

Old Testament History

The Divided Kingdom – Lesson 8

Background:

Introduction:

Following Jehu's purge of Ahab's seventy sons in Israel, and the annihilation of the family of Ahaziah of Judah, the new king had an opportunity to urge the people of Israel to return to the worship of Jehovah. Instead, he endorsed the worship of the golden calves originally set up by Jereboam at Bethel and Dan. Because of this, his armies suffered a disastrous defeat in war against the Syrians during his twenty-eight year reign (2 Kings 10:29-33).

Meanwhile, the southern kingdom was suddenly left without a king. Therefore, in Jerusalem, Athaliah (842-837 BC), the mother of the late Ahaziah, sat on the throne. Her brief reign was marked by an effort to destroy all the rest of the royal family, including, her own children and grandchildren, so that she might hold undisputed sway over the kingdom of Judah (2 Kings 11:1; 2 Chronicles 22:10).

However, one grandchild, Joash (798-782 BC), also called Jehoash, had escaped thanks to the help of a God-fearing aunt and a faithful priest, Jehoiada. When the young boy was seven years old, Jehoiada secretly took him into the temple into the presence of the nobility assembled there. At a prearranged signal, the royal crown was placed on the boy's head and the shout "God save the king!" rang forth. The queen in her nearby palace heard the excitement and rushed into the temple to learn its meaning. The priest then ordered her to be dragged into the outer court and slain, removing once and for all any remnants of Ahab's family in Judah. Joash then began to reign, at first under the governorship of Jehoiada, then alone.

Outline:

- I. **The reign of Athaliah in Judah (2 Kings 11:1-20; 2 Chronicles 22:10-12, 23)**
 - A. Athaliah reigns in Judah (2 Kings 11:1-3; 2 Chronicles 22:10-12)
 - B. Joash crowned king in Judah (2 Kings 11:4-12; 2 Chronicles 23:1-11)
 - C. The death of Athaliah (2 Kings 11:13-20; 2 Chronicles 23:12-21)
- II. **The reign of Joash in Judah (2 Kings 11:21 – 12:21)**
 - A. Joash becomes king (2 Kings 11:21; 2 Chronicles 24:1)
 - B. Joash repairs the Temple in Jerusalem (2 Kings 12:1-16; 2 Chronicles 24:1-14)
 - C. Hazael threatens Jerusalem (2 Kings 12:17-18)
 - D. The death of Joash (2 Kings 12:19-21; 2 Chronicles 24:23-27)

B. Joash crowned king in Judah (2 Kings 11:4-12; 2 Chronicles 23:1-11)

1. When and how did the priest Jehoiada arrange a conspiracy against Athaliah (2 Kings 11:4-8; 2 Chronicles 23:1-7)
2. What was delivered to the captains? (2 Kings 11:9-11; 2 Chronicles 23:8-10)
3. What did Jehoiada give the king's son? (2 Kings 11:12; 2 Chronicles 23:11; cf. Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1 Kings 2:1-4; Psalms 19:7)

C. The death of Athaliah (2 Kings 11:13-20; 2 Chronicles 23:12-21)

1. Describe Athaliah's reaction. What did Jehoiada command? (2 Kings 11:13-16; 2 Chronicles 23:12-15)
2. What covenant did Jehoiada make between the Lord, the king, and the people? (2 Kings 11:17; 2 Chronicles 23:16)
3. What did the people destroy? How did Jehoiada reform the worship? (2 Kings 11:18; 2 Chronicles 23:17-19)

II. The reign of Joash in Judah (2 Kings 11:19 – 12:21; 2 Chronicles 24:1-27)

A. Joash becomes king (2 Kings 11:19 – 12:3; 2 Chronicles 24:1-2)

1. Who was placed on the throne of Judah? (2 Kings 11:19 – 12:3; 2 Chronicles 24:1-3)

a. How old was he when he began to reign?

b. How long did he remain faithful to the Lord?

c. What was not removed?

B. Joash repairs the temple in Jerusalem (2 Kings 12:4-16; 2 Chronicles 24:1-22)

1. What did Joash order regarding the house of the Lord? (2 Kings 12:4-5; 2 Chronicles 24:4-5)

2. What had not been done in the twenty-third year of Joash? (2 Kings 12:6-8; 2 Chronicles 6:7)

a. Who apparently had been negligent in the matter?

- b. What had the sons of Athaliah done?

3. How did the priest Jehoiada collect the funds to repair the temple? (2 Kings 12:9-14; 2 Chronicles 24:8-14)

4. Describe the workers. Why was the money for trespass and sin offerings not brought into the house of the Lord? To whom did it belong? (2 Kings 12:15-16)

5. What occurred in Judah after the death of Jehoiada, the priest? Whom did the Lord send to Judah to bring the people back to Him? (2 Chronicles 24:15-19)

6. Who did the Spirit of God come upon? What message did he deliver to the people? What did Joash command? (2 Chronicles 24:20-22)

C. Hazael threatens Jerusalem (2 Kings 12:17-18)

1. Who opposed Joash and Jerusalem, and what did Joash do? (2 Kings 12:17-18; 2 Chronicles 24:23-24)

2. Why do you think Joash took this action rather than go to war?

D. The death of Joash (2 Kings 12:19-21; 2 Chronicles 24:23-27)

1. Describe the death of Joash. Who conspired against him? (2 Kings 12:19-21; 2 Chronicles 24:25-27)

Application:

In your own words, explain the lessons we can learn from these events, and how those lessons can be applied to present-day situations?