

# Living for God in "Interesting" Times

## MAKE YOUR LIFE MATTER!

2 Chronicles 22-24

### For the "Leader":

- 2 Chronicles 22:10- *When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah.*
- 11- *But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so she could not kill him.*
- 12- *He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.*

### For the "Faithful":

- 23:1- *In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength. He made a covenant with the commanders of units of a hundred: Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zicri.*
- 2- *They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites and the heads of Israelite families from all the towns. When they came to Jerusalem,*
- 3- *the whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God. Jehoiada said to them, "The king's son shall reign, as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David..."*
- 10- *He stationed all the men, each with his weapon in his hand, around the king—near the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side of the temple.*
- 11- *Jehoiada and his sons brought out the king's son and put the crown on him; they presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and shouted, "Long live the king!"*
- 12- *When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and cheering the king, she went to them at the temple of the LORD.*
- 13- *She looked, and there was the king, standing by his pillar at the entrance. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and singers with musical instruments were leading the praises. Then Athaliah tore her robes and shouted, "Treason! Treason!" ...*
- 15- *So they seized her as she reached the entrance of the Horse Gate on the palace grounds, and there they put her to death.*
- 16- *Jehoiada then made a covenant that he and the people and the king would be the LORD's people.*
- 17- *All the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars...*
- 20- *He took with him the commanders of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people and all the people of the land and brought the king down from the temple of the LORD. They went into the palace through the Upper Gate and seated the king on the royal throne,*
- 21- *and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet, because Athaliah had been slain with the sword.*

### For the "Future":

- 2 Chronicles 24:1- *Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba.*
- 2- *Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the years of Jehoiada the priest...*
- 14b- *As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of the LORD.*
- 15- *Now Jehoiada was old and full of years, and he died at the age of a hundred and thirty.*
- 16- *He was buried with the kings in the City of David, because of the good he had done in Israel for God and his temple.*
- 17- *After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them.*
- 18- *They abandoned the temple of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God's anger came upon Judah and Jerusalem.*
- 19- *Although the LORD sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.*
- 20- *Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, "This is what God says: 'Why do you disobey the LORD's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.' "*
- 21- *But they plotted against him, and by order of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD's temple.*
- 22- *King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah's father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, "May the LORD see this and call you to account."*
- 23- *At the turn of the year, the army of Aram marched against Joash; it invaded Judah and Jerusalem and killed all the leaders of the people. They sent all the plunder to their king in Damascus.*
- 24- *Although the Aramean army had come with only a few men, the LORD delivered into their hands a much larger army. Because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers, judgment was executed on Joash.*
- 25- *When the Arameans withdrew, they left Joash severely wounded. His officials conspired against him for murdering the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they killed him in his bed. So he died and was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.*

### Context of the reign of King Joash:

#### Unified Kingdom:

Saul-	1043-1011 BC	(The first king, called for by the people, but without a heart for God)
David-	1011-971 BC	(Anointed by Samuel - the man after God's own heart)
Solomon-	971-931 BC	(Oversaw expansion of the nation - asked for wisdom yet drifted from God)

#### Divided Kingdom begins (Rulers of the southern tribe of Judah):

Rehoboam	931-913 BC	(Son of Solomon- presided over division of the kingdom.)
Abijam	913-911 BC	(Considered a bad king- reigned only three years.)
<u>Asa</u>	911-870 BC	(The first of Judah's eight "good kings"- men who were approved by God.)
<u>Jehoshaphat</u>	873-848 BC	(The second "good king"- God honoring. He overlapped his father's reign.)
Jehoram	853-841 BC	(Bad king who murdered six of his brothers and was struck dead by God.)
Ahaziah	841 BC	(Bad king murdered by Jehu who also murdered King Jehoram of Israel.)
Athaliah	841-835 BC	(Wife of Jehoram, mother of Ahaziah, sister of Jezebel of Samaria. She had her grandchildren murdered in order to ensure her reign. She was cruel, wicked and ultimately was murdered by the army)
<u>Joash</u>	835-796 BC	(The third good king - Grandson of Athaliah - rescued from her grandmother as a child. Served well as long as his advisor, the high priest Jehoiada was his mentor)