

## Joash

Today you'll find him in **2 Chronicles 23**. It actually starts at the last 3 verses of 22, but Joash actually gets crowned as king of Judah in 23. Now it's kind of interesting about his life where we're going to talk about the character and associate it with life. We're associating this character with our life walk with God.

Now Joash was of the bloodline of David, but see, Ahaziah was king prior to this. Ahaziah died by the hand of Jehu because God had spoken to Elijah and Elisha and told them to anoint Jehu because Jehu was going to cut off the family line or the bloodline of Ahab. So Ahaziah was the son of Ahab and Jezebel. When Jehu had come and killed Ahaziah, king of Judah, his mother, Athaliah, came and she wanted to cut off the house of David. She wanted to be sure that there was no bloodline of David left. So here's where we start at chapter 22:10–end. There's only 3 verses 10–12. I want you to understand we're going through the process of these 3 chapters so you understand the person Joash and what kind of person he was and maybe we can find ourselves in it. **2 Chronicles 22:10-12**,

*v.10 Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead... (“meaning her son, king Ahaziah”), she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.*

*v.11 But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered, and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him.*

*v.12 And he was hidden with them in the house of God for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.*

So she became the ruler of Judah. Killing off all the heirs so she could be the ruler. But the wife of Jehoiada, the priest, was caring for this child and took him in and hid him in the house of God. See, because God had made a promise to David that his bloodline would always remain in Jerusalem and the two tribes that were left to them. So God was going to make sure that David's bloodline was there. And so this one child was the last of the bloodline of the house of David. So when we come to this place, he's already been in the house of God hidden for six years. So here's where we actually start in **Chapter 23:1-21**.

*v.1 In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and made a covenant with the captains of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri.*

*v.2 And they went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the chief fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.*

*v.3 Then all the assembly made a covenant... (“So now they gathered all the Levites together and all the captains of the hundreds and they're standing in the house of God and they're about to make a covenant with one another and make a promise to one another so this is where they stand.”) v.3 And they all assembled and made a covenant with the king of the house of God. “With the king in the house of God because that was the little boy, he was the true king, not this woman.” And he said to them, “Behold... (“now this is Jehoiada talking”) the king's son shall reign, as the LORD has said of the sons of David. This is of the bloodline of David as God has said Jehoiada was about to prove this and bring this to past.*

*v.4 This is what you shall do: One-third of you entering on the Sabbath, of the priests and the Levites, shall be keeping watch over the doors;*

*v.5 one-third shall be at the king's house; and one-third at the Gate of the Foundation. All the people shall be in the courts of the house of the LORD.*

*v.6 But let no one come into the house of the LORD except the priests and those of the Levites who serve. They may go in, for they are holy; but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD.*

*v.7 And the Levites shall surround the king... (“so here they are plotting to bring the king out of hiding and they are planning this to put him on the throne, to overthrow this woman and put him on his throne.”) v.7 And the Levites shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes into the house, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out.*

*v.8 So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. And each man took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest has not dismissed the divisions.*

*v.9 And Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains of hundreds the spears and the large and small shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of God.*

*v.10 Then he set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and by the temple, all around the king.*

*v.11 And they brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, gave him the Testimony, and made him king. Then Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, "Long live the king!"*

So they came out as a public testimony and said this is the true king. He is the rightful king of the throne because this is all a set up. So right now Jehoiada the priest who has hidden Josh for seven years is now bringing him up to receive his rightful place on the throne. Now look what happens in verse 12-15.

*v.12 Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD.*

*v.13 When she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, also the singers with musical instruments, and those who led in praise. So Athaliah tore her clothes and said, "Treason! Treason!"* So here she is like everybody is coming against me.

*v.14 And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said "Do not kill her in the house of the LORD."*

So here Athaliah is being slain by the priest.

*v.15 So they seized her; and she went by way of the entrance of the Horse Gate into the king's house, and they killed her there.* So you can see that she ran away because she goes through the horses' gate so that means when she saw what was going and she tore her clothes in treason she started to run away. And she went to the entrance of the horses' gate and ended up in the king's house hopefully to hide, and they slayed her because she could not be killed in the house of God. So here Athaliah has just been overthrown and she is no longer the queen, but now Joash had taken his rightful place and Joash is only seven years old, he's a little boy.

