

# SECOND KINGS

## Chapter 12

**In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. 2 And Jehoash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all his days, because Jehoiada the priest instructed him. 3 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.**

**12:1** *seventh year of Jehu.* 835 B.C. (CSB)

*forty years.* 835–796. (CSB)

A boy king of 7 years when he began to reign, J[eh]oash was only 47 when “his servants ... struck him down” (v 21). (TLSB)

*Zibiah of Beersheba.* From Judah's southernmost city. She must have perished in Athaliah's purge (11:1). (TLSB)

**12:2** *all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him.* After Jehoiada died, Joash turned away from the Lord (see 2Ch 24:17–27). (CSB)

“as long as Jehoiada” (cf 2Ch 24:2, 17–18). (TLSB)

*instructed.* The Hbr verb is the basis of “Law” (*torah*). (TLSB)

**12:3** *high places were not taken away.* These were high places where the Lord was worshiped rather than pagan deities (see note on 1Ki 15:14). They were nevertheless potential sources for the entrance of pagan practices into Israel's worship. (CSB)

Reforms by other kings were likewise only partly successful. (TLSB)

**11:21–12:3** Through faithful instruction, the Lord's priest Jehoiada leads Joash to have a long and blessed reign. As the Lord grants you opportunity, faithfully instruct the children in your charge through God's Word, which alone can lead to a good and hopeful life. The Lord, who Himself studied, learned, and grew as a child, will strengthen and support you in this loving work, even as He forgives your weaknesses and covers your sins. • Teach me to walk in Your ways, O Lord, and to guide young people in the paths of truth. Amen. (TLSB)

*Jehoash Repairs the Temple*

**4** Jehoash said to the priests, “**All the money of the holy things that is brought into the house of the LORD, the money for which each man is assessed—the money from the assessment of persons—and the money that a man's heart prompts him to bring into the house of the LORD,** 5 **let the priests take, each from his donor, and let them repair the house wherever any need of repairs is discovered.”** 6 **But by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, the priests had made no repairs on the house.** 7 **Therefore King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the priest and the other priests and said to them, “Why are you not repairing the house? Now therefore take no more money from your donors, but hand it over for the repair of the house.”** 8 **So the priests agreed that they should take no more money from the people, and that they should not repair the house.** 9 **Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in the lid of it and set it beside the altar on the right side as one entered the house of the LORD. And the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money**

that was brought into the house of the LORD. 10 And whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, the king's secretary and the high priest came up and they bagged and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD. 11 Then they would give the money that was weighed out into the hands of the workmen who had the oversight of the house of the LORD. And they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the LORD, 12 and to the masons and the stonecutters, as well as to buy timber and quarried stone for making repairs on the house of the LORD, and for any outlay for the repairs of the house. 13 But there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, snuffers, bowls, trumpets, or any vessels of gold, or of silver, from the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, 14 for that was given to the workmen who were repairing the house of the LORD with it. 15 And they did not ask for an accounting from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to pay out to the workmen, for they dealt honestly. 16 The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD; it belonged to the priests. 17 At that time Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath and took it. But when Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem, 18 Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred gifts that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah his fathers, the kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred gifts, and all the gold that was found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent these to Hazael king of Syria. Then Hazael went away from Jerusalem.

**12:4** *money ... bring into the house of the LORD.* The money was derived from three different sources: 1. *money collected in the census.* At the age of 20, Israelite youths were required to register for military service and to make an offering of half a shekel (see note on 5:26) for use in the service of the central sanctuary (see Ex 30:11–16; 38:25–26; Nu 2:32). 2. *money received from personal vows.* Various types of vows and their equivalence in monetary assessments are described in Lev 27:1–25. 3. *money brought voluntarily to the temple.* For voluntary offerings see Lev 22:18–23; Dt 16:10. (CSB)

General term for all money set aside for sacred purposes, which included the required temple tax and freewill contributions. (Cf Ex 30:11–16 for the religious poll tax; cf Ex 35:5; Lv 27:1–8 for regulations regarding voluntary offerings.). (TLSB)

**12:5** *priests ... donor.* Priests were to collect funds from those laypeople with whom they were personally acquainted. According to 2Ch 24:5, there was a solicitation among all Israel. *donor.* Occurs only here and in v 7. If it refers to a fellow officiant in the temple, then the priests were also to ask their associates to contribute to the fund. (TLSB)

*need of repairs is discovered.* Construction of the temple had been completed 124 years before the beginning of the reign of Joash. In addition to deterioration due to age, it had fallen into disrepair and abuse during the rule of Athaliah (see 2Ch 24:7). (CSB)

**12:6** *twenty-third year of King Joash.* Joash may have instituted his plan for restoration of the temple a few years before the 23rd year of his reign. Now at age 30 he asserts his royal authority and takes charge of the temple repairs. (CSB)

Corruption may have hindered the work (cf v 15). (TLSB)

**12:7–8** King was concerned about the waste of the people's generosity. (TLSB)

**12:7** *Take no more money from your donors.* The proceeds from the sources of revenue mentioned in v. 4 were no longer to be given to the priests. (CSB)

**12:8** *priests agreed.* Apparently a compromise was reached: The priests would no longer take the money received from the people, but neither would they pay for the temple repairs from the money they had already received. (CSB)

**12:9** *priests who guarded the threshold.* Three high-ranking priests charged with protecting the temple from unlawful (profane) entry (see 25:18; Jer 52:24). (CSB)

*priests.* Apparently a different group from the collectors in v 8. (TLSB)

*guarded the threshold.* Watching the entry to the temple (TLSB)

*chest... all the money.* When the people were assured that all their offerings would be used for the temple restoration, they responded with greater generosity. See 22:3–7 for continuation (or renewal) of this practice in the reign of Josiah. (CSB)

In Jesus' time, there was a receptacle in the temple for special contributions ("the treasury," Mt 27:6). Jehoiada placed the chest "beside the altar" of burnt offering that stood in a courtyard outside the temple proper (2Ch 24:8). (TLSB)

**12:10** *king's secretary.* Joash arranges for direct royal supervision of the temple's monetary affairs. (CSB)

**12:11** *workmen who had oversight.* The whole matter is taken out of the hands of the priests. (CSB)

A new, more honest group (cf v 15). (TLSB)

**12:13–14** *not made.* At first, all collected money was necessary to make structural repairs. After these were completed, funds continued to come in, with which "were made utensils for the house of the LORD" (2Ch 24:14). (TLSB)

**12:13** *articles of gold...silver...into the house of the Lord.* All the money was initially designated for the restoration of the temple. When the restoration was completed, additional funds were used for the acquisition of silver and gold articles for use in the temple service (see 2Ch 24:14). (CSB)

**12:16** *money from the guilt offerings and sin offerings.* See Lev 5:16; 6:5; Nu 5:7–10 for references to priestly income in connection with the bringing of a guilt offering. There is no Pentateuchal reference to priestly income in connection with the bringing of a sin offering (but see Lev 7:7). (CSB)

**12:17** *About that time.* These events must have taken place toward the end of Joash's reign. From 2Ch 24:17–24 it is clear that the Aramean attack was occasioned by Joash's turning away from the Lord after Jehoiada's death. Joash's apostasy reached its climax in the stoning of Jehoiada's son Zechariah (2Ch 24:22). Probably because of Joash's earlier zeal for the temple, the author of Kings did not choose to relate these matters. (CSB)

*Hazael.* See 8:7–15; 10:32–33; 13:3, 22. (CSB)

*Gath.* One of the major Philistine cities (see Jos 13:3) that David had conquered (1Ch 18:1) and that continued to be subject to Judah during the reign of Rehoboam (2Ch 11:8). In the latter years of the reign of Joash of Judah (835–796 B.C.) and during the reign of Jehoahaz of Israel (814–798; see 13:3, 7), the Arameans had virtually overrun the northern kingdom, enabling them to advance against the Philistines and the kingdom of Judah with little resistance. (CSB)

To reach this Philistine city, c 25 mi SW of Jerusalem, the Syrian king had swept down from the north “throughout the territory of Israel” (10:32). (TLSB)

*go up against Jerusalem.* See 2Ch 24:23–24. (CSB)

**12:18** *sacred gifts... gold ... he sent them to Hazael.* Years earlier, Asa had sought to secure assistance from the Arameans with a similar gift (see 1Ki 15:18). (CSB)

Tribute was paid, to pursue peace. Pious King Asa had to resort to the same humiliation (1Ki 15:18). (TLSB)

**12:4–18** The Lord’s house receives much needed attention from Jehoash, Jehoiada, and other faithful servants. Care for sacred duties is an act of worship, just as surely as the singing of a hymn or the saying of a prayer. Today, regard the church offerings and your church property with due diligence. By the Word of His house, the Lord will instruct you in faith, life, and the way of salvation. • O Savior, I offer back to You what You have first so generously provided to me. Continually bless me by Your Word. Amen. (TLSB)

*The Death of Joash*

**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 His servants arose and made a conspiracy and struck down Joash in the house of Millo, on the way that goes down to Silla. 21 It was Jozacar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, who struck him down, so that he died. And they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Amaziah his son reigned in his place.**

**12:20** *Silla.* Perhaps refers to a steep descent from the City of David down into the Kidron Valley. (CSB)

**12:19–21** Joash, who began so well, comes to a sorrowful end because he departs from the Lord’s way. Through faith, let the end of your life honor your Savior and your heritage. Jesus, who abides with you always, will day by day forgive your faults and deliver you from temptation. His instruction and presence are everlasting. • O Lord, let Your mercies be new for me every morning to the end of my days. Amen. (TLSB)