

Joash and Friends

“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”
Proverbs 13:20

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”
I Corinthians 15:33

Preliminary Reading: II Kings 11:1 – 12:21; II Chronicles 22:1 – 24:27.

Introduction:

1. Five chapters in the Bible are taken up with this history and lesson, II Kings 11–12 and II Chron 22 – 24.
2. Lesson #1 ... pick your friends carefully and follow their advice ... is taught plainly (Pr 13:20; I Cor 15:33).
3. Lesson #2 ... marry only in the Lord as high as you can spiritually without compromise (I Cor 7:39; 11:11).
4. Lesson #3 ... you will be judged for privileges granted by God when you do not return the favor He gave.
5. We have recently considered “Daniel at School” and “Daniel at Work” and his godly commitment for youth.
6. Your life depends significantly, soberly, and severely on your selection of friends, for good and godly friends will make you great in the sight of God and men, and carnal or foolish friends will destroy you.
7. Consider some short declarations, the last being the most important: You are the company you keep. Birds of a feather flock together. Evil communications corrupt good manners.

THE BACKGROUND (II Kings 8-10; II Chron 17-21)

- A. Recall the separation of Israel into two nations under Rehoboam – the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin called Judah, and the ten other tribes called Israel and sometimes Ephraim.
- B. God loved Judah for the temple at Jerusalem and the Messiah coming through David of Judah.
- C. The story truly begins with Jehoshaphat of Judah and Ahab (and Jezebel) of Israel, though their respective fathers Asa and Omri also played their important roles in righteousness and wickedness.
- D. Jehoshaphat married his son Jehoram to Ahab and Jezebel’s wicked daughter Athaliah, and it was this sin of affinity or marrying outside the Lord that began the terrible destruction of the family.
- E. Let every youth (and especially parents) grasp the importance of marrying in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 1. This is not a matter of liberty of any kind for Christians; it will not be allowed or honored so.
 2. It is our definition of *in the Lord* that counts, for most claim to be Christian, and we will not tolerate Mormon, Roman, Arminian, or even carnal or worldly Christians as right spouses.
- F. Jehoram (and Athaliah) killed his brothers when his father died, so he would not have competitors.
- G. This lovely couple (they had a beautiful church wedding) had many sons, the youngest, Ahaziah, was the only one to survive, because God had sent marauding enemies to take the rest away.
- H. Ahaziah was a mommy’s boy and followed his Grandpa Ahab’s religion, so God had Jehu kill him.
- I. Prior to this God-ordained assassination, Ahaziah and Zibiah had several children of their own.
- J. With her son Ahaziah dead (God having taken all the other children by enemies), Athaliah killed her grandchildren to destroy the royal seed, so she became the imposter queen of Judah.
- K. This incredibly profane and wicked event would have cut off the lineage of our Lord Jesus Christ, but a very old wise man and his wonderful righteous wife trumped Athaliah and the devil.

INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD (II Kings 11:1-3; II Chron 22:10-12)

- A. The chief person of this study is Joash, or Jehoash (II Kgs 11:21) ... *Jehovah strengthened*.
- B. A name, even if Biblical, means nothing if parents and child do not live up to the godly meaning.
- C. His father was Ahaziah, from the evil union of Jehoram (brother murderer) and Athaliah (wicked daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, murderers of Naboth and God’s prophets). His mother was Zibiah.
- D. He had no great uncles, because his grandfather, Jehoram, had wickedly killed all of his brothers.

- E. He had no uncles, because God had sent marauders to kill all the brothers of his father Ahaziah.
- F. This bloodthirsty family was the result of godly Jehoshaphat marrying his son to Ahab's daughter.
- G. He was born just before Jehu gloriously fulfilled his orders from heaven to assassinate his father.
- H. With all her sons now dead, Athaliah killed all her grandsons to become queen of Judah herself.
- I. But ... but ... by God's providential mercy and blessing, a virtuous and courageous aunt grabbed him up as an infant and hid him with his nurse in a chamber of Solomon's vast temple.
- J. This wonderful aunt that disobeyed her mother was named Jehosheba (Jehovah sworn), and she was married to an old priest named Jehoiada (Jehovah known).
- K. For seven years this only heir to the throne of David and progenitor of Jesus Christ was kept hidden away in the temple under the loving and watchful eye of his Uncle Jehoiada and Aunt Jehosheba.
- L. By the character of Jehoiada we know Joash was taught as early and as well as any child ever, for he was ready at the age of seven to be king in Jehoiada's opinion, and his early exploits proved it.
- M. By the circumstances of his deliverance and care, he should have greatly loved his uncle and aunt.

CORONATION (II Kings 11:4-21; II Chronicles 23:1-21)

- A. When Joash was seven years old, his Uncle Jehoiada decided it was time to reveal Judah's king.
- B. He gathered all the support from the nation he needed and assigned them their protective duties.
- C. He took an oath of the mighty men and noble Levites before unveiling the king. What a scene!
- D. Jehoiada gave him the testimony, the scriptures, by which he was to govern (See Deut 17:18-20).
- E. Jehoiada led the king and nation to covenant with God to serve God and to serve His rightful king.
- F. Let it be known that the cry, "God save the king," is from the Bible (I Kgs 11:12 cp I Sam 10:24).
- G. When Athaliah heard the commotion of his coronation, she entered and loudly charged treason.
- H. But Jehoiada had her killed outside the temple of the Lord and her wicked life was over. Glory!
- I. The people got so excited that they rushed the temple of Baal and destroyed it and killed his priest.