It's important to this story to know his age at this moment because at this moment being seven years old he doesn't know how to be king, he doesn't know how to rule a country. He is depending solely on Jehoiada. Jehoiada the priest and the wife took care of him in the house of God for seven years, and hid him for seven years. So he holds Jehoiada in great esteem as someone who will lead him into good counsel. Someone who will not steer him wrong, but in the ways of God. And he heeds every word that Jehoiada says, he does. So what happens after that in v.16, Jehoiada the priest puts God's house in order for Joash because he's only seven years old. So this is what he does from v. 16-19.

*v.16 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD's people.*

*v.17 And all the people went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.*

*v.18 Also Jehoiada appointed the oversight of the house of the LORD to the hand of the priests, the Levites, whom David had assigned in the house of the LORD, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, as it was established by David.*

*v.19 And he set the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the LORD, so that no one who was in any way unclean should enter.* So now the house of the LORD has been put back in order. Because of Athaliah, Ahab, and Jezebel, Baal was the one that was the primary god of Israel and Judah. It was a pagan worship. When Elijah was there, Elijah went to Mount Carmel and he actually made the people choose a god and the people turned back to the LORD. But when Jezebel and Ahab died, because of the wicked rulers after them they were all led to the practices of Baal, into pagan worship. And so it stayed that way and so the prophets of the LORD were being killed off, the priests of the LORD were being killed off so they all left the temple and went into hiding because the prophets of Baal and the priests of Baal had run over the whole city, over the whole country. So everybody went back home. Jehoiada brings everybody back because he was a true worshiper; a true priest of God and he stayed in the house of the LORD. The feasts were being ignored. Joash allowed Jehoiada to bring back true worship to the house of God. And the people had to turn away from Baal. So he makes a covenant with the people with the king and says we're going to do this and they go and tear down all the temples of Baal, setting everything back into order from 19. After that is placed in order, the captains take Joash and put him on his throne from v.20. And he says,

*v.20 Then he took the captains of hundreds, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought the king down from the house of the LORD; and they went through the Upper Gate to the king's house, and set the king on the throne of the kingdom.* So now Joash has been established. He's been ordained as king, everybody is praising him as king, but now being on the throne establishes him as king. Now he is only seven years old at this time. And so in v. 21 it says,

*v.21 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword.*

Now in *chapter 24:1-27*, Joash repairs the temple because he's getting older now as he grows. He owns his own land and Joash was seven years old when he became king but he reigned for forty years so he grew up. And as he grew up, he started to do the repairs on the temple of God. And so this is where Joash starts to take a little bit of control but yet he's still led by the hand of the high priest, the hand of Jehoiada. He is still seeking counsel from Jehoiada. See it's important to understand that he is still seeking counsel from Jehoiada because he still needs to be led. Even though he could be maybe twenty, thirty years old, he trusts so much in the counsel of Jehoiada that he knows that he ain't going to be led astray and everything he does is right and good. And growing up from seven years old to thirty, forty years old, he's following the teaching of Jehoiada. You know, the ways of Jehoiada. And Jehoiada pretty much in my opinion has control over the kingdom because he's leading the king. But Jehoiada's intention is for the glory of God. His intention is always for the glory of God. So here we come in in chapter 24 when Joash repairs the temple. So from 1-14, Joash repairs God's temple and puts things in order and he kills off all the sons or the heirs or the relations of the bloodline of Athaliah.

*24:1 Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Sibiah of Beersheba.*

*v.2 Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. Now get this, he did right in the eyes of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest. All the days that Jehoiada was giving him advice, he was doing what was right in God's eyes. And he goes on to say,*

*v.3 And Jehoiada took two wives for him, ... ("So Jehoiada even picked his wives for him. Jehoiada picked two wives for him") and he had sons and daughters.*

*v.4 Now it happened after this that Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the LORD. So here you can see that Joash is taking a stand. He grew up now. So now he's taking a stand and says I want to repair the house of God.*

*v.5 Then 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 do it quickly." However the Levites did not do it quickly.*

*v.6 So the king called Jehoiada the chief priest, and said to him, "Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and from Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD and of the assembly of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?"*

*v.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.*

*v.8 Then the king's command they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of the house of the LORD.*

*v.9 And they made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to the LORD the collection that Moses the servant of God had imposed on Israel in the wilderness.*

*v.10 Then all the leaders and all the people rejoiced, brought their contributions, and put them into the chest until all had given. So it was now at that point because Jehoiada didn't move as quickly, now Joash has started to make his own choices. He's growing up and he wants it done and he's being led in the ways of God. Now Joash is zealous for God, he wants to do everything for God and he wants to make sure that the house of God is repaired. And that everything he does for God is pleasing to God. So he wants to fix the house. But what happens is he tells Jehoiada how come the Levites aren't moving quickly, we need to repair the house and we need the money. He then makes a plan, leave a chest outside of the house of God and have the people come and put their contributions in there. Have them come willfully and willingly to the house of God. Because the house of God was in disrepair, it didn't have any of the articles that was created by Moses because Athaliah stole them and gave them to Baal, used them in the house of Baal. So it was unsanctified and unclean and all these utensils were not clean anymore. So Joash wanted to put all these things back in order. See, he was giving people opportunity to bring their contributions in because they hadn't been collecting contributions. They hadn't been collecting during the time of Athaliah or anything so the treasury was not. What Athaliah was doing and her bloodline there is they were taking from the treasury because the house of David and the house of Solomon was wealthy. And because they were so wealthy they didn't have to collect, they just used it up. So by the time came to Joash, there wasn't anything. They needed the contributions of the people to repair the house of God. No more money because they used all the money to give to Baal and to do those things. So Joash knowing that were giving the people opportunity to bring in so the repairs can be done. So I move on, it says;*

*v.11 So it was, at that time, when the chest was brought to the king's official by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, that the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it and returned it to its place. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance. So they did this daily 'cause I'm pretty sure one chest ain't all of Israel and all of Judah, so they had to do this everyday and when the chest was full, they brought it in.*

v.12 *The king and Jehoiada gave it to those who did the work of the service of the house of the LORD; and they hired masons and carpenters to repair the house of the LORD, and also those who worked in iron and bronze to restore the house of the LORD.*

v.13 *So the workmen labored, and the work was completed by them; they restored the house of God to its original condition and reinforced it.*

v.14 *When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada; they made from it articles for the house of the LORD, articles for serving and offering, spoons and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.*

So worship was brought back, sacrifices were brought back, the house of God was restored and all these things was put back into order all because Joash's heart from when he was a baby being led by the hand of Jehoiada the high priest served God faithfully. But look what happens now, Jehoiada dies.

In v.15 and 16.

v.15 *But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died.*

v.16 *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.* So Jehoiada just passed away. Jehoiada was Joash's wise counsel. He was his guide, his guiding light towards God.

And look what happens in 17, from 17-19, take note of these three verses.

v.17 *Now after the death of Jehoiada the leaders of Judah came and bowed down to the king. And the king listened to them.* What's happening now is the people of Judah, the leaders of Judah is coming and they're kind of like kissing butt with him. They're kind of like telling him how great he is because they bow down, giving him honor and stuff. And because of that, the king's ear was turned the he started to listen to them.

v.18 *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.*

v.19 *Yet He sent prophets to them, to bring them back to the LORD; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.* This whole time he's following God while Jehoiada is alive, and the moment Jehoiada passes away, Joash cannot stand on his own strength and remember all what God has done through Jehoiada and all what God has done in the time that he was king. And because someone praises him and because someone tickles his ear, he turns away quickly and goes contrary to the very thing that he established. He goes back, he takes the people back to idol worship when he tore down the idols when he was seven years old. All because somebody praised him and he couldn't stand, he wasn't strong enough to stand on what he believed. See, it became a process to him. Jehoiada told him the things of God, he followed, but once Jehoiada died, he had nothing to stand on his own. It's like he couldn't stand on his own faith, it's like he couldn't stand on what he believed, he couldn't stand on any of that. All of that went out the window when Jehoiada died. And when somebody came and starts rubbing elbows with him and starts making him feel good, it didn't matter anymore. He felt good about himself about being king, so he became king and started to listen to unwise counsel. Then he became misled. He became misled while he was smiling. And God and all his mercy kept sending him prophets to tell him to change his wicked ways, to turn, to turn what you're doing is wrong, you're trespassing against God, stop doing this for you served God faithfully, why are you changing now? And the prophets were sent but they did not, the people of Israel and the king would not listen. It says they would not listen. So now God had to do something drastic. Who was the one man that Joash looked up to? Jehoiada. So God sends the son of Jehoiada because if you look back, in v.11 of chapter 23, take a note, v.11 *And they brought out the king's son, ("which is him") put the crown on him, gave him the Testimony, and made him king. Then Jehoiada and his sons ("So Zechariah the son of Jehoiada was part of the anointing of putting Joash on the throne.") anointed him and said, "Long live the king!"* So Zechariah was part of that anointing, the ordination of the king.

And he goes on to say in

24:20 *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."*

v.21 *So they conspired...* ("They didn't like what he said. He was one of the anointing process and ordination of Joash as king. And so here God sends because God knew Joash's heart. Joash could move by the voice of Jehoiada. He was led by Jehoiada; Jehoiada led him in the ways of God. But guess what? I will send the son of Jehoiada, and he will heed him, but God knew that he wouldn't because look what happens in 21 and 22.") v.21 *So they conspired against him, ("they is the people of Israel and the king") and at the command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD.*

v.22 *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, ("and as Zechariah died") he said, "The LORD look on it, and repay!"* So now here

being killed in the courtyard of God he gets stoned by the very man that God had chosen, by the very man that he had helped to ordain, by the very man that his father took in as his own. Even the scribe in the bible said they called Jehoiada his father because he raised him from birth. He raised him from the time that he came into the house of God. And for seven years he was in the house of the LORD and for the rest of the time, maybe thirty, thirty-five years into it, Jehoiada took care of him and watched over him. But the moment Jehoiada died his heart turned away because of what people were saying to him. And his heart turned away so much so that he forgot what God had done, what God had established, what he had done for God, what his father, Jehoiada the man who took care of him, taught him for the thirty plus years. And this man that he killed was like his brother. He killed this man who was like a brother to him and he didn't care. So Joash and his council kills Zechariah so Zechariah calls for vengeance. Zechariah while dying calls out for vengeance. He calls "*LORD look on it, and repay!*" So he says, LORD, avenge my death. I did your work, I did what was right and they killed me, they're killing me so father repay, so he cried out to the LORD.

Now look what happens in 23. God will use Syria. 'Cause what happens when God tries to talk to you? When you start to fall away from God, what does God do? He tries to talk to you. When you cannot hear God, God will send those who can hear Him to talk to you and when you won't listen to those people either, what does God do? He sends the enemy, somebody apart from you who don't know Him to come against you. And this is what happens.

*v.23 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.*

*v.24 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.* So here you can see that God is using Syria. And Syria only came to this because prior back, if you read in 2Kings, the story is in 2Kings, the army was a million plus strong because every tribe had at least 250,000 plus men into the army. And so his army was well over a million, but the Syrians came with a small army and God gave them victory. Why, because they turned away from God so God used them as a chastening rod like he did with the people of Israel with what king? Nebuchadnezzar. God used Nebuchadnezzar to put them into bondage because they turned away from Him. It's the same process. When you turn away from God because you can't hear God anymore, God will send His own people the prophets, friends, family who know Him to talk to you. And then when you are deaf to them also, God brings the enemy. In other words, what happened to Job? God used who? The devil. It's the same way. God will use your enemy against you and guess what? Your enemy will have victory because you forsook God so God has turned away from you too. God will let them have you. And this is what's happening to Joash and Israel and Judah.

*v.25 And when they had withdrawn from him (for they left him severely wounded), ("they left Joash severely wounded") his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, ("So now his servants are conspiring to kill him because he killed the son of Jehoiada, Zechariah. So God is repaying") 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.*

*v.26 These are the ones who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess.*

*v.27 Now concerning his sons, and the many oracles about him, and the repairing of the house of God, indeed they are written in the annals of the book of the kings. ("in Kings 2) Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.* So here he died. So God not only repaid him, not only avenged the death of Zechariah, but God also forsook them the way that he forsook God. Now, when you look at the life of Joash for the thirty years. When I started to look at it, God started to talk to me about apostasy. Apostasy, I looked it up and this is what the Webster's dictionary said, the renunciation or abandonment of one's religious faith, or of one's previous loyalty. Joash's problem was that he stood so strong, though he was trying to grow up on all that Jehoiada had taught him and told him. And in telling him these things he led him in the ways of God. But once Jehoiada passed away, Joash could not stand on his own. He needed somebody to guide him; he needed somebody to lead him. In other words, he couldn't stand on his own faith; he couldn't really trust himself. So when people came and started to talk nice to him and stuff, he followed them. They played him like a fiddle and they got their way and those people brought back idol worship and he followed them right along until he fell away from God. And in this apostasy, meaning he left, he abandoned God by turning away from God, he renounced his practice. His life was dedicated to God when Jehoiada was alive and now it was no more.

