

2 Kings 11-12

Ch 10 is basically a written record of a bloodbath in Israel as Jehu complies (in part) with the call of God upon his life in that he eradicates and utterly eliminates the house of Ahab and Jezebel from Israel. And when Ahab's son Joram, his grandson Ahaziah (king of Judah who just happened to be visiting Joram at the time) his wife Jezebel, his 70 sons in Samaria, and Ahaziah's 42 brothers/cousins are all dead, he then turns his attention to the worship of Baal, and exterminating that practice from Israel. So he has all Baal's worshippers come into the temple of Baal, (lies to the people says that he's going to serve Baal much as to where in comparison Ahab only served him a little) says that if anyone doesn't show up for his party who is a worshipper of Baal that they'll be killed. Once they all showed up he had them put on the vestments of worship so that they'd be easily identifiable (far side deer joke), Jehu has his 80 guys kill them all. So it's been total carnage in the last couple of ch's as the lineage of Ahab has come to an end. But God had said it was going to happen, and you can know even as we see there in vs 10 of ch 10 that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the Lord. If He says it, He'll do it.

Now the reason that though he'd done all that God had said to do in wiping out the house of Ahab I said that Jehu only followed God's call "in part" upon his life is because notice vs 29, now look at vs 31.

He seemed to be one of those guys who was willing to submit/comply to the call of God on his life as long as it served his personal interests, but once it got outside the parameters of personal benefit he wasn't interested any longer. Then of course we read how that in those days the Lord began to cut off parts of Israel, and how that God used Hazael, king of Syria to come in and begin to take territory from Israel. Which served to be the beginning of the end in that ultimately Israel will be carried away in totality into captivity by the enemy. You remember the moral there, if you don't follow the word and the will of God with your *whole heart* you'll *begin* to loose ground, and *continue* to loose ground, until ultimately you're taken captive by the enemy totally. We're to serve the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, anything less, we'll find ourselves leaning towards and falling into compromise.

But there's one other thing (that sort of goes along with this) that I wanted you to see, notice that in vs 33 (ch 10) we read that the territories that were conquered 1st were those who were *east* of the Jordan, Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh. Why do I point that out? Because originally it wasn't God's plan, or His perfect will for any of the tribes of Israel to dwell in the land east of the Jordan, they were all to cross through the Jordan and inhabit the land from the west side on. But these 3 tribes were content not entering in to the fullness of what God had for them, they kind of liked where they were at even though it fell just short of what God really wanted for them. Now in typology we realize that the Jordan River becomes a key in that it represents that crossover threshold for you and me. "What do you mean?" You might look at it like this, the life that was led on the east side of the Jordan represents *carnality* the life led on the west side of the Jordan represents *spirituality* or the life led in the Spirit.

Often times the Promised Land is looked at like Heaven, and the Jordan River represents the threshold, or crossover point of death. That's only ½ right, the Jordan represents death, that's for sure, but not to your body physically, but rather the crucifying of your flesh principally and practically.

The Promised Land is not a "type" of Heaven, how can I know that? Because when you get to Heaven all your struggles will be over, but in the Promised Land they still had plenty of struggles, warfare, and all the rest. But as to where the unbelieving generation fell dead in the wilderness to the east, as they crossed over the Jordan by faith, looked *to* God and trusted *in* God, He would give them victory over their enemies in the Promised Land. (They would conquer Canaan by faith). And what I want you to see here is that when the enemy came upon them, who were the 1st one's to fall prey? The one's who settled for less than what God had for them, the ones content not entering in to the fullness of God's provision for them.

