

# Royal Lessons for Life

## Joash

(Judah)

### Joash's Biography

- Joash (sometimes spelled Jehoash) is the last surviving heir of Ahaziah after Athaliah's purge – II Kings 11:1-2, II Chronicles 22:10-12
- He is hidden in the Temple until seven years old – II Kings 11:3,21
- Jehoida the priest stages a coup against Athaliah and proclaims the seven-year-old Joash as king – II Kings 11:4-16, II Chronicles 23:1-15
  - As important of a figure as Jehoida is, we are not sure if he was high priest or not. He is never stated to be such in Scripture. He is called the "chief" in II Chronicles 24:6, which may refer to the head of one of the 24 orders of priests. He is not listed in the line of priests in I Chronicles 6:4-15. Josephus states he was high priest in *Antiquities of the Jews* while telling the story of Joash but does not include him in his list of high priests.
- Jehoida acts a regent for the child-king and leads Judah back to serving God – II Kings 11:17-20, II Chronicles 23:16-21
  - He arranges two marriages for Joash – II Chronicles 24:2-3
- Joash begins a remodeling project on the 150-year-old Temple. For an unknown reason the work does not start until the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of his reign and the placing of special chests to gather the offerings for the work – II Kings 21:4-16, II Chronicles 24:4-14.
- Jehoiada dies at age 130. Reese dates this to the 38<sup>th</sup> year of Joash's reign – II Chronicles 24:15-16
- Without Jehoiada's faithful influence, Joash follows the princes of Judah into idolatry – II Chronicles 24:17-18
- Jehoiada's son Zechariah prophesies against Jehoash and is martyred for his witness – II Chronicles 24:20-22
  - Christ mentions Zechariah in Matthew 23:25. In the traditional Jewish ordering of books of the Hebrew Bible, Genesis is first and Chronicles is last.
- Joash pays tribute to Hazael and the Syrians to keep them from taking Jerusalem – II Kings 12:17-18, II Chronicles 24:23-24
- After a reign of 40 years, he is assassinated by his servants and his son Amaziah is made king – II Kings 19-21, II Chronicles 24:25-27

### Lessons from the Life of Joash

- In the life of Jehoiada, we see the impact one faithful man can make – Ezekiel 22:30
- In the life of Joash, we see someone stayed faithful only because of others' influence – Ruth 1:15-16