

Joash

Joash means “*Yahweh has given*” was the son of Amaziah, the ninth king of Judah.

As an infant Joash was rescued by Jehosheba, an aunt, wife of the chief priest of the temple, when the attempted annihilation of the royal family of King David was attempted by Athaliah, [2 Chronicles 22:9-12].

At the age of seven Joash was proclaimed king by Jehoiada the high priest, [2 Chronicles 23:1-11].

Athaliah who had usurped the throne was put to death, [2 Chronicles 23:12-15].

Under the wise direction of Jehoiada the young King Joash began to repair the temple and destroy all altars and images of the pagan god Baal as well as killing Baal’s priest, [2 Chronicles 23:16-17].

Under the support of Jehoiada the chief priest the original worship services were restored to the temple as were established by King David, [2 Chronicles 23:18-21].

As a result of this, peace returned to Jerusalem and the people rejoiced.

For many years Jehoiada made most of the decisions for the young King Joash, this made it difficult for Joash to mature by making decisions in his life.

Jehoiada was acting as a parent who wanted his child Joash to make right decisions.

But to do this, children must be allowed to make their own decisions, to learn the skill of making right decisions by experiencing what happens when wrong decisions are made.

Joash had great advice given him, but never grew up, he remained dependent on what he was told by good or bad advisers.

After Jehoiada’s death, Joash did not know what to do, and listening to wrong counsel carried him into evil.

Idolatry crept back into national life.

2 Chronicles 24:17-22 [New King James] *“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. Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen. 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!’”*

The evil advice that Joash received led to the murder of Jehoiada’s son and successor as God’s high priest, Zechariah.

After a few months, Joash’s army was soundly defeated by the army of Syria and Jerusalem was saved only because Joash stripped the temple of its treasures as a bribe, [2 Kings 12:17-18].

Finally, Joash's own officials assassinated him, [2 Kings 12:20-21; 2 Chronicles 24:24-27].

As dependent as Joash was on Jehoiada, there is little evidence that he ever established a real dependence on the true God Jehoiada obeyed.

Like many children Joash's knowledge of God was second-hand, for that knowledge to develop it must become a personal relationship with the Creator God.

How often have we acted on poor human advice without considering what can be found in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

The lack of such a standard in our lives can cause us to make decisions that in the end will be hurtful to ourselves and other people. A good and hopeful start can be ruined by an evil end, [Ecclesiastes 7:8]. It is the end of our life that is important to our Creator God.

Even the best counsel is ineffective if it does not help us to make wise decisions ourselves.