

SECOND CHRONICLES

Chapter 24

Joash Repairs the Temple

Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. 2 And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. 3 Jehoiada got for him two wives, and he had sons and daughters. 4 After this Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD. 5 And he gathered the priests and the Levites and said to them, “Go out to the cities of Judah and gather from all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that you act quickly.” But the Levites did not act quickly. 6 So the king summoned Jehoiada the chief and said to him, “Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and Jerusalem the tax levied by Moses, the servant of the LORD, and the congregation of Israel for the tent of testimony?” 7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also used all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD for the Baals. 8 So the king commanded, and they made a chest and set it outside the gate of the house of the LORD. 9 And proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring in for the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God laid on Israel in the wilderness. 10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced and brought their tax and dropped it into the chest until they had finished. 11 And whenever the chest was brought to the king's officers by the Levites, when they saw that there was much money in it, the king's secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and take it and return it to its place. Thus they did day after day, and collected money in abundance. 12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to those who had charge of the work of the house of the LORD, and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the LORD, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the LORD. 13 So those who were engaged in the work labored, and the repairing went forward in their hands, and they restored the house of God to its proper condition and strengthened it. 14 And when they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made utensils for the house of the LORD, both for the service and for the burnt offerings, and dishes for incense and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD regularly all the days of Jehoiada. 15 But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died. He was 130 years old at his death. 16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house. 17 Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. 18 And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. 19 Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

24:1–14 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 house of the Lord.* 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. (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 *All the days of Jehoiada.* 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)

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 *HE 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)

Joash's Treachery

20 Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’” 21 But they conspired against him, and by 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 that Jehoiada, Zechariah’s father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, “May the LORD see and avenge!”

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)

Joash Assassinated

23 At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people

and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. 24 Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the LORD delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash. 25 When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings. 26 Those who conspired against him were Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonite, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabite. 27 Accounts of his sons and of the many oracles against him and of the rebuilding of the house of God are written in the Story of the Book of the Kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

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

24:24 *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 *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)