

Burning Bush Blogs Dig Deeper: What happened to the boy king Joash?

This **Dig Deeper** prompt can be found in the post: [The Meanest Women of the Bible – Marriage, Murder, Mayhem:](#)

The evil queen has been deposed. The boy king Joash is installed, with the good high priest Jehoiada in place as his mentor. Speculation – do you think Joash will turn out to be one of Judah’s faithful kings?

- **Skim over II Chronicles 24:1-16. How does it look so far for the young king? Do verses 15-16 worry you?**
- **As a group, read II Chronicles 24:17-27. Pay close attention to verse 22.**
- **List Joash’s failings. What happened? What caused this change in Joash?**

II Chronicles 24:1-16 – The Good

- After the demise of the evil Athaliah, the Baals were removed from the temple, and it was repaired.
- The king and Jehoiada oversaw the rebuild and paid the workers a fair wage.
- As long as Jehoiada lived, the sacrifices continued.
- Then, in verses 15-16, Jehoiada died. Joash’s spiritual mentor. Will the influence of Jehoiada live on?

II Chronicles 24:17-27 – List of Joash’s Failings

- The officials of Judah paid homage to Joash, and he listened to them.
- They abandoned the temple.
- They worshipped Asherah poles and idols.
- They refused to listen to God’s prophets.
- They refused to listen to Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada.
- Joash ordered Zechariah to be stoned to death. How could his heart have turned so cold? *Jehoiada’s son?*

What happened? What caused this change in Joash?

God’s judgment fell upon Joash and Judah. A small Syrian army plundered Jerusalem and sent the spoils back to Damascus. They wounded Joash, and he was later killed in bed by his own servants, in retribution for Zechariah.

What caused the demise of Joash?

- Rather than leading, he allowed himself to be led.
- Joash felt free to do as he pleased for the first time in his life. No longer did he need to show allegiance to the man who had made him king. Apparently, the lessons Jehoiada had taught never truly sunk in.
- He listened to the flattery of those who were happy that Jehoiada had left the scene.
- These evil men appealed to his pride, as Satan so often does to us. Hubris hardened him toward the Lord.
- When confronted by Zechariah, was it a challenge to his power? The suddenly power-hungry Joash refused to stand for it, especially now that these others were fawning over him.

Author Reflections

I find this story depressing. Just when you think Judah is making a turn for the better, one leader dies, and it turns out the king was never truly committed to the faith. Joash’s story is emblematic of the history of the children of Israel. But I need to remind myself that I’m just as needy of a savior as Joash. The story is emblematic of all of us.