YOUTHFUL KING (II Kings 12:1-16; II Chron 24:1-14)

- A. The Bible declares clearly that Joash was a very godly king while Jehoiada lived and guided him.
- B. It is at this point that we want to soberly consider our commitment to God, righteousness, truth, and wisdom to last long after our parents or other godly counselors are dead.
- C. Let no youth in this assembly dishonor God and their dead parents by turning from their religion.
- D. Jehoiada got Joash a couple of wives and encouraged him to get busy replenishing the royal line.
- E. Notice that Joash was mindful ... it was in his mind ... to repair the neglected temple of Jehovah.
- F. Moses had ordained a tax or tribute for temple maintenance, but it was not being collected, and Joash confronted his uncle the chief priest as to why not. What pleasure Jehoiada must have felt!

EVIL COMMUNICATIONS (II Chronicles 24:15-17)

- A. As long as Jehoiada lived, Joash was safe, for foolish or wicked men had no influence with him.
- B. These princes waited for Jehoiada to die, because they knew he would not tolerate them at all.
- C. How many youth in this room have the black hearts of Joash to turn once their parents are dead?
- D. How many youth have we witnessed in our lives that think turning 18 allows a new religion!
- E. The Bible warns of the popularity for entertaining religion with fables rather than sound doctrine.
- F. These worldly princes of Judah gave him obeisance to show affection like Jehoiada? Hardly!
- G. What was their proposition? To renew the covenant of Jehoiada? No! To change their religion!
- H. They were tired of sound doctrine and old-fashioned worship. They wanted something new.
- I. They wanted contemporary Christian music with casual worship to avoid God's authority over them.
- J. Joash listened to them. What a fool! He should have demanded their repentance or instant death.
- K. What should be your response to anyone that suggests the slightest alteration to God's word? No!
- L. After rejecting their foolish and sinful ideas, get away from them and avoid them (Rom 16:17-18).

CORRUPTED MANNERS (II Chronicles 24:18-22)

- A. They left the LORD God (Jehovah of the Bible) to serve and worship pagan gods of the heathen.
- B. They left the temple (house) of Jehovah, which Joash had earlier worked so zealously to repair.
- C. They worshipped pagan groves and idols in other places, compounding their blasphemous heresy.
- D. Note the Holy Spirit's choice to mention that Jehovah was the God of their fathers, which is another reminder to youth to hold fast to that form of doctrine given them by good fathers.
- E. Though God mercifully sent prophets to warn them, Joash and the princes would not hear them.
- F. In fact, when the Holy Spirit moved Jehoiada's son Zechariah to prophesy against them, Joash ordered them to murder him, rejecting the personal affection and religious training of Jehoiada.
- G. In fact, Joash murdered more than Zechariah, for the inspired text speaks of other sons, which were involved in making him king against his evil grandmother Athaliah (II Chr 24:25 cp II Chr 23:11).
- H. How could he murder the cousins that had protected and promoted him to be the king of Judah?
- I. How could he murder his cousin Zechariah in the very place Zechariah had anointed him as king?
- J. How could he murder God's preacher in the very place he had made a covenant to serve that God?
- K. How does such a change take place? Let carnal and worldly friends have just a few minutes of your time, and you will turn your back on God and do anything, including disgracing your own parents.
- L. Be not deceived! Be not deceived! Evil communications corrupt good manners (I Cor 15:33).
- M. How in the world could the church at Corinth deny the resurrection – the bedrock of Christianity?
- N. Zechariah was not quite like Stephen at his stoning, for Zechariah called on the LORD for vengeance, in that there was a great personal debt of kindness owed by Joash to Jehoiada's family.
- O. The vengeance began within the same year, as Jehovah did remember Zechariah against Joash.
- P. Zechariah (*remembered by Jehovah*) was identified by Jesus Christ in Matthew 23:35 and Luke 11:51. The LORD Jehovah never forgot him, and He required his blood from Jesus' generation.
- Q. Why is Zechariah's father Jehoiada called Barachias by Matthew? Either another name, or the same name altered, both of which are easily shown by other examples elsewhere in the scriptures.
- R. We have at least two young men in our congregation with the name that they ought to highly prize.
- S. But long before Jesus, God brought judgment on Joash and Judah within a year in several respects.

