jehoiada's influence.

2 Kings 12:19 (ESV) **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?**

- A. Here we discover what was the turning point in Jehoash's relationship to God and the kingdom's relationship to God.

- B. The turning point is the death of Jehoiada the priest.

1. While Jehoiada was alive, temple worship was observed faithfully.

2 Chronicles 24:14 (ESV) And when they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made utensils for the house of the Lord, both for the service and for the burnt offerings, and dishes for incense and vessels of gold and silver. **And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the Lord regularly all the days of Jehoiada.**

2. However, there came a day when Jehoiada passes off the scene.

2 Chronicles 24:15 (ESV) **But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died.** He was 130 years old at his death.

3. Jehoiada is honored in his death.

2 Chronicles 24:16 (ESV) **And they buried him in the city of David among the kings,** because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house.

4. Jehoiada is honored in his death because of his faithful serving the nation as well as serving God's house.

2 Chronicles 24:16 (ESV) And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, **because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house.**

- V. The text now focuses upon what happened after Jehoiada died. His influence is no longer seen.

2 Chronicles 24:17 (ESV) **Now after the death of Jehoiada** the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them.

- A. The king comes under a very different influence.

1. Now he is not influenced by the priest but rather the rulers of Judah.

2 Chronicles 24:17 (ESV) Now after the death of Jehoiada **the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king.** Then the king listened to them.

2. Jehoiada follows their influence.

2 Chronicles 24:17 (ESV) Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. **Then the king listened to them.**

- B. The result is catastrophic.

1. They forsook the worship of God

2 Chronicles 24:18 (ESV) **And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols.** And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.

2. God of course was displeased

2 Chronicles 24:18 (ESV) And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the **idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs.**

3. Despite God's wrath, God, in His grace, raised up prophets to call the people to repentance.

2 Chronicles 24:19 (ESV) **Yet** he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

2 Chronicles 24:19 (ESV) Yet **he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD**. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

4. However, the king and the people ignore the prophets warnings.

2 Chronicles 24:19 (ESV) Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. **These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.**

- C. So God, in His grace, raises up Jehoiada's own son to speak to the king and to the people.

2 Chronicles 24:20 (ESV) **Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.'** "

- D. Nevertheless, Jehoash has Zechariah, killed.

2 Chronicles 24:21 (ESV) But they conspired against him, **and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord.**

- E. Despite all the positive influence that Jehoiada had upon Jehoash, Jehoash has Jehoiada's son killed.

2 Chronicles 24:22 (ESV) **Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son.** And when he was dying, he said, "May the Lord see and avenge!"

- F. Jehoash was no longer being influenced by any allegiance to Jehoiada.

- G. It is for these reasons that Jehoash had bought off Hazael by looting the temple.

VI. The outcome. The warnings come to pass.

A. What seems to have worked in bribing Hazael turns out to be a short term remedy.

B. The Syrian army soon returns to fight against Joash again.

2 Chronicles 24:23 (ESV) **At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash.** They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.

C. This time the people of Judah lose the battle.

2 Chronicles 24:23 (ESV) At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. **They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus.**

D. They lose a battle that humanly speaking the people of Judah should have won.

2 Chronicles 24:24 (ESV) **Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men,** the LORD delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash.

E. The reason that they lose the battle is because God is no longer for them but against them.

2 Chronicles 24:24 (ESV) Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the LORD delivered into their hand a very great army, **because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash.**

F. Jehoash is injured in the battle.

2 Chronicles 24:25 (ESV) When they had departed from him, **leaving him severely wounded,** his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son 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.

- G. The servants of Jehoash kill Jehoash because of what Jehoash had done to Jehoiada's son.

2 Chronicles 24:25 (ESV) When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, **his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son 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.

- H. Jehoash is dishonored in his burial.

2 Chronicles 24:25 (ESV) When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son 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. Though Jehoash is a king he is not buried with the kings.
2. Jehoiada who was not a king was buried with the kings.

2 Chronicles 24:15 (ESV) **But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died.** He was 130 years old at his death.

2 Chronicles 24:16 (ESV) **And they buried him in the city of David among the kings,** because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house.

VII. Lessons: