

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 24

Joash Repairs the Temple

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. ³ Jehoiada chose two wives for him, and he had sons and daughters. ⁴ Some time later Joash decided to restore the temple of the LORD. ⁵ He called together the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go to the towns of Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the temple of your God. Do it now." But the Levites did not act at once. ⁶ Therefore the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest and said to him, "Why haven't you required the Levites to bring in from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed by Moses the servant of the LORD and by the assembly of Israel for the Tent of the Testimony?" ⁷ Now the sons of that wicked woman Athaliah had broken into the temple of God and had used even its sacred objects for the Baals. ⁸ At the king's command, a chest was made and placed outside, at the gate of the temple of the LORD. ⁹ A proclamation was then issued in Judah and Jerusalem that they should bring to the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God had required of Israel in the desert. ¹⁰ All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full. ¹¹ Whenever the chest was brought in by the Levites to the king's officials and they saw that there was a large amount of money, the royal secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and carry it back to its place. They did this regularly and collected a great amount of money. ¹² The king and Jehoiada gave it to the men who carried out the work required for the temple of the LORD. They hired masons and carpenters to restore the LORD's temple, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the temple. ¹³ The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it. ¹⁴ When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the LORD's temple: articles for the service and for the burnt offerings, and also dishes and other objects of gold and silver. 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.

24:1–14 See 2Ki 12:1–17. (CSB)

First phase of Joash's reign; a time of righteousness under the tutelage of Jehoiada (vv 2, 14). This ends when Jehoiada dies (vv 17–18). (TLSB)

24:1 *forty years*. 835–796 B.C. (CSB)

seven years. Jehoiada acted as regent.(TLSB)

24:2 Provides the outline for the Chronicler's treatment of Joash—the good years while Jehoiada was alive (vv. 1–16), and the turn to evil after his death (vv. 17–27). (CSB)

24:3 Another expression of the Chronicler's conviction that large families represent the blessing of God. (CSB)

24:4 *restore the temple*. The vandalism and atrocities of Athaliah (v. 7) required the refurbishing of the temple. (CSB)

24:5–11 The Chronicler adds details not found in 2Ki 12:4–10: (1) the reason for the repair of the temple (v 7); (2) the explanation that the tax to be collected was levied by Moses (vv 6, 9); and (3) the note that the people dropped the tax into the chest under the supervision of the priests (vv 10–11). (TLSB)

24:5 The writer of 2 Kings speaks of three different sources of revenue (2Ki 12:4–5), whereas the Chronicler mentions only the census tax (see Ex 30:14; 38:26; Mt 17:24). The reason for the tardiness of the priests is not stated (see 2Ki 12:6–8). The writer of Kings notes that the audience with the priests takes place in the 23rd year of Joash's reign, when he is presumably no longer the ward of Jehoiada. Resistance on the part of the priests to the reassignment of the temple revenues for repair work may be the underlying cause. (CSB)

Levites. Supplementing the account in Kings, the writer of Chronicles makes repeated reference to the Levites (vv 6, 11). Joash directs both priests and Levites to gather money for temple renovations (cf 2Ki 12:5). (TLSB)

24:8 *chest*. Mesopotamian texts speak of a similar offering box placed in temples. Representatives of both the king and the temple officials administered temple revenues (see note on 1Ch 26:20). (CSB)

Temple offerings were gathered this way (cf Lk 21:1). Offering plates are a modern development. (TLSB)

24:10 *rejoiced*. Restoration of worship and its proper practice brings joy to God's people. (TLSB)

24:11 *king's secretary ... officer of the chief priest*. Both branches of the administration were represented in order to avoid misuse of funds. (TLSB)

24:12–14 The Chronicler reports not only the restoration of the building but also the furnishings made after the restoration was completed. (TLSB)

24:14 See 2Ki 12:13–14. (CSB)

As long as Jehoiada lived. An additional note on the part of the Chronicler to introduce the turn to the worse in the reign of Joash upon Jehoiada's death (vv. 15–16). (CSB)

24:15–22 Unique to 2Ch. After the death of Jehoiada, the king listened to new counselors (v 17), causing Judah to abandon the Lord's house (v 18). These verses form the context for the Chronicler's account of the shift in both the character and fortunes of Joash. (TLSB)

This section is unique to the Chronicler and shows his emphasis on immediate retribution. After a period of righteous rule until the death of Jehoiada, Joash turns to idolatry and murders Jehoiada's son. In the following year he is invaded and defeated by Aram because Judah, under his leadership, "had forsaken the LORD" (v. 24). (CSB)

24:15 *130 years old.* Jehoiada was likely born while Solomon was building the temple, and he would have witnessed many changes under seven kings. (TLSB)

24:16 *among the kings.* While Joash would be denied burial "in the tombs of the kings" (v 25), this honor is accorded to Jehoiada, the priest who was regent while Joash was a minor and whose wife was a royal princess (22:11). (TLSB)

The Wickedness of Joash

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, ^a 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. ²⁶ Those who conspired against him were Zabad, ^b son of Shimeath an Ammonite woman, and Jehozabad, son of Shimrith ^c a Moabite woman. ²⁷ The account of his sons, the many prophecies about him, and the record of the restoration of the temple of God are written in the annotations on the book of the kings. And Amaziah his son succeeded him as king.

24:18, 20, 24 *abandoned ... forsaken ... forsaken ... forsaken.* The Hebrew word is the same in these verses; it is a verb frequently used by the Chronicler to denote the reason for divine punishment (see also 7:19, 22; 12:5; 13:10–11; 15:2; 21:10; 28:6; 29:6; 34:25; 1Ch 28:9, 20). (CSB)

24:18 Joash is swayed by fawning courtiers (v 17) to serve idols despite repeated warnings by God’s spokesmen (v 19). Joash sinks so low that he has Zechariah executed, the first prophet in Judah to suffer martyrdom (vv 20–22). (TLSB)

24:19 *Although the LORD sent prophets.* Israel’s failure to heed the Lord’s prophets ultimately led to her destruction (see 36:16; cf. 20:20). (CSB)

would not pay attention. The Lord sent prophets, but the people hardened their hearts by not listening to the Lord’s Word. This attitude toward the Lord’s prophets would ultimately cause Judah’s downfall under Babylon (36:15–21). (TLSB)

24:21 *stoned.* Cf Ex 19:13. Cypr: “The camp of Christ, unconquered and firm with the Lord’s protection, [does not] yield to threats. The priest of God holding fast the Gospel and keeping Christ’s precepts may be slain; he cannot be conquered” (ANF 5:345). (TLSB)

24:22 *avenge!* Or, “require,” i.e., the penalty for shedding the blood of a fellow human being (see notes, Gn 9:5, 6). In contrast, Christ on the cross asked that the Father would forgive His executioners (Lk 23:34; cf Ac 7:60). (TLSB)

24:1–22 The Lord guides Joash through the priest Jehoiada and his son Zechariah, but Joash finally rejects the Lord’s ways. Each of us needs good counsel, especially God’s Law and Gospel, which reveal the Lord’s ways to us. When others point out your weaknesses, do not harden your heart toward them or toward the Lord. The Lord’s great desire is to bring you back, restoring you through confession and forgiveness. • Call me back to You, O Lord, through the faithful words of Your prophets. Amen. (TLSB)

24:23 *At the end of the year.* Soon after the death of Zechariah comes God’s punishment through the Syrians. (TLSB)

24:24 *only a few men.* Just as God had helped the small army of Judah against overwhelming odds when the king and people were faithful to him (14:8–9; 20:2,

12), so now in their unfaithfulness they are defeated by a much smaller force of invaders. (CSB)

they. Syrians. (TLSB)

24:25–26 When Joash is wounded, and in a weakened state, he is murdered by conspirators. Joash meets this end because of his unfaithfulness to the Lord. (TLSB)

Ammonite ... Moabite. Not reported in 2Ki. Detail is ironic because these are the very people defeated by Jehoshaphat in ch 20. The mothers of the conspirators had married into important Judean families. (TLSB)

24:25 *for murdering ... they killed him*. Only the Chronicler mentions that this assassination was revenge for the murder of Zechariah. (CSB)

not in the tombs of the kings. Burial in the tombs of the kings was an honor accorded to Jehoiada (v. 16), but withheld from his rebellious ward Joash. (CSB)

24:26 *an Ammonite ... a Moabite*. Information not given in Kings but important to the Chronicler. (CSB)