

THE CHEST OF JOASH – 2012

Open:

We have borrowed an event from the Old Testament and have made it our annual Christmas project.

- Allow me to remind you of the story. 2 Chronicles 24

* Scene 1: Political Turmoil

- The grandson of Ahab and Jezebel is king of Judah. Ahaziah at age 22 becomes the king ...

- √ He follows in his grandfather (Ahab) and his father's (Jehoram) steps.
 - Elijah prophesied Jehoram's death ... struck with a severe intestinal disease, he died in agony.
 - All three of these men were godless.

→ One generation impacts another.

- Wickedness was rampant in the family. Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, encouraged her son to do wrong. **2 Chronicles 22:3**

- √ His reign was brief lasting only one year.
- √ The prophecy of judgment against Ahab's family caught up with Ahaziah ... he was hunted down like a dog and killed.
- √ The news of his death reached his mother, Athaliah, and she grabbed the opportunity to promote herself.
- √ She had Judah's royal family killed ... this would have included her son's boys ... her grandsons. **2 Chronicles 22:10**
- √ Sister of Ahaziah rescued an infant son and during the attack hid him and his nurse in a back bedroom of the palace.
- √ The sister's name was Jehosheba, wife of Jehoiada, the priest.
- √ The infant that was rescued ... Joash.

- Had Joash been killed there would have been no human heir to David's throne.

- The human offspring of David had been reduced to one.
 - The Messianic line almost wiped out.
 - Under the providential hand of God, young Joash's life had been spared.
- Joash was hidden in the Temple of God for 6 years while wicked Athaliah ruled.
- √ 7 years into her reign, Jehoiada the priest decided to act.
 - √ He made a pact with 5 army commanders, and sent a secret message throughout the land (grassroots endeavor).
 - √ A day was selected, and the people were to gather at the Temple in Jerusalem...
 - √ Young Joash would be revealed ... news that one of the sons in the Davidic line was alive would be made known.
 - √ The young boy was assigned bodyguards, the singers would sing, the musicians would play and the people would cheer.
- Careful planning and execution required.
 - A crown would be placed on the head of Joash ... he would be presented with a copy of God's law.
 - They would anoint him and proclaim him king.
- Word traveled, the noise of the people and shouts of praise would reach Athaliah.
- √ From the window and then outside, she hurried to see what was happening ...
 - √ She saw the newly crowned king, his bodyguards and the people celebrating, and she cried, "Treason! Treason!"
 - √ They removed her from the Temple, went outside the palace gates and there they killed this wicked woman.
- Jehoiada the priest led the people to make a commitment ...
- √ "We belong to the Lord, and we will serve Him only!"
 - √ The temple of Baal and the pagan idols were torn down.
 - √ The command to worship the Lord was given, and the people rejoiced.
 - √ Young Joash sat on the royal throne.

* Thoughts to ponder:

- God is faithful and keeps His promise ... the line of David protected!
- What goes around comes around ... Athaliah was punished for her wickedness.
- Turning a nation, church or family around requires a plan, courage and cooperation.

* **Scene 2** Plan in place, proceed:

2 Chronicles 24:1-5 NLT ¹ Joash was seven years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother was Zibiah from Beersheba. ² Joash did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight throughout the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest. ³ Jehoiada chose two wives for Joash, and he had sons and daughters.

⁴ At one point Joash decided to repair and restore the Temple of the Lord.

⁵ He summoned the priests and Levites and gave them these instructions: "Go to all the towns of Judah and collect the required annual offerings, so that we can repair the Temple of your God. Do not delay!" But the Levites did not act immediately.

➤ At the age of 7, Joash sits on the royal throne and would rule for 40 years.

✓ He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

→ It is good to have godly mentors in our lives ... people to whom we can go to for advice. Those who cannot be counseled cannot be helped.

✓ ?Who do you seek out ... who are you investing in?

✓ The younger generation would do well to listen to the advice of the older ... the older generation would do well to speak and invest in the younger ...

- There seems to be such trust here that Joash listened to Jehoiada when choosing a wife.

