

II KINGS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to II Kings chapter 11 as we continue our study through the Word of God. This evening our story picks up after the events that transpired back in II Kings chapter 9. Remember how Elisha anointed Jehu king over the Northern Kingdom of Israel while Joram was still the king. And Jehu killed Joram and we read beginning in verse 27 of II Kings chapter 9, **“But when Ahaziah king of Judah saw this, he fled by the road to Beth Haggan. So Jehu pursued him, and said, “Shoot him also in the chariot.” And they shot him at the Ascent of Gur, which is by Ibleam. Then he fled to Megiddo, and died there. And his servants carried him in the chariot to Jerusalem, and buried him in his tomb with his fathers in the City of David.”**

So now there is no king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah and that is where we will pick up our study this evening in II Kings chapter 11 starting in verse 1 and you will see how even the Southern Kingdom of Judah is deteriorating as they move away from the Lord.

II KINGS 11**VERSE 1**

1. Our story goes back some 28 years from chapter 9 when Jehu killed Ahaziah, the son of Athaliah. Now before we deal with Athaliah's actions, let me remind you who this woman is. She was the daughter of King Ahab and his wife Jezebel and married the son of Jehoshaphat, Jehoram. So we have the king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah marrying the daughter of the king in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and she was a bad influence upon him. She was wicked like her parents and as we can see, her actions are like her mother Jezebel's, who had Naboth killed so her husband could have his vineyard, his garden!

2. Now that her son, Ahaziah is dead, she kills the descendants of Jehoshaphat, and you may wonder why? It is simple, that would make her the king, or the queen in the Southern Kingdom of Judah, she would be in charge and she will reign for six years! It is as Clarke wrote and it applies to us as well, "How dreadful is the lust of reigning! It destroys all the charities of life; and turns fathers, mothers, brothers, and children, into the most ferocious savages!" It is amazing what people will do as they lust for power, for riches, for anything!

3. One more point here. Where was the Messiah to come from? He was to come from the lineage of David and thus, what we see here should be no surprise to us because Satan is trying to thwart or put a stop to the coming of the Messiah by destroying the lineage of David. Did he succeed? Let's read on and see!

VERSES 2-3

1. Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, but not necessarily the daughter of Athaliah, spares one of Ahaziah's descendants from being murdered by Athaliah. Think about the actions of this woman, the sacrifice, the courage and little is known of her. Yes, there will always be evil in this land until the Lord returns but also understand that God has many unknown people, at least unknown to the people of this world, to thwart the evil that is being perpetrated upon this land! I am thankful for that and I am sure you are too!

2. Now the child that Jehosheba spared, this son of Joram was named Joash and he was taken and hidden from the fury of Athaliah, who if she found out he was alive she would have him killed and at this time he was only 1 year old. And Jehosheba's husband, Jehoiada, who was the high priest, kept Joash hidden for 6 years. (II Chronicles 22:11). You see, she did not wipe out all the descendants of David; the lineage of the Messiah, there was one descendant that still remained from the house of David that will be on the throne.

VERSES 4-11

1. How could Joash be hid for those six years from Athaliah? Remember that in Solomon's temple there were many chambers and he was probably kept in one of those, out of sight from anyone except for Jehoiada the high priest and his wife Jehosheba. And so, on the Sabbath day, when the guards would change their shifts, that would enable them to have two groups of guards together without attracting any attention that something was going on! And I am sure that as these guards saw Joash, they must have been shocked but now they were instructed to protect this child, not let anyone get close to him. And they were given the weapons that David had recovered in his battles to protect Joash and as we will see, he is going to be anointed king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah! The royal line of David was spared.

VERSE 12

1. Notice what transpired here. First of all he brought the king's son out before the people. It is hard to be a secret king and he could not rightfully take the throne unless he was brought out before the people.

Next, the crown was placed upon his head. He was now rightfully recognized as the king before the people. It was not only a public affirmation but it was also an official recognition of him as king.

And lastly, he was given the testimony or the Word of God. Remember back in Deuteronomy 17:18-20, **“Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.”** So as Joash appeared before the people he had with him the Word of God!

After all this the people recognized him as king and they shouted, **“Long live the king!”** As discouraging as things looked for the Southern Kingdom of Judah, it all changed dramatically here as the heir of David is on the throne!

