

## Survey of the Bible part 45 2 Chronicles 23 – 25:15

The last time we were together we had seen the crazy grandma, Athaliah, the mother of king Ahaziah, kill her grandchildren when she found out that her son had been put to death, and she assumed the role of leader of Judah.

However, in the process of killing all of Ahaziah's sons, one of his daughters caught wind of what crazy grandma was doing and she hid her little brother, Joash, so that he would not be killed. Her name was Jehoshabeath. Now she was also the wife of a priest of God by the name of Jehoiada.

The reason this would be important is because Joash would be able to be protected in the house of God under the direction of this priest. The other thing to note is what we see at the end of chapter 22.

**2 Chronicles 22:12** <sup>12</sup> He was hidden with them in the house of God six years while Athaliah reigned over the land.

And so grandma reigned in her son's place for six years while Joash was being protected. When we come to the seventh year Jehoiada the priest begins to make a move to put Joash on the throne.

**2 Chronicles 23:1-3** <sup>NAU</sup> Now in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took captains of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Johanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, *and they entered* into a covenant with him. <sup>2</sup> They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of the fathers' *households* of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Then all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And Jehoiada said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD has spoken concerning the sons of David.

Keep in mind that this is seven years from the time that grandma Athaliah assumes the throne and at this point this priest strengthens himself as we are told. Time has a way of quieting things down and it appears that the time is ripe for Jehoiada to make a move.

The other thing to keep in mind is that Joash has gotten older and is now in a position of becoming the rightful heir to his father's throne.

And so what we find is that Jehoida enters into a covenant with these different captains to align themselves with him with the express purpose of crowning Joash the rightful king of Judah.

**Well, what would this be called today?**

A coup, or treason.

In fact this is precisely what Athaliah says when she hears all of the commotion of these captains.

**2 Chronicles 23:12-13** <sup>12</sup> When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came into the house of the LORD to the people. <sup>13</sup> She looked, and behold, the king was standing by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpeters *were* beside the king. And all the people of the land rejoiced and blew trumpets, the singers with *their* musical instruments leading the praise. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and said, "Treason! Treason!"

Well, she's got a lot of nerve in light of the fact that she stole the throne from the sons of Ahaziah by killing them.

**Now, do you suppose that grandma knew that she didn't get them all, that is Joash?**

Undoubtedly. And keep in mind, for any grandmother not to take note of all of her grandchildren is very unlikely especially if that grandchild were a brand new baby. A grandmother's instinct is to take that child and to cuddle it and protect it. That may have in fact been the case before the death of her son Ahaziah.

When Ahaziah's son Joash came into this world she undoubtedly was loving on that child as any grandmother would. But with the murder of her son she knew that his sons, including Joash, would be next in line to the throne, and she couldn't live with that.

Well, now that Joash has been crowned king under the direction of both the religious and military leaders there isn't much she can do. And in fact, she is put to death despite her protests.

**2 Chronicles 23:14-15** <sup>14</sup> Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were appointed over the army and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks; and whoever follows

her, put to death with the sword." For the priest said, "Let her not be put to death in the house of the LORD." <sup>15</sup> So they seized her, and when she arrived at the entrance of the Horse Gate of the king's house, they put her to death there.

And with her death comes a new day in Judah as we will see in the next chapter.

**2 Chronicles 24:1-2** <sup>NAU</sup> Joash *was* seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name *was* Zibiah from Beersheba. <sup>2</sup> Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

**By the way, if Joash is seven years old when he became king how old was he when Jehoiada the priest took him into the temple to protect him?**

He was one year or less. This is why I said that any grandmother who could take a new born grandson and seek to murder him is definitely not all there.

But to become king at the age of seven is an entirely different issue.

**How does a young boy of seven rule a kingdom?**

He rules only as a figure head until at which age he can assume the throne in his own power and strength.

**Well, who is ruling Judah at this time then?**

It would appear that it was his brother-in-law. Remember, it was his sister who married Jehoiada the priest making them related through his sister. And it appears that Jehoiada is taking the lead in grooming Joash to advance.

**2 Chronicles 24:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he became the father of sons and daughters. <sup>4</sup> Now it came about after this that Joash decided to restore the house of the LORD.

And so, for a number of years Joash makes sure that the house of the Lord is restored. And then we're told that Jehoiada had reached the end of his days and he dies.

**2 Chronicles 24:15-16** <sup>15</sup> Now when Jehoiada reached a ripe old age he died; he was one hundred and thirty years old at his death. <sup>16</sup> They buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done well in Israel and to God and His house.

This is the kind of epithet all of us should desire to have. No matter what type of life God has called us to it should all be done as unto Him.

**Colossians 3:17** <sup>17</sup> Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

**Colossians 3:23-24** <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

But as we come back to our text we see another tragedy in the life of one of those who has been declared by God as one who did right in the sight of the Lord.

It isn't until after the death of Jehoiada the priest that we see Joash taking a turn for the worse. In fact, if we go back to the beginning of this chapter you'll note something interesting.

**2 Chronicles 24:2** <sup>2</sup> Joash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

And now Jehoiada is gone and apparently the godly influence of that priest.

**2 Chronicles 24:17-18** <sup>17</sup> But after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and bowed down to the king, and the king listened to them. <sup>18</sup> They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols; so wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guilt.

