

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles to 2 Kings 12

We are continuing our study through 2 Kings and we are now in the portion of scripture where we see the different kings that ruled over the two Kingdoms –

And last week, we were introduced to King Joash – the 7 year old king and we will see how God uses this 7 year old king to bring reform to Judah.

Let's pray...

[2Ki 12:1-21 NKJV] 1 In the seventh year of Jehu, **Jehoash** became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name [was] Zibiah of Beersheba.

Once again, the author of 2 Kings has placed the focus on the Southern Kingdom – the kingdom of Judah.

And chapter 12 begins with mention of King Jehoash – Jehoash is the seven year old king that we saw last week in chapter 11.

You might remember that when his father – King Ahaziah was killed by Jehu, his grandmother Athaliah decided to take control of the kingdom – she decided to make herself ruler over God's people – and she killed everyone who had a claim to throne.

At least she thought she did.

She was unaware that there was another descendent of David – a baby by the name of Joash that had recently been born – whose aunt took him to the temple where he was hidden for six years and raised by his aunt and his uncle, Jehoiada – who was the High Priest.

After six years, Jehoiada organizes a coup – has Athaliah killed and Joash or Jehoash (the 7 year old boy) is made king over the southern Kingdom.

Church, there's no such thing as an age limit or requirement with God. If He can install a seven-year-old boy to the throne of Israel, then He can use any of us to fulfill His purposes.

So as Jehu is reigning over Israel in the north – Joash is reigning over Judah (with the guidance of this godly man, Jehoiada) –

And that was a very good thing that Jehoiada was there with him or else he would be making proclamations of cookies for everyone.

2 Jehoash did [what was] right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

Jehoash did was right in the sight of the Lord –

One of the things we are going to see over the next couple of Sundays is that every time a new ruler sits on the throne of either Israel or Judah – the scriptures will clearly point out whether the king was a good king or a bad king.

Now, I mentioned last week that there were no good kings in the Northern Kingdom (19) and only a handful of good kings in Judah. (20)

Jehoash was a good king – but notice that it was only limited to the time period that Jehoiada instructed him.

When Jehoiada was alive, when Jehoash listened and responded to his godly advice, things went well – he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, but when Jehoiada died – and Jehoash no longer has that godly influence to guide him and he chooses bad influence, Jehoash will begin to turn away from doing good in the sight of the Lord.

Jehoash started good – but he finished poorly.

And we have many examples in scriptures of people like Jehoash.

Turn with me to 1 Samuel 15 –

King Saul is a perfect example –

When God delivered the Children of Israel into the Promised Land – He wanted the Children of Israel to be governed by God – they were supposed to be a theocracy – However, the Children of Israel after some time, they look at the nations around them (they look at all the ites) and they desired to have a human king –

And God tells Samuel – I will give them exactly what they want –

So Saul, was the king that they desired – he had all the qualifications they wanted (tall and handsome).

And in the beginning – as he is being guided by Samuel (godly man) – he does a bunch of good things.

However, he starts to disobey God's commandments and here in 1 Sam 15, Samuel goes up to Saul and says – look God made you king –listen carefully to what I am about to tell you.

God is commanding you to go out and destroy all the Amalekites (men,women and children) and all their animals.

Saul goes into battle – he takes King Amalek as prisoner and his men keep some of the tasty animals for themselves.

[1Sa 15:10-14, 23 NKJV] 10 Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, 11 "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul [as] king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. 12 So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." 13 Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed [are] you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the

LORD." 14 But Samuel said, "What then [is] this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?" ...

Samuel confronts Saul – and notice that even in his disobedience, Saul wants to make it appear that he is spiritual - "Blessed [are] you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

And Samuel – pretty much says, if you did obey God's commandment as you said you did – what is the sound of all these animals that I hear.

And then Saul begins to blame his men instead of taking responsibilities for his own actions – remember, he was the king.

Go to verse 22 -

[1Sa 15:22-23 NKJV] 22 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, [And] to heed than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion [is as] the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness [is as] iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from [being] king."

And Samuel departs from Saul and in the very next chapter, God commands Samuel to anoint His king – a man after His own heart – David.

3 But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

I had you make a note of these high places –

Now, these high places were not necessarily places where people were worshipping pagan gods.

These high places were altars where the people of Judah were making sacrifices and worshipping Yahweh.