How many believers today content with *salvation*, aren't really mindful of *sanctification*, don't really press on regarding all that God has for them, they lead their lives for the most part in a carnal mess rather than simply crossing over, crucifying the flesh (by faith) and walking in the fullness of the life led in the Spirit? Sure there's still struggles in the life of the Spirit, but as the bible says, "*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*" Rom 8:37 Do yourself a favor, don't content yourself with less than what God has for you, enter in to the fullness of the life led in the Spirit, will it be easy? Probably not, there are giants in the Land, but Greater is He who is in you than he that is of the world, and you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. But anything less than that, mark my words when the enemy begins to prey, goes on the prowl, he's looking for those who've settled for less, who aren't suited up in the full armor of God, who aren't leading their lives on the west side of the Jordan, but are content there on the east side, having not entered in to God's fullness for them. Again that's not to say he won't harass us all, but he's always on the lookout for weak sheep.

Ch 11 takes us back 28 years, ch 10 tells us that Jehu reigned for 28yrs before he died, but Ch 11 takes us back to the beginning of Jehu's reign in Israel to catch us up to speed with what happened in Judah after Ahaziah and his brothers were all killed.

Vs1-3

Now Athaliah was not only Ahaziah's mom, but she was Jezebel's daughter, and if she's not the spitting image of her mother (characteristically speaking) than I don't know who is. Did you catch what happened there in vs 1? When she realized that her son was dead, rather than allowing one of the grandsons to ascend to the throne, she had them all killed that she might maintain her status as queen mother! She killed all her grandsons! She tried to utterly remove all the royal heirs, or to understand that another way, she sought to remove the line of David from the earth. Which it doesn't take a bible scholar to see the satanic overtones all over that, why? Because God had promised David that the Messiah would come through him, Athaliah isn't a descendant of David, and she tries to wipe out all of them who are.

And throughout the scriptures we see Satan seeking to put a stop to the Messiah's coming in this kind of means in more than one place, remember Haman in the book of Esther? He tried to have the Jews exterminated, of course we're reminded of the fact that even at the time of Christ's birth how that Herod sought to have all the male children 2yrs old and younger (who were in Bethlehem) killed. And over and over again Satan sought to do what he could do to keep the Christ from coming to the earth, of course he failed (praise God), but this is basically what we have here, she sought to eliminate the house of David, all the royal heirs.

She wanted to keep the queen mother status for herself. But we notice in vs 2 that Jehosheba, who was Ahaziah's sister (apparently a ½ sister through a different mom) took Joash (one of Ahaziah's sons) and stole him away from those who were being murdered and hid him away in the Temple for 6 yrs.

Now there's a little info left out here that we get in 2nd Chron about Jehosheba, 2nd Chron 22 tells us that she is actually Jehoiada (the high priest's) wife. So being royalty she had access to the palace and being the high priest's wife she was able to take him (being 1 yr old) to the Temple where he was hidden for 6 yrs. He sort of got some "Samuel type" roots in him in that he was hidden away in the house of the Lord for years of his young life. Of course Athaliah would never look for him there because she worshipped Baal, and we don't get a whole lot of insight from this ch but she also sought to establish the worship of Baal in Judah, just like Jezebel did in Israel. She's persuaded her husband away from the ways/word of God, and apparently her son as well. So again ladies be aware of your influence on your home. Obviously ultimately God is going to hold the husband accountable for that, but you can definitely be either a help or a hindrance depending on which way you wield your influence. (So she rules for 6 yrs)

Vs4

In other words, it wasn't until allegiance was sworn *to him* that the king's son was revealed *to them*. And I think therein lies a principle, often times people want revelation and insight *of* the Son, with out any form of commitment or allegiance *to* the Son, it doesn't work that way. These guys made a commitment, then they were given a revelation, they weren't given a revelation and then allowed the opportunity to commit or not. They dedicated themselves in advance, by faith, they didn't know exactly what Jehoiada was going to show them or tell them. They knew that he had something that he wanted to reveal to them, but it wasn't until a commitment was made, we want the revelation, *then* maybe we'll commit. But that's the reverse order, revelation *of* the Son comes after commitment is made *to* the Son.

