**“Cleaning House: Joash”**

#

2 Chronicles 24:1-4, 17-25

 Lenten Midweek 4

**1**

We sometimes say with tongue in cheek “God works in mysterious ways”, but that was **most certainly true** in the boy-king Joash of the royal line of Judah (and lineage to Jesus). Throughout the tangled history of **Israel** sometimes quite-seriously **influencing Judah’s kings and kingdom**, God worked, **here**, in a very mysterious way, to **carry through His will**. The account of Joash is a critical part of the much-bigger story of God’s saving promise of Genesis 3. To make that happen, young infant Joash had to survive the massacre of an entire family … a plot wicked and successful for everyone but him that would have stopped the Davidic line and throne / Jesus’ line brought to extinction.

We, maybe, all have a relative or two with a reputation better locked in a closet. Joash had a long line of notoriously wicked people producing him. Intermarriage between Israelite and Judean royalty added a mess twisted as **bad** (the branches of **[Joash’s family tree](https://www.compellingtruth.org/king-Joash.html)**[)](https://www.compellingtruth.org/king-Joash.html)**[.](https://www.compellingtruth.org/king-Joash.html)**

Mostly, he had a **murderous grandmother**. Athaliah was the daughter of the infamous Israelite pair, King Ahab and Jezebel (and I know you’ve heard of those names). Athaliah married King Joram (the son of Judah’s King Jehoshaphat), and this union made for an ugly linkage from the bad northern kingdom down to the a little bit better southern one. So Joram “**did evil in the sight of the Lord**” as Scripture defines him. When he died, [**Scripture**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/) says, it was “to no one’s sorrow”.

And after that king’s death, their son Ahaziah became Judah’s king, but his **pagan mother** Athaliah remained his evil adviser. Then **badly influenced Ahaziah** also died after a short reign, leaving no one in the immediate royal family left to take the throne. So, the Queen Mother decided to **get rid of everyone in the royal line and take the crown herself** …

… except she **missed one in her slaughter**. ….

Many years before, God made a [covenant](https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/covenant/) with David, that **“**Your house and your kingdom shall be **made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever**” …

… so Athaliah’s killing spree missed one. The young Joash was **sustained** as **the only living descendant of David**. …. **How?**

**Although the house of David stood almost destroyed, God never forgot His promise “in the beginning (Genesis 3)” and its extension through David. God’s Son (Jesus) would come and usher in (earn by His own divine sacrifice) an eternal kingdom (His and the Heavenly Father’s) … and that would happen through David’s kingly lineage.**

While the power-seeking Athaliah was in the act of killing all of her own other grandsons, Athaziah’s half-sister Jehosheba stole-away the, then orphaned Joash, hiding him with his nurse in a bedroom. Risking her own life in this (with all others connected with this), she **did it** as **how** God worked in mysterious ways here to **preserve David’s throne, and line and promised Deliverance**.

Jehosheba’s husband was Jehoida, the High-Priest, so, **together, they hid the child and his nurse** for **six years in the temple**. During those years, they **waited and planned the boy’s coronation when it would become safe**.

When the **right time came (Joash’s seventh year)**, Jehoida initiated a well-prepared coup, gaining captains and their soldiers, guards, and runners to provide security for what was planned. The priest gave the all the soldiers the spears and shields that had belonged to David and they formed a ring around the young Joash and **put, then, the royal crown on him**. They gave him the copy of the law that was to **remain a guide for him as the ruler** … and they clapped their hands shouting, “**Long live the king!**”

When Athaliah heard the noise and saw the young king crowned and standing by a pillar in the temple, she cried: “Treason!” and officers of the army took her away from there and **killed her**. And the people **rejoiced to have their legitimate king assume the throne**.

For as long as Jehoiada the priest lived, he continued instructing and mentoring Joash in a faithful manner to God. And **as the boy-king grew under Jehoiada’s tutelage, he did what was right**:

During the reign of his grandmother, temple items were plundered for Baal worship, and lack of maintenance caused the temple to fall into disrepair. So Joash **established a voluntary donation system, and it provided abundantly (above and beyond tithing) for the necessary restoration** **he knew must be done**. His single greatest achievement as [king](https://www.biblestudytools.com/encyclopedias/isbe/jehoash-joash.html) of Judah was to **restore and repair the temple**. And that was **a task pleasing to God which pointed to a Descendant**.

