

***JOASH TO JOTHAM:
GOOD, BUT NOT GREAT
II KINGS 12:1-6; 15:32-38***

Woodland Park Church of Christ
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When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. ² But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and **stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered**; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. ³ **So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years**, while Athaliah reigned over the land. ⁴ In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds—of the bodyguards and the escorts—and brought them into the house of the LORD to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son. ⁵ Then he commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king's house, ⁶ one-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the escorts. You shall keep the watch of the house, lest it be broken down.

✘ *In the second year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, began to reign. ³³ He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok. ³⁴ And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done. ³⁵ However the high places were not removed; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. He built the Upper Gate of the house of the LORD. ³⁶ Now the rest of the acts of Jotham, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? ³⁷ In those days the LORD began to send Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah against Judah. ³⁸ So Jotham rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David his father. Then Ahaz his son reigned in his place.*

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- ✘ Jotham's death ends a run of good kings in Judah.
 - ✘ For over a hundred years Judah had kings who were characterized as good kings as they “did what was right in the sight of the LORD.”

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- ✘ Jehoash (Joash) – *Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.* II Kings 12:2
 - ✘ Amaziah – *In the second year of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah, the son of Joash, king of Judah, became king. . . And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David, he did everything as his father Joash had done.* II Kings 14:1, 3

- ✘ **Azariah (Uzziah)** -- *In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah the son of Amaziah, king of Judah, became king. And **he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah had done**, II Kings 15:1, 3*
- ✘ **Jotham** -- *In the second year of Pekah the son of Ramaliah, king of Israel, Jotham the son of Uzziah, king of Judah began to reign. . . **And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD; he did according to all that his father Uzziah had done.** II Kings 15:32, 34*

POINTS

- ✘ First, notice that each of the kings did what was right in the sight of the LORD (God).
- ✘ They did not get there by accident!
- ✘ There was a spiritual driving force in their lives – they had been exposed to righteousness
 - + Jehoash (Joash) – it was the priest, Jehoida
 - ✘ Highlights why the church is critical in reviving and salvaging a lost generation –
 - ✘ Ahaziah (Jehoash's father): son-in-law to the house of Ahab. See II Kings 8:25
 - + Amaziah, Azariah (Uzziah) and Jotham – driving force apparently was their father

*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³ “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” ⁴ And you, **fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.** Ephesians 6:1-4*

Develop your own faith and righteousness.

Note that Joash was okay as long as Jehoiada was alive.

*Therefore, my beloved, **as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;** ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. **Philippians 2:12-13***

Parents, that's why it is critical to help our young people develop their faith.

Demand that they remain active in spiritual pursuits require that they contribute financially when they come into money (whether by gift or earned income), engage them in Bible-based conversation

But, just as fathers can drive spiritual excellence, they can be the cause of generational curses – the bad thing(s) that we allow to persist can harm and limit our offspring.

. . . the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense there (on the high places).

- ✘ Joash (II Kings 12:3);
- ✘ Amaziah (II Kings 14:4);
- ✘ Azariah (Uzziah) (II Kings 15:4);
- ✘ Jotham (II Kings 15:35)

Their Highs and Lows

Jehoash (Joash)

- ✘ Repaired the Temple – II Kings 12:4-16
- ✘ Resorted to worshipping idols, killed Jehoiada's son (the prophet Zechariah), allowed corrupt officials to lead him astray. See Chronicles 24:17-22
- ✘ Bribed Hazael of Syria when Hazael set his sights on Judah after Syria had conquered Gath.

+ *And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem.*

II Kings 12:18

✘ Servants, Jehozabad (son of Shomer) and Jozachar (son of Shimeath), conspired against Joash and killed him in the house of Millo.

II Kings 12:20

Amaziah

- ✘ Executed the servants who murdered his father, King Joash, but he did not kill their children. He remembered the law of Moses. **See II Kings 14:5-6**
 - + Great to remember God's law, especially in emotionally-charged situations
- ✘ Amaziah killed 10,000 Edomites at the Valley of Salt and took Sela by war; he then challenged Joash, king of Israel. Amaziah disregarded Joash's warning that he would be putting not only himself in harm's way but jeopardizing all Judah.

You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Glory in that, and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall—you and Judah with you?” ¹¹ *But Amaziah would not heed. **II Kings 14:10-11***

When they face off at Beth Shemesh, Joash (Israel) soundly defeats Amaziah (Judah) – Judah fled and Joash captured Amaziah, destroyed about 400 cubits of the wall of Jerusalem, took all the gold & silver, all articles in Lord’s house and in treasuries of the king’s house, and hostages. **II Kings 14:12-14**

Don't get TOO BIG FOR YOUR BRITCHES.

Don't allow success to GO TO YOUR HEAD!

✘ *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly**, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. Romans 12:3*

✘ *Therefore let the one who thinks he stands firm **[immune to temptation, being overconfident and self-righteous]**, take care that he does not fall **[into sin and condemnation]**. I Corinthians 10:12
AMP*

Also, consider the impact your actions will have on others, especially family.

Azariah (Uzziah)

Stricken with leprosy, so he and his son (Jotham) “co-ruled” in Judah for approximately 10 years of Azariah’s 52-year reign.

- ✘ *Then the LORD struck the king, so that he was a leper until the day of his death; he dwelt in an isolated house. And Jotham the king’s son was over the royal house, judging the people of the land.*
II Kings 15:5
- ✘ Critical to develop our young people and children so they can assume the reigns when the “establishment” (homes, families, communities, etc.) must change hands.

II Chronicles expounds on Azariah's Career/Tenure (II Chronicles 26)

- ✘ Prospered early on and was a successful king;
- ✘ Repaired the wall that was broken down by Joash of Israel.
- ✘ Built towers and dug wells – so the land was productive.
- ✘ Fame spread, even to Egypt.
- ✘ Commandeered a 307,500 man military force.
- ✘ Became lifted up in pride, entered the temple and attempted to perform the functions reserved for priests.

Jotham

. . . He built the Upper Gate of the of the house of the LORD. II Kings 15:35

II Chronicles 27:1-6 provides further that Jotham –

- ✘ Built extensively on the wall of Ophel;
- ✘ Built cities in the in the mountains of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests;
- ✘ Defeated Ammonites;
- ✘ Became mighty “**because he prepared his way before the LORD.**”

1. Continue to Improve and Grow – Build on what God has provided.

Don't become complacent and totally comfortable with where you are, and thus become stagnant.

*But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your** faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **II Peter 1:5-8***

2. Prepare your Way Before the Lord

Amazing things happen we allow God to direct and order our steps—

- ✘ Withstand the storms and tempests of the age. **See Matthew 7:24-25**
- ✘ Impossibilities become accomplishments.
- ✘ Things that used to upset us no longer phase us!

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. I Peter 5:6-7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity or cowardice or fear, but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of sound judgment and personal discipline [abilities that result in a calm, well-balanced mind and self-control]. II Timothy 1:7 AMP

LORD'S INVITATION EXTENDED TO ALL

✘ Be added to the Lord's body

Hear the gospel (**Acts 15:7; I Corinthians 15:1-4**)

Believe (**Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17**)

Repent (**Acts 2:38**)

Confess (**Acts 8:37; Rom.10:10**)

Be baptized (**Acts 2:38, 8:38**)

LORD'S INVITATION (CONT'D)

- ✘ Be reconciled unto the Lord (I John 1:8-9);
or
- ✘ Desire prayer (James 5:16).