- √ After all the past kings didn't do so well in this area.

→ The opinions of your parents or godly mentors matter ...

- In an effort to repair the “house of God” which had been neglected ... Athaliah had removed its furnishings and left it in sad shape ... Joash encourages the “servants of the Temple” to go and collect the offering.

→ It is human nature to hang onto your money or spend it on yourself ... it is God's nature to give and invest it in eternity.

- **Vs. 5 NKJV** Joash set his heart on repairing the house of the Lord.

- √ We give to what is important to us. (Ex.: season tickets to our favorite football team, latest gadgets, our hobby, our family ...). It's time our church becomes important!

- √ And where were they to go and get the money? Not to local businesses, fund raisers ...

→ God's people are to give to take care of God's work!

* Not one to give up, Joash came up with another plan.

2 Chronicles 24:6-11 NLT ⁶ So the king called for Jehoiada the high priest and asked him, “Why haven't you demanded that the Levites go out and collect the Temple taxes from the towns of Judah and from Jerusalem? Moses, the servant of the Lord, levied this tax on the community of Israel in order to maintain the Tabernacle of the Covenant.”

⁷ Over the years the followers of wicked Athaliah had broken into the Temple of God, and they had used all the dedicated things from the Temple of the Lord to worship the images of Baal. ⁸ So now the king ordered a chest to be made and set outside the gate leading to the Temple of the Lord. ⁹ Then a proclamation was sent throughout Judah and Jerusalem, telling the people to bring to the Lord the tax that Moses, the servant of God, had required of the Israelites in the wilderness. ¹⁰ This pleased all the leaders and the people, and they gladly brought their money and filled the chest with it.

¹¹ Whenever the chest became full, the Levites would carry it to the king's officials. Then the court secretary and an officer of the high priest would come and empty the chest and take it back to the Temple again. This went on day after day, and a large amount of money was collected.

* As Joash did, I'm announcing that next Sunday we are collecting the largest offering of the year.

– When you give, write 2 checks, separate envelopes ...

√ “All tithers Sunday” – this is used in the weekly operation of the church.

√ Chest – sacrificial Christmas offering – used for the special projects outlined.

* Notice the response of the people: **Vs. 10**

√ **All the leaders and all the people rejoiced and brought their contribution.**

√ They gave cheerfully, willingly and generously.

* **Scene 3** Provisions made available

2 Chronicles 24:12-14 NLT ¹² The king and Jehoiada gave the money to the construction supervisors, who hired masons and carpenters to restore the Temple of the Lord. They also hired metalworkers, who made articles of iron and bronze for the Lord's Temple.

¹³ The men in charge of the renovation worked hard and made steady progress. They restored the Temple of God according to its original design and strengthened it. ¹⁴ When all the repairs were finished, they brought the remaining money to the king and Jehoiada. It was used to make various articles for the Temple of the Lord—articles for worship services and for burnt offerings, including ladles and other articles made of gold and silver. And the burnt offerings were sacrificed continually in the Temple of the Lord during the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest.

- For Joash the offering meant getting the Temple in good working order.
- For us:

	<u>Praise Goal</u>	<u>Radical Goal</u>
General or tithe	50,000	60,000
Chest or Christmas	<u>150,000</u>	<u>190,000</u>
	200,000	250,000

<u>Praise Goal</u>		<u>Radical Goal</u>
\$ 75,000	Debt Reduction	\$ 75,000
10,000	Members in Crisis	15,000
10,000	Loving Lexington (outreach)	15,000
15,000	Guatemala Project	15,000
15,000	Church Plants (helping our 3 churches)	15,000
25,000	Campus Improvements (wood exterior, phone system, worship lobby floors)	35,000
	Supporting National Pastors (missions)	<u>20,000</u>
<u>\$150,000</u>		\$190,000

Close: I ask that members spend a day in prayer and fasting this week.

- Give sacrificially as God leads.
- Tithe your income.
- Rejoice in obedience!

Message Notes
Pastor Ralph Schneck
First Baptist Church of Lexington
November 25, 2012