2. One more point here and that is how this all relates to the true King's Son, Jesus Christ. You see, our response to His reign should be as we see here with the reign of Joash, with the people shouting, "**Long live the king!**" It is as Meyer wrote, "Is not the spiritual condition of too many children of God represented by the condition of the Temple, during the early years of the life of Joash? The king was within its precincts, the rightful heir of the crown and defender of the worship of Jehovah: but as a matter of fact, the crown was on the head of the usurper Athaliah, who was exercising a cruel and sanguinary [bloodthirsty] tyranny. The king was limited to a chamber, and the majority of the priests, with all the people, had not even heard of his existence. There needs to be an anointing, an enthroning, a determination that He shall exercise his power over the entire Temple of our Being." May our hearts be open to His rule and reign in our lives and one day He will sit upon the throne in Jerusalem and rule and reign over this world! Thus, "**Long live the King!**"

VERSES 13-16

1. Picture what is taking place here and you will see why Athaliah is terrified at what she sees. You see, as there was all this noise, all this shouting, Athaliah comes to see what is going on. And to her amazement she sees Joash, her grandson, standing next to one of the two huge pillars that stood in front of Solomon's temple. One pillar was named, "Jachin" and it means, "He shall establish." And the other was called, "Boaz" and this means "In Him is strength." Thus by looking at these two pillars, before you entered the temple, you were reminded that God has established this nation and it is by His strength that they will continue on. Athaliah also recognized that her reign was ending and Joash is now the new king in Judah. Now keep in mind that she thought she had all the male descendants who would be king killed, her grandchildren, and yet, God spared Joash and He is now the king.

2. And Athaliah is put to death for her rebellion. Now that may seem harsh since this was Joash's grandmother. But keep in mind that to keep her alive it may give her another opportunity to try and usurp the throne. She led the nation in Baal worship just as her mother had done in Samaria. This was due punishment for her actions, just as we saw with her mother, Jezebel! It is as Patterson and Austel wrote, "Thus Athaliah, the most infamous queen of Judah, died at the hands of her executioners, much as did her mother, Jezebel, queen of Israel."

3. Look at the picture that is being painted for us here. For 6 years she had sat on the throne in Judah, a throne that she had usurped, but now in the seventh year, the true king will sit on the throne. Does that ring any bells for you? It should because there is an interesting parallel here. Satan has usurped the throne by spiritually killing man by getting man to sin. In doing so man turned over this earth to Satan and he is thus the king of this world. And for some 6,000 years he has been causing death and destruction, but soon, in the 7,000 year, the true King, Jesus Christ, will return and sit on the throne and rule and reign in righteousness and Satan will be crushed! I love the pictures that God has painted for us in His Word. It is no accident or coincidence, He has placed them there for us to see and as we look at them it gives us hope, it gives us comfort!

VERSE 17

1. Keep in mind that Joash is only seven years only at this time and thus, Jehoiada the high priest is laying a strong foundation for him to follow after, he was a strong influence on Joash's life, a positive influence that is!

2. Here we see Jehoiada lead the people in a re-commitment to the Lord, to honor and obey Him. And also notice the relationship with the king and the people, one may have a different role to play but they are all to work together for the glory of God. And I think they have the sequence right. First you must be committed to the Lord and then and only then will your relationships with your fellow man be right. That is why we see so much fighting even in the church; it is not who is right but who is walking with the Lord.

In Galatians 5:13-15 Paul reminds us, **“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”** And then he speaks of walking in the Spirit, not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. But again, if your relationship with the Lord is right you will not be devouring each other!

3. One more point here. Now they had the temple in Jerusalem, right? Absolutely but that did not mean they were walking with the Lord! They were going to the temple and they were worshiping Baal, go figure, but many do the same today! What do I mean by that? Think about the number of people that go to church on Sunday and then the rest of the week they are serving their own lustful desires, they are serving the Devil. And it may not be the rest of the week; it may be as they walk out of the church! And think about it, a church that is filled with people that are just there is a dead church. There is no life in it. You see, the church is not a building, it is the people and if they are not walking with the Lord, it doesn't matter if you have a magnificent church building, even the temple of God, the church is dead because the people are spiritually dead!