In **1 Timothy 4:1-5**, Paul talks about the great apostasy. I'm going to start from v.1 and read the first 5 verses.

*v.1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith ("and that's exactly what happened to him") giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

*v.2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,*

*v.3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

*v.4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;*

*v.5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.* So in this apostasy, Paul was telling them they were doing the same thing. They were being misled away by false doctrine and people who were teaching their practices, kind of like mudding the water. Kind of like when people come and say you know what? No, no you know what, you believe that? Like God was talking about pork/pig. In the bible it says that pig is considered a heathen animal. It's considered a forbidden food to eat because never eat anything with a split hoof because one that has a split hoof like pigs and other animals eat their own dead, they eat their children, they eat their own kind. You don't eat animals with a split hoof. That's what they talk about in the times of Moses. God was very specific on what they can eat and what they couldn't eat. But in the time of Christ after our LORD was resurrected, it was no longer about what you ate or what you drank. It was about your brother. If your brother is offended, you don't eat it, but you receive everything at thanksgiving. And I find out maybe he uses food in this manner. In the same manner you receive doctrine or you receive teaching at thanksgiving, but it's between you and God if you receive it. Don't let the words that someone speaks that is pretty and nice mislead you, misguide you and lead you away from the ways of God after you have walked so long with Him. When I was reading this, I was remembering about people who have walked with me in my walk with the LORD and I remember them saying specifically, How can I leave after I've heard so much? But isn't that what Peter told Christ? How can you leave? You're the one that has the understanding; you're the one that has the word that gives light. You're the one that has it. How can he leave? But yet when they pull them in, they get scared and leave real quick. And what, they forgot about the teachings, they forgot, they quickly turned away. They quickly turned away and God had to show up in person and call them back. But Joash quickly turned away because his ears became itchy and he liked what people were saying to him. So there's a few points I wanted to make.

Joash was so used to following the hand of Jehoiada the priest that he could not stand on his own faith or he couldn't trust himself, he needed to be lead. He was mature because you could see him wanting to put the house of God in order, but yet he was immature and he couldn't stand up for himself, he couldn't stand on what he believed. When poor counsel came to Joash he was quick to heed their voice and was easily turned away from God because of the pretty words and because of the things they were saying is what led him away. Remember what they said, and they bowed down to him and that means they were speaking all these words that impressed him and moved him. He was easily, easily swayed because of that. Joash became so moved by what the other council was saying that all conviction toward God and all the love for Jehoiada and his family was gone. That he went to idol worship and committed murder. So much so that he turned away from God that his love grew dry, not only for the man who raised him from birth, but from God, his heart ran cold. No love. He had no love all because of what others were saying. Misled, renounced his faith and he had so much favor with God. And here comes Zechariah, if you turn back, come on, stop it, and you wonder why you're not prospering? Because you've turned away. All spiritual consciousness of his heart was gone. Because his consciousness up here (pointing to her head) is common sense, it looks like he didn't have any. In my opinion he didn't have any other than he had a zeal for God. The things of God he wanted to take care of by rebuilding the house.

Actually if you look at it because he initiated the rebuilding of the temple, so there is a love there. He wasn't making too many choices. Jehoiada was pretty much guiding him in the ways of God. But we don't know what happened after that because after he had restored the temple, daily sacrifices came back and all these things. So we don't know if he started giving his sacrifices and offerings too which he probably did because Jehoiada's leading. The only thing we can see is Jehoiada was dedicated to God and if he was dedicated to God, Joash was dedicated to God while he was alive. Could it be that Joash became tired? You know we become weary serving God long time. He was totally relying on Jehoiada's wise counsel. His faith wasn't there; he was living on someone else's faith. But in his conscious mind he was doing everything right. Because a man cannot serve God or have such a counsel that guiding and leading from one year old to thirty something year old before you pass away guiding you in the things of God and you think that you love God. There's gotta be something. After Jehoiada died, he was left alone to choose for himself. But see one thing he didn't have, he didn't have people praising him because Jehoiada was there watching over him. These people who brought in idol worship because they taught him idol worship couldn't come when Jehoiada was alive. He would've run them out. Once Jehoiada was out of the way, the devil stepped in.

