

Joash

2 Kings 12

2 Chronicles 24

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Joash the boy king of Judah grew up under the guidance of Jehoiada the priest. As a young man, Joash decided to restore the Temple of the Lord. At first the priests were given the responsibility to take some of the money given to the Temple and put it toward the repairs. But many years went by and the work had hardly begun.

With advice from Jehoiada, Joash had a chest placed near the entrance to the Temple. People dropped their offerings into this chest. When it was full, the money went directly to the contractors who had been hired to carry out the repairs and restoration. These men were diligent, and the work progressed steadily. They restored the Temple according to the original design and gave back the leftover money.

After the death of Jehoiada, Joash came under the influence of some powerful and unscrupulous men. They turned the people of Judah away from the Lord to worship idols.

When Hazael king of Aram attacked Jerusalem, Joash gathered up many valuable, sacred objects from the Temple as well as a large quantity of gold. He sent it all to Hazael, who then broke off his attack and went home.

Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, delivered the Lord's message, "Because you have disobeyed the Lord, you will not prosper. Because you have deserted the Lord, the Lord has deserted you."

The king's new circle of advisors recommended he kill Zechariah. Joash issued the order to have his mentor's son executed by stoning.

Ultimately Joash came to an ignoble end as his own military officers assassinated him.