VERSES 18-21

1. Here we see this spiritual revival not just being words, but action as they destroy the temple of Baal in Jerusalem and kill the priest of Baal, Mattan. Remember how we saw back in II Kings chapter 10 that Jehu supervised the destruction of the temple of Baal in Samaria, and now we see that take place here in Jerusalem! And yes, Joash was the king, but I believe it was the high priest Jehoiada who was guiding Joash. Remember, he is only seven years old at this time and he is leading the nation, he is their king!
2. When you look at the history of the Southern Kingdom of Judah there was revival that occurred as godly kings came to the throne and there were only maybe 8 good kings but 5 of them were exceptional in the Southern Kingdom of Judah out of 20! There were no good kings in the Northern Kingdom of Israel and thus, we don't see revival break out in the Northern Kingdom.

Why don't we see revival in the church today? Because we have lost that first love, our love for the Lord and replaced it with self. If we want revival to occur it must begin in our own lives. There must be a return to the Bible, the Word of God! Look at the Scriptures and look at history and you will see this to be true. Apart from the Word of God being preached, there is no revival that can happen, not true revival! Yes, there are big churches that house thousands of people, but is the Word of God being taught? If not, then I am sorry, but that is not a true revival that is taking place. How can I say that?

Look at how many people will go to a football game in December when the temperature is 10 degrees above zero and sometimes 10 degrees below zero and they will sit there for 4 hours watching guys run back and forth with a dead pig under their arms! There may be upwards of 30 to 40 thousand people out there, plus many more at home. Thus, filling a stadium or church is not what we can call revival. True revival explodes outward as God's Word is taught.

And folks, don't think that revival can't happen today, it can. Years ago Dr. Griffith Thomas said, "I cannot see anywhere in Scripture that revival of the true church is contrary to the will of God." Dr. R. A. Torrey also said, "There is no such teaching in Scripture that revival is contrary to the will of God." Dr. James M. Gray said, "We recall nothing in the epistles justifying the conclusion that the experiences of the early church may not be repeated today." So what should we do? Fall in love with Jesus, make Him your first love and get the Word of God out to the people and as we do God will work and I believe revival will break forth, not because of us, but because of our Lord!

3. Yes, there were six dark years in the Southern Kingdom as Athaliah sat on the throne, but now a descendant of David, Joash is king and the people rejoiced! He has brought revival to the land, a return to the Lord!

II KINGS 12**VERSES 1-3**

1. Joash, also called Jehoash reigned for forty years in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. His name means, “Yahweh is strong.” And again, I truly believe that Jehoiada the high priest was a powerful influence in his life. He kept Joash moving in the right direction. He helped Joash in the decisions that needed to be made as king. And I want you to notice what verse 2 says, **“Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.”** You see, after Jehoiada died, Joash is going to go astray, which is very sad but it was not that he didn’t know what was right; he just chose not to follow. He was living off the relationship that Jehoiada had and never really developed a deep relationship with the Lord himself. He followed the Lord or did what was right before the Lord as long as Jehoiada was alive, but when he died, look out!

As hard as that is to believe, we are told in II Chronicles 24:15-22, **“But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died. 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. Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them. 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. Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the Lord; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.”**

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.”’ 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. 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!’” He did not grow in the faith, he had shallow faith you might say and was influenced by others instead of having a relationship with God and doing what was right! It is as Patterson and Austel wrote, “After the death of the godly high priest, Jehoash fell into the hands of godless advisors who turned his heart to Canaanite practices.”

2. Not only that but there were those high places that were not destroyed. The people loved to keep them and even if they did use them to worship the Lord by, it was a slippery slope into idolatry for the Canaanite gods were worshiped in the groves, on the high places!

VERSES 4-5

1. We are out some 120 years or so since Solomon completed the temple and over the years it has fallen into disrepair. Some of it was through neglect and some of it was done by the leaders, such as Athaliah as we are told in II Chronicles 24:7, **“For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also presented all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord to the Baals.”** Thus, the temple needed to be repaired and since the people are returning to the Lord, then the house of God must be fixed! So Jehoash the king, influenced by Jehoiada the high priest, told the priests to take the money that was given through the various taxes and what people gave freely and use that to repair the temple!