DESTROYED (II Kings 12:17-21; II Chronicles 24:23-27)

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- F. But long before Jesus, God brought judgment on Joash and Judah within a year in several respects.
- G. Wrath came upon them for their rejection of Jehovah and His temple to worship heathen idols.
- H. God sent the Syrians to execute judgment against Joash for his religious backsliding and murder, and with a small band they defeated a great host of Judah, kill the princes, and take much spoil.
- I. Joash was so sick in the end that even his enemies had no use for him and left him to rot on his bed.
- J. Then his servants conspired to not let him die a peaceful death in any respect, so they killed him.
- K. Furthermore, after he was dead, the nation would not bury him in the sepulchers of Judah's kings.
- L. Jehoiada was buried with Judah's kings, for the good he did toward God and the temple (church).
- M. Joash was buried in Jerusalem in a royal or public cemetery, but not in the sepulchers of the kings.
- N. His rotting body did not deserve to be even near the bodies of David, Jehoshaphat, and Jehoiada.

THE LESSONS (Proverbs 13:20; I Corinthians 15:33)

- A. A companion of fools will be destroyed – this axiom of godliness is truer than gravity (Prov 13:20).
- B. Other Proverb verses also warn strongly against foolish friends (Prov 1:15; 4:15; 9:6; 14:7; 19:27).
- C. Be not deceived ... be not deceived ... evil communications corrupt good manners (I Cor 15:33).
- D. Leave God and forfeit prosperity (though God may allow prosperity of fools temporarily; Pr 1:32).
- E. You are the friends you keep, and your friends will either make you or break you. Count on it!
- F. If you are under 30 and/or impressionable and/or needy and/or discouraged and/or needing direction, you must be very careful, strict, tough, and vigilant to choose only the spiritually best.
- G. There are five inputs for youth (and adults) to survive and succeed, and one is surely godly friends.
- H. David made great choices for selecting friends and briefly tells you how (Psalm 101:3-8; 119:63).
- I. Your parents, if Christians, are some of the best friends you can have. Who will love you as much?
- J. God chose your two parents as much as leading and blessing Joash's aunt and uncle to save him.
- K. Joash was a great man and king, but only while he had Jehoiada as his close counselor and friend.
- L. Joash sowed the seeds for his destruction as soon as he listened to the popular princes of Judah.
- M. You may say, if I had such circumstances, I would never reject God and kill my cousin the priest.
- N. I say unto you, if you are a child of godly parents in this church, your parents have done more for you than Jehoiada and Jehosheba did for Joash. When will you humbly realize God's providence?
- O. I say unto you, then let your life prove you are not like Joash, for we have seen some like him.
- P. Who was the real friend in Joash's life? It was his ancient uncle and aunt, not the popular princes. They were vicious enemies that only did obeisance to flatter and seduce him. Look past the smiles.
- Q. Learning the history of Joash and Jehoiada is of minor value, for the main goal is to soberly weigh the influence of godly or worldly friends and the loyalty we owe some for godly patronage.
- R. Youth leaving our church the way they do, lying and flinging slander as they go, indicate the same character as Joash, who under the right circumstances ordered the murder of his cousins the priests.
- S. You owe God and your parents your faithful loyalty to them and what they taught you (unless a tsunami of Bible evidence overwhelmingly convinces you that they are wrong scripturally).
- T. God will hold you responsible for repaying Him for the kindness He has shown you (II Chr 32:25).
- U. God will hold you responsible for repaying parents for the kindness they have shown (I Tim 5:4).
- V. Disobeying your parents is like Joash's murder of his cousin Zechariah the priest, for it causes them great anguish lasting much longer than a stoning (Pr 10:1; 15:20; 17:21,25; 19:13; 23:15-16).
- W. This duty and loyalty extends to grandparents as well, even if dead, just as Jehoiada was dead.
- X. Your esteem in life and death depends on your faithfulness to God, parents, and doctrine learned.
- Y. Who are your counselors, teachers, friends, listeners, guides? They must be holy and separated! They must be godly and virtuous! They must hate this world and its lifestyle, philosophy, religions!
- Z. Do not let your mind change like Joash, who worked hard to repair the temple, but then rejected it.
- AA. The Bible warns you need a faithful church to avoid such a change (Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:23-25).
- BB. Your parents are waxing old and will die younger than Jehoiada. Will you change after that?

For Further Study:

1. For a chart, notes, and quiz about Jehoiada and Joash ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/jehoiada-chart-notes-quiz.pdf>.
2. The Proverb commentary, "Proverbs 13:20," ... http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/proverbs/13_20.htm.
3. The Proverb commentary, "Proverbs 14:7," ... http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/proverbs/14_07.htm.
4. The Proverb commentary, "Proverbs 19:27," ... http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/proverbs/19_27.htm.
5. The Proverb commentary, "Proverbs 1:15," ... http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/proverbs/01_15.htm.
6. The Proverb commentary, "Proverbs 4:15," ... http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/proverbs/04_15.htm.
7. The Proverb commentary, "Proverbs 9:6," ... http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/proverbs/09_06.htm.
8. Daniel at School ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/daniel-at-school.pdf>.
9. Jehoshaphat the Compromiser ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/Truth, Lies, and Compromise.PDF>.
10. Marriage – Only in the Lord ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/marriage-in-the-lord.pdf>.
11. Friends ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/friends.pdf>
12. Bible Friends ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/bible-friendship.pdf>.
13. Good Christian Friends? No! ... <http://www.letgodbetruerue.com/pdf/christian-differences.pdf>.