The problem with these high places was that God had given the people specific instructions on where and how to worship Him.

God said the people were to go to the temple to offer their sacrifices because He wanted them to come to the place where the priests would teach them His word and their ideas about Him would be true ones.

By worshipping at whatever hill near their city, they were losing sight of the real God.

In reality, what we'll see later is that these high places were the spiritual seed bed that brought about Judah's ruin.

They may have seemed harmless, but they weren't.

They allowed the people to worship God as they wanted to instead of how He said to.

And this began the process of them losing sight of the true & living God.

You see church; they began to worship a god of their own imagination.

And this is exactly what happens to people who reject worship at a bible teaching church & justify their absence by saying they can worship God while hiking, or shopping, or sunbathing.

We ought to worship God 24/7 – no matter where we are or what we're doing.

But to neglect or reject gathering with other believers to worship God and give attention to the study of His word is a formula for spiritual disaster.

And we have the perfect example of this in the Kingdom of Judah.

4 And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD--each man's census money, each man's assessment money--[and] all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, 5 "let the priests take [it] themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found."

So one of the problems that Jehoash faced during his reign, was that the temple had fallen into neglect and disrepair.

He saw this with his own eyes because he lived there for a big chunk of his childhood.

The gifts and offerings that people had been making to the temple had been commandeered by the corrupt kings & used for other purposes.

In 2 Chronicles 24:7 – it tells us that the sons of Athaliah – that they had broken into the temple of God and stole many of the articles and used them in the worship of Baal.

So there were many things missing as well.

So Joash corrects this as he returned the money to its rightful use and commanded the priests to get to work on the repairs.

6 Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, [that] the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple.

We are not given an explanation why it took 23 years for Joash to notice –

Maybe there wasn't enough funds to do it or maybe they simply wasn't the urgency to get things done.

7 So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the [other] priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take [more] money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple." 8 And the priests agreed that they would neither receive [more] money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple.

Since the priests didn't think they could do the job, Joash decided to delegate the work to others.

9 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD. **10** So it was, whenever they saw that [there was] much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD. **11** Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD, **12** and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple. **13** However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD. **14** But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it. **15** Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully. **16** The money from the

trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests.

Joash set up a special little bureaucracy to gather, count and commission the temple restoration project.

When the collection box was full of money – it was collected, counted and then checks were sent out to those that were going to do the repairs.

Now, when the people realized that their gifts were going to be used only for this purpose and they see progress is being done in the temple, they gave in good measure to help restore the temple.

Now, in verse 13 – it makes it clear that the funds were used first for the repairs of the temple – once the repairs were actually done, the surplus money was then used for the furniture and the articles that belonged in the temple. (2 Chron 24:14)

And then in verse 16 – we note that not all the money was used for the repair of the temple – because some of it was allocated for the priests according to the Word of God.

The money from trespass offering and sin offering was the provision that the Lord made for the support of the priests and Levites since they had no land of their own.

So – so far – Jehoash is doing a great job.

Temple is repaired, the people of Judah have been moved in providing the provisions to get the work done, the furnishing have even been replaced and then we get to verse 17.

17 Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. 18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent [them] to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem.

So, a few weeks back, we were introduced to Hazael.

God had sent Elisha to anoint Hazael as the next king of Syria and as he did – Elisha cried because he knew what Hazael would do to God's people.

God was going to use Hazael to bring judgment upon His people – both the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom.

So, the question is – why is God bringing judgment to Judah –

Turn with me to 2 Chronicles 24 –

[2Ch 24:15-22 NKJV] 15 But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; [he was] one hundred and thirty years old when he died. **16 And they buried him in the City of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God and His house.** 17 Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. **And the king listened to them.**

When Jehoiada was alive – Jehoash listened to him – he was a godly man.

When Jehoiada dies – Jehoash forgets everything that Jehoiada taught him and he begins to listen to ungodly wisdom.

Church, our growth in God is not totally dependent on the mentors that we have. Even if we have the most God-fearing and anointed of pastors teaching us, we can still make the wrong choices and become a people that we shouldn't be.

18 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. 19 Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen. 20 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.' "**

(By the way – that is the same thing that Samuel told King Saul)

21 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. 22 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 king who grew up in the house of the Lord – left the house of the Lord and Judah started to worship images and idols.