VERSES 6-7

1. Since the command went forward from Jehoash, it has now been some 23 years that these priests collected the money and yet none was used in the repairing of the temple. It seems that they were pocketing the money instead of using it as they were instructed. Clarke put it like this, “All these sources had ever been in some measure open, but instead of repairing the dilapidations in the Lord’s house, the priests and the Levites had converted the income to their own use.” The king was correcting this problem so that the house of God, the temple of God could be repaired!

Now, did these priests have the right to this money? Yes, they did have the right to receive some money for their needs, for the services they were performing, but this went far above what they needed. In fact, this money was to be used to repair the temple and it was not for them! You see, instead of going to the repair of the temple, it went for their own personal use and tragically, we see today many leaders of churches abuse what they take in. They call for giving till it hurts and yet they live very comfortably in huge mansions, drive expensive cars and have all the luxuries that the world could offer them.

And yet we are told in I Peter 5:2-4, **“Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”** As a shepherd or pastor, you are not to fleece the flock of God for your gain and you are to live not above the people. Yes, a worker is worthy of his wages but when it is used for dishonest gain, it is wrong!

In Titus chapter 1 we are told, **“For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money . . . whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.”** Titus 1:7, 11. As a leader, you can’t be greedy for money or it is going to bring you down. Maybe not immediately, but it will bring you down!

And in I Timothy 6:10-11 we see this played out as Paul tells us, “**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.**” Money is not evil but when you begin to love money, that is a dangerous road to take and it can cause you to stray from the faith! Be warned!

VERSES 8-9

1. Now this may seem a little confusing, that they are not going to take any more money for themselves and then it also says “**nor repair the damages of the temple.**” Then what are they going to do? I think what is being said here is that this money is not going to go through their hands anymore but there would be a box in which the offerings would be placed on the right side of the altar and that money will be used to repair the temple. It is sad that a lock box had to be placed so the priests would not misuse the money, but often that is the case.

2. Just a side note here and it fits in with this box, we might call it an Agape Box today. Several years ago I was teaching a class at another church in the evening and it was brought up about how we should receive the offerings to the leader that evening. This person who questioned the leader felt that only an Agape Box should be used and if you did it any other way, like an offering bag, then you were wrong. I did not realize how strong the views were on this and I jumped in and shared that it doesn't matter what container the offering is put in, it is a matter of the heart. I felt the offering bags just gave people the freedom to give, but it really didn't matter if you used an Agape Box or not. Well, I touched a nerve and things had to be settled down, I am sorry to say. Not because of my words, well, I guess it had to do with what I said, but I did not mean to cause such an uproar and you should have seen the anger that was building in others who were against an offering bag or plate. I still don't care how you do it, you just need to give people a way to give to the Lord. And if you think about it, why was this box used in the first place? Because the priests were taking the money that was given to the Lord for themselves and not using it for the repair of the temple! An interesting insight into the Agape Box!

VERSES 10-12

1. Now please understand that this repair project was at best small scale compared to the wealth that went into building Solomon's temple. Remember during Solomon's day that gold was so abundant in Solomon's temple that silver was counted as worthless. (I Kings 10:21). Can you even imagine that! And yet they put their hearts into the repair of the temple, and really, that is what God is really interested in. It is not a matter of outward beauty but a matter of the heart! May we not forget that!

2. When we were working on this church building and anytime we are working on this church building, we want to do our best. This is the Lord's house and yes, God is not contained in a building, but this is the place that we gather as a body of believers to worship Him and thus, we should do our best, we should make it look nice. But again, if the heart is not right it doesn't matter how beautiful the building looks. Again, may we not forget that!

VERSES 13-16

1. So not only was there the outside and inside repair of the temple, but there were also the implements that were used in the worship of God, the furnishings of the temple! You see, when the people saw what this was going for, they were more than generous and the work of God was being done!

2. Now here is something that is not very pretty and we touched on it before and that is that the priests were not trustworthy with the Lord's money. But what is amazing and maybe I should not put it that way, maybe a better word is "interesting" to me is that these workmen seem to be trusted more than the priests were with the money. They used it to purchase the required materials for the project and to pay the workmen with. There was no accounting of it because they were trustworthy while with the priests they had to put the offerings in a lock box and the high priest and scribe were the ones who then dealt with the offering money. We see that even today, pastors used to be held in high esteem and respected, and now they are thought of on the same level of a used car salesman. They are no longer trusted, and that is truly sad! But we have done it to ourselves. There is no one to blame but ourselves. Turn on the television and see these televangelists who fleece the flock of God for their own gain and the world looks on and shakes their head wondering how people can be so foolish to give to these shysters! I wonder too!