**First of all what do these two verses tell us about the officials of Judah?**

They were corrupt and their desire was to corrupt all the way to the top. And evidently they had an ally with Joash because he doesn't seem to blink an eye at turning away from God and the things of God.

And yet, despite this, God in His mercy brings Joash and the officials to cause them to humble themselves before the Lord.

**2 Chronicles 24:19-21** <sup>19</sup> Yet He sent prophets to them to bring them back to the LORD; though they testified against them, they would not listen. <sup>20</sup> Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people and said

to them, "Thus God has said, 'Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD and do not prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has also forsaken you.'" <sup>21</sup> So they conspired against him and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD.

**If you don't like the message then what seems to be the solution?**

You kill the messenger. Only a person who does not believe that God sent this message would dare kill the messenger because if you believe that God has sent the message then you would surely humble yourself and repent.

But all of the hearts here are hardened and do not desire the things of God, and God will not be mocked, nor will He allow His plans to go unfulfilled.

And it seems that the very last thing that Joash hears from Zechariah is a final message that will one day ring true.

**2 Chronicles 24:22** <sup>22</sup> Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which his father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as he died he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!"

And so Joash murders his cousin, the son of his adopted father, Jehoiada the priest, and the final message comes to pass probably sooner than Joash thought.

**2 Chronicles 24:23-25** <sup>23</sup> Now it happened at the turn of the year that the army of the Arameans came up against him; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed all the officials of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. <sup>24</sup> Indeed the army of the Arameans came with a small number of men; yet the LORD delivered a very great army into their hands, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash. <sup>25</sup> When they had departed from him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and murdered 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.

**Why did they not bury him in the tombs of the kings?**

He was not deemed worthy or fit to be numbered among those faithful men who served the Lord.

Unfortunately there are those both back then and today who have a form of godliness but deny its power as Paul says.

Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, also acknowledges that these type of men can be part of the people of God and yet deny the truth of who God is and what He desires.

**Jude 1:10-13** <sup>10</sup> But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. <sup>11</sup> Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. <sup>12</sup> These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; <sup>13</sup> wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

It's amazing that a man like Joash was spared by his sister and her husband who raised him like a son in a godly home all his days and even went so far as to command that the idols and high places be torn down, and yet when that godly influence was no longer there he can turn on a dime and reject the very grace and mercy that had been handed to him by the Lord.

But again, this should not surprise us. Jesus taught that there would be many people who would have the seed of God's word sown upon them and yet not everyone would produce fruit. There would be different types of manifestations of that seed.

**Mark 4:2-8** <sup>2</sup> And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, <sup>3</sup> "Listen to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; <sup>4</sup> as he was sowing, some *seed* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> "Other *seed* fell on the rocky *ground* where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> "And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. <sup>7</sup> "Other *seed* fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. <sup>8</sup> "Other *seeds* fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

Was his heart rocky ground or was it a heart that was affected by thorns? In either case it was not a crop that yielded the kind of fruit that lasted, and those closest person to the situation deemed him such that he would not be a part of the faithful kings, but would only be near to those who died in the Lord as they buried him in the city of David but not in the tombs of the kings.

Well, Joash had a son by the name of Amaziah who became king in Judah.

**2 Chronicles 25:1-2** <sup>NAU</sup> Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> He did right in the sight of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart.

Here we go again. This seems to be the pattern for many of the Jewish leaders and Amaziah will find himself doing many things that seem correct and yet when it comes to a heart for God his actions will show that he is more pragmatic than faithful to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**2 Chronicles 25:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Now it came about as soon as the kingdom was firmly in his grasp, that he killed his servants who had slain his father the king. <sup>4</sup> However, he did not put their children to death, but *did* as it is written in the law in the book of Moses, which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for sons, nor sons be put to death for fathers, but each shall be put to death for his own sin."

And so, we see that he can easily kill his enemies around him but he spares their children. He's obviously not such a bad guy after all.

But he reverts back to worshipping the gods of those pagans surrounding Judah.

**2 Chronicles 25:14-15** <sup>14</sup> Now after Amaziah came from slaughtering the Edomites, he brought the gods of the sons of Seir, set them up as his gods, bowed down before them and burned incense to them. <sup>15</sup> Then the anger of the LORD burned against Amaziah, and He sent him a prophet who said to him, "Why have you sought the gods of the people who have not delivered their own people from your hand?"

And so his true colors seem to be coming out. And even though Judah has been told not to make an alliance with Israel Amaziah does so. All bad stuff. But again this should not surprise us. The

heart of man even the heart of one who is part of the chosen people of God is wicked at its core unless God turns it to Himself.

This is why Paul could exclaim.

**Romans 9:6-8** <sup>6</sup> But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel; <sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED." <sup>8</sup> That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

### **So, who is Israel according to Paul?**

Jew and Gentile who are of the true church of Jesus Christ by faith.

Amaziah, though a Jew, is not a Jew according to God because a true Jew, that is a true chosen person of God, is one who is not simply a Jew by physical birth but one who has been birthed from above. Born from above, born again by the Spirit.

<sup>NAU</sup> **Romans 2:28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. <sup>29</sup> But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

**Galatians 6:14-16** <sup>14</sup> But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. <sup>16</sup> And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them, and upon the Israel of God.