People become weary, it becomes monotonous. And Joash I believe, it became monotonous. He couldn't last because all that he was learning from Jehoiada and all that God was showing Jehoiada for him, guiding him, helping him to be king, putting him on the throne. You see it was all in Joash's mind that he saw everything, but it wasn't written on his heart. He didn't love God unconditionally and God loved him. He wanted to do more. He

probably was afraid to do something on his own. Because the moment Jehoiada died, he did something on his own and he made the wrong choice. Ministry has an issue or I see a problem with longevity, their walk with God because it becomes same old, same old, same old. And how many sermons can one preach on Sunday associated with repentance or salvation, or they're not getting new revelation, they're not getting new insight, they're not getting new depth to God. So they stay exactly where they are, but you can only stay so long in one position, you become stagnant. You can only stay so long and preach the same message only so much. People who have left here have taken the teachings that they have received and they go and they live it, but they don't go beyond it. They don't know what's beyond the teachings that they receive. If you folks walk away right now, you folks won't know what's going to be said tomorrow, next week, or next year. You have no idea, but you know only up to here and you will live your life according to here. You can't go any further, you refuse to seek anymore and that's what happens to people in ministry, and that's what happened to him. Because they cannot just love God and trust that whatever God is doing is for the good. It's always for the good. They become tired and weary just like the story Jerry told about the Pastor who didn't want to be bothered on his day off. Because when you become a minister of the gospel, you don't have a day off, it's 24-7. It's not a job; it's a life! It's a lifestyle and it's a call and it's 24-7. For anybody who serves God rather as a prophet, a teacher, or anything, when you come to the house of God and you serve God as a teacher, or evangelist, or whatever, it's not for that moment you're in church, it's 24-7. At anytime somebody can call you up if you're a teacher and ask you, could you help me understand these scriptures? Your job isn't limited to just bible study. 24-7 for whatever God has, it doesn't matter. If you don't like what you do or you don't love God the way that you should, you're going to become stagnant and you can't go any further. You'll be doing works.

Joash started to do works to become zealous for God. He was zealous for God at that point when he was doing it because he needed to do more. He was trying to establish something within himself. When it was all done, there was a feeling of accomplishment that I did something for God on my own without anybody telling me. But there was nothing else. When you get tired of hearing the gospel, when you get tired of hearing the preaching, when you get tired of talking about the LORD, when you get tired of reading, it gets real easy for the devil to turn you away. When people come and seek counsel and they're having problems, I ask them, "You pray?" "How often?" Right there that's your problem. No prayer time, you have no relationship with God. That's why you're having issues, because God is now trying to talk to you. Like I said, there are stepping stones.

Jehoiada was like the voice of God to Joash. Joash didn't have that personal relationship, but he had Jehoiada. Jehoiada's voice to Joash was like the voice of God, a leading. But when the voice gets taken out of the way, God has to send his prophets because Joash couldn't hear for himself because he didn't have a real relationship so God started to send the prophets to talk to him and prophesy to him. When God had to send Zechariah, Zechariah was the last one. There is always a last one before God does a major thing. Sometimes I have to go deliver messages to people and I am their last warning. After this you are in the hands of the devil. I am always the last one because I am not afraid to speak what I have to say. And if they stone me, they stone me. I've delivered messages to priests behind their pulpit in front of their church and tell them how wicked they are because I got no choice. When the spirit of God falls upon you, you got no choice. And I was his last warning, fair warning; I'm the last one. Either you change your wicked ways or you will never prosper. Your ministry will go nowhere, it will be dead. After I told him that, as a visitor, I turned his house upside down.

We have to be moved by the voice of God. If you cannot hear God's voice, you cannot be moved. God will send people like me. Will send everybody else and then they'll send me, Zechariah. There's a lot of Zechariah's out there to deliver the final message. If you cannot hear that voice, even through them, then God will use the enemy. God lives by the three-strike rule. Remember the devil, only three strikes and he was dead. God lives by a three-strike rule before he lets someone go or kills them off. But he always gives opportunity to turn. Joash, God was trying to get him to love Him, to come back to Him without Jehoiada, but God couldn't because his heart was too misled, too misguided. So what happened to Joash? Just like Jeroboam, what happened in the end? He died in God's judgment. God had turned away from him. When he died in judgment, what does that mean? No salvation. Joash died because the servants killed him because of what he did to Zechariah, plus he had turned away from God and God let him go into the hands of Syria. He was in the judgment of God and he did not upon his bed, what is the one thing you need to do before you die, repent. He did not repent! If you do not repent, you lose your sacrifice for salvation, **Hebrews 10:26-27**. He willfully chose to sin.