3. Not only that but we see that the project went forward and the priests were not cheated or left out what was due them. They still received from the trespass offerings and sin offerings. The temple and its furnishings were not repaired at the expense of the priests!

VERSES 17-18

1. Here we see Jehoash open a dangerous door of compromise, of unfaithfulness in the Lord and from that it only gets worse! Again we see Hazael rise up against Judah this time. And with Jehoiada dead, Joash begins to fail. His faith in the Lord wavered and so did his walk. Now keep in mind that this army from Syria was inferior to the army of Judah but God was going to use this small army as an instrument of judgment against Joash. In II Chronicles 24:23-25a we are told, **“So it happened in the spring of the year that the army of Syria came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the leaders of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; but the Lord delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the Lord God of their fathers. So they executed judgment against Joash. And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded).”**

So in this first battle Joash is wounded and what does he do? Well, he should have been turning to God, but instead he pays off Hazael not to attack Judah. And his plan worked. But it was a plan that was born out of the flesh, it was the work of his hands and not a work that was born out of faith and trust in God. And yes, after this there is a conspiracy and Joash is murdered, but it was all born out of this lack of faith, of not trusting in the Lord and walking by sight and not by faith! We are told in Hebrews 11:6, **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”**

How did this happen in Joash's life? It happened because Joash stopped trusting in the Lord years ago with the little things that happened in his life. And now that there is this army in front of him, threatening him and his kingdom, he can't trust the Lord because he has not tasted and seen that the Lord is good!

Oswald Chambers in *Run Today's Race*, wrote, "Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace." You see, if you have that kind of relationship with God, nothing will stop you and if you don't, then everything will stop you!

Think of it like this, "One night a house caught fire and a young boy was forced to flee to the roof. The father stood on the ground below with outstretched arms, calling to his son, "Jump! I'll catch you." He knew the boy had to jump to save his life. All the boy could see, however, was flame, smoke, and blackness. As can be imagined, he was afraid to leave the roof. His father kept yelling: "Jump! I will catch you." But the boy protested, "Daddy, I can't see you." The father replied, "But I can see you and that's all that matters." (Source Unknown). Never forget that, He sees you and really, that is all that matters!

VERSES 19-21

1. Again, Joash was a man of great potential. He had godly training under the high priest Jehoiada, and yet he was judged by God for his failure to walk in the ways of the Lord. His life tragically ends by assassination. And as you look at the end of his life, you see that there was no repentance on Joash's part. Here was this young man who brought revival to the nation and yet he never let that come through in his own life. He began to live for God but he did not continue to walk until the end and what a tragedy for him. It is as Knapp wrote, "So disobedience brings its own bitter reward, and what God's people sow they always, in some way or another, reap. Joash abundantly deserved his inglorious and terrible end."

Keep in mind that II Chronicles 24:17-22 tells us that Joash murdered Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada because, as we are told, **"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.'"** 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. 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!'**" II Chronicles 24:20-22. He was leading the nation into apostasy and when he was called on it, he put to death the prophet, but it did not negate his responsibility and in the end he did pay for it!

2. What a lesson for all of us to learn, that we would walk in the ways of the Lord and take our relationship with Him seriously, for we do not want to be shelved by God but used by Him for His glory. May we trust Him in the little things so that when big things come into our lives, we can walk by faith and not by sight! But that won't happen unless you know the Lord, unless you know who He is, His nature, His attributes. The more you know Him the more you will love Him and trust Him and the more you love Him and trust Him the more you will want to know Him!

3. Let me close with this. Remember what we said earlier that as you entered the temple there were these two huge pillars that stood in front of Solomon's temple. One pillar was named, "Jachin" and it means, "He shall establish." And the other was called, "Boaz" and this means "In Him is strength." Thus by looking at these two pillars, before you entered the temple, you were reminded that God has established this nation and it is by His strength that they will continue on. May you believe that in your own life, that God has established you and by His strength you will continue on!