God shows grace by sending Zechariah (Jehoiada's own son) to warn them – so that they may turn from their sins and under the command of king Jehoash, he is stoned.

By the way, for those that like irony – Zechariah is stoned in the exact place that his father had anointed Joash as king.

This is why God uses Hazael to bring judgment upon Joash and Judah.

And the scriptures tell us that when Hazael was coming closer to Jerusalem, he was killing all the leaders and that is why Jehoash goes into the temple collects all the articles and the gold and sends them Hazael as a way of buying him off.

Instead of praying to the Lord for wisdom, instead of falling on his knees and repenting – he utilizes worldly wisdom to try to solve his spiritual problem.

19 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? 20 And his servants arose and formed a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla. 21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

The scriptures tell us that despite buying off Hazael, Jehoash was wounded and as he lay there wounded, two of his servants kill him as he lay in bed.

The people bury him in Jerusalem – in the City of David – however, 2 Chronicles tells us but they did not bury him in the tomb of the kings.

You know who they did put in the tomb of the kings – Jehoiada, the priest.

The message of Jehoash's life should be plain to us.

We need to follow the counsel of the Lord all the way to the end of our life.

[Eze 18:24, 30-32 NKJV] 24 "But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked [man] does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die. ...

Go to verse 30

30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 "Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

God will take nine steps toward us, but he will not take the tenth. He will incline us to repent, but he cannot do our repenting for us.

-- A.W. Tozer

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

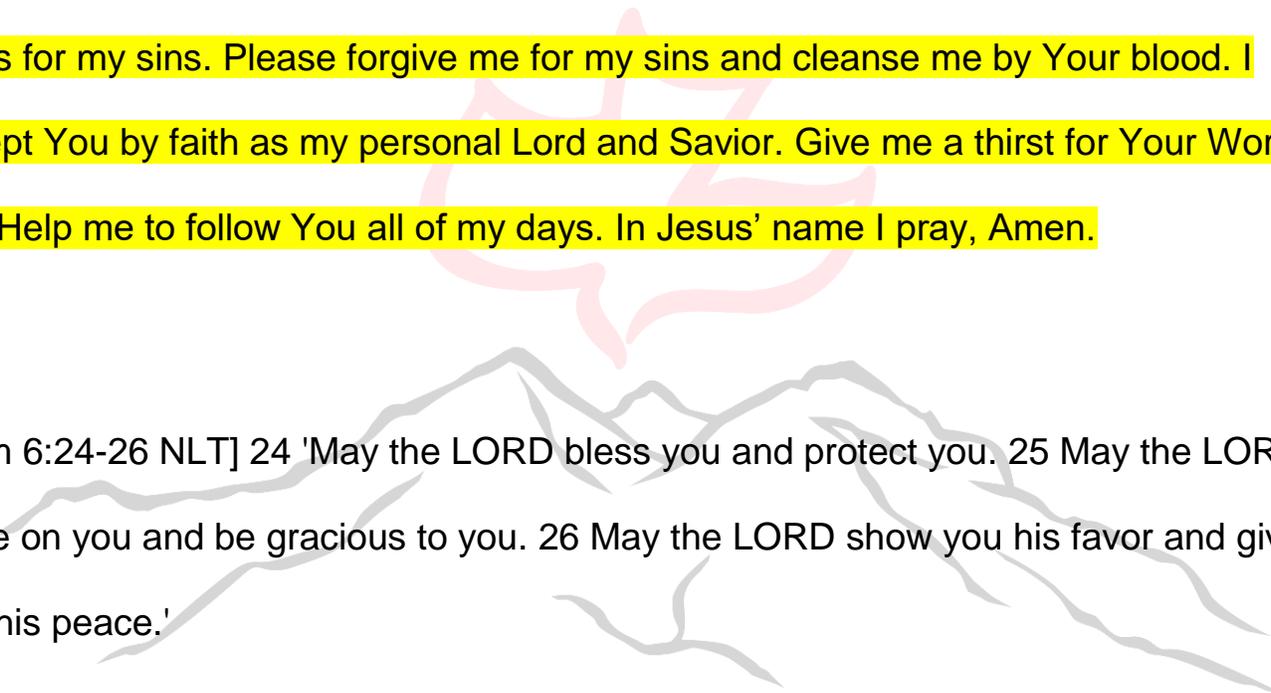
Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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