But Jehoida the priest died when Joash was 130. And after his death, **other influences in Judah** convinced the king to **return to the worship of idols**. Even though God sent prophets to try to pull Joash back from sliding into the same sins that his forefathers committed, **he did slide**. Jehoida’s son, **Zechariah**, was one that came before the king and confronted him about his actions: “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the Lord so that you cannot prosper? **Because you have forsaken the Lord, He has forsaken you**’” …

… which didn’t sit well with Joash. At his command, **Zechariah was sacrificed (stoned to death right in the midst of the temple). “Joash the king did not remember the kindness and tutelage of Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, and killed his son. As Zechariah died, his prophetic words were ‘May the Lord see and avenge!’”**.

And Got **did see** **and avenge**. God’s path and will would be done inspite of Joash’s fall. **Leaving God behind** eventually **brought him judgment**, and the army of the Syrians left him severely injured in a battle and (because he’d had [Zechariah put to death](https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/biblepathways/bible-pathways-05-or-05-or-2002-1133412.html)) **his own servants conspired against him**. While he lay on his bed wounded, **they** **killed King Joash** … after he’d ruled God’s nation for 40 years.

**2**

Solomon’s was a beautiful **building**, yet apart from the **steadfast faith of worship to God within it**, it was just a **nice-looking building, nothing more**. People take pride in buildings, yet (during Holy Week), Jesus was shown deploring what the temple had been let to become at that time. While disciples commented on Herod’s rebuilt masterpiece, He wanted it **cleansed and cleared**. Joash had cleansed the temple but ended up bloodying it, killing God’s voice there in that place. People can build impressive **buildings**, yet need a better king than Joash to ultimately do what God wants done in restoring **His idea of** **temple**. For **that**, there’d need to be a Saving Messiah who’d **cleanse people from their sins** (those not recognizing and upholding God’s temple). We need not a building, but **the Christ** **… Joash’s Son**.

**3**

As a baby, Jesus got presented / delivered to the temple. He was then also shown there at 12. **He knew it as His Heavenly Father’s house** (or how it **should be**) and for “**zeal for it** He’d cleanse it” later … “zeal for that **consuming Him**”.

But temple buildings weren’t the **end product**. Solomon’s gloriously-built temple that Joash spent lots of time and money restoring: **it** would get decimated. Later, it’d have to be (and got) rebuilt, then, again, destroyed. Kings built and rebuilt impressive temple **buildings**, but other kings of this world would bring them to the ground. Most building and even rebuilt … and destroying … did all they did mostly absent the God who promised to dwell there in spite of their sins (which is gracious) …

… and the whole world needs a better king than, even, a couple of the better of them (Solomon or Joash). The **king needed** would be the One to restore a **temple presence that’d never come to disrepair nor fall to human nor demonic hands**. The temple that’s the body of the Savior, Jesus, would **BE THAT CONSTRUCT**. Immanuel (Solomon and Joash’s descendant / Son and God the Father’s) would be the temple not made with hands and forever standing.

**4**

John the Baptist witnessed the anointing of it (Him) the temple of the body of Jesus where the Holy Spirit remained at the Jordan River. Just as the glory of God’s face filled tabernacle and temple, **Jesus was shown as the temple that the others had only suggested**.

The King of kings provides a **living temple** though **momentarily LET TO BE DESTROYED ONE LAST TIME**. The **temple in Him got raised (resurrected) immediately** and to **eternal dominion** **and stature**. He’d never be destroyed or dirtied or desecrated again (seated at the right hand of the Father, reigning forever). God restored (and filled with Himself forevermore) the **eternal and real temple: Joash’s Son (the Christ)** …

**5**

… and **true worship** happens (and forever will) at the **temple of God in Christ Jesus’ body**. **THERE** is where God dwells (the **fulness of the Godhead** **bodily**). **THERE** is the place where the phrase “**in Christ**” makes the location of our attendance guaranteed to be **with and in God** …

… which I say as I end this remembrance “**in Jesus’ name**. Amen.”