Now when it speaks here of making a covenant the idea is that at one time these guys were in support of Athaliah (how else could she carry out her mission of genocide/infanticide and everything else as she was seeking to establish herself on the throne?) But now they're ready to abandon her and give allegiance to another, namely Joash. The bible says, "*When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*" Prov 29:2 These guys were just ready to be done with her, she'd worn out her welcome.

Vs5-10

You see how were they to pull this off, with out drawing undo attention to themselves as they were getting set up? It wasn't common to see these guys coming in and out of the temple area with weapons and shields, all suited for battle. So Jehoiada gives to them the shields and spears that David had acquired from *his* past victories which he'd dedicated to the Lord. And I just like that picture, they were taking from the victories of David in the *past*, utilizing the testimony of God's faithfulness to him as represented in the weaponry to gain victory for them in the *present*. Dedicate those areas in your life in which God has given you victory over to the house of the Lord. When we come together the 1st Wednesday evening of the month to pray/seek the Lord, spend time waiting *upon* Him, in worship *of* Him, those are times that you can be sharing the spoils of victory, dedicating the fruit of His faithfulness to His house, the body here. And I'll tell you what happens, people hear of what God has done *for* you, His faithfulness *to* you, and then years later when they're in a similar situation, they'll take that which you've dedicated to the Lord, placed in the *house* of the Lord off the shelf and use it, be equipped *by* it for victory in their own life. If David hadn't given the fruit of his victory over to the house of the Lord, but just kept for himself to revel in, in his own glory between just him and the Lord, then these guys would've been ill equipped right now. But because he was self-less, gave of the fruit of God's faithfulness to him, (in how He was faithful to deliver him,) over to the house of the Lord, generations later people are equipped still, to obtain victory.

Vs11-21

Now there are a few things that we want to look at here sort of quick like. 1st of all there's a picture here that's taking place that has some striking similarities to eschatology in general. What I mean by that is that right now our "King" is away, out of sight physically, not really ruling and reigning this earth practically. Obviously we know that ultimately He's in control so in that sense the "type" falls short. But the bible teaches us that Satan is the ruler of this world, right now we're under the reign of a wicked tyrant as far as this world is concerned. But one day (And I would say soon) the rightful King will be brought out, and we'll rejoice, and the wicked ruler of this world will be cast out, then the people of the earth will enjoy peace, or as it says here, "the city was quiet."

In vs 17 we see the beginnings of a spiritual revival, an awakening taking place in Israel. Jehoiada makes a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people that they should be the Lord's people. And between the king and his people, meaning that they'll be loyal to him, and he'll be loyal to the Lord, to serve God and lead the nations in the ways *of* God.

And we want to see the fact that their repentance as a nation and as individuals was demonstrated in the practical out cropping of their lives. What I mean by that is that they dedicated themselves to the Lord, and they demonstrated their repentance in vs 18 when they destroyed the *temple* of Baal and killed the *priest* of Baal. The point being that there was no room in the city of God, (or for you and me,) the heart of the believer for anything that would compete for complete allegiance to the Lord.

Whenever revival comes to our hearts, whatever represents competition *with* God, or would make for a hindrance *for* God, as it would pertain to Him having the fullness of His way *towards* us, *in* us, or *out through* us has to go. You've seen those old western type films when one guy says to the other, "There ain't room in this town for the both of us!" And that's the way God feels about your heart, there just isn't room for Him and anything else in there, He wants it all, your whole heart. And when He has it, there'll be peace in the city once again.

Ch12

Vs1-3

I'd like to focus here for just a minute on vs 2. Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord *all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.* 1st of all being 7 when he took the throne, he was obviously a puppet kinda king for a while and this alludes to the fact that Jehoiada was the primary influence he had, he was like a father to him, had raised him for as long as he could remember. But when it says, "all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him." That's exactly what it means, when Jehoiada dies, Joash goes down hill pretty fast. Now there's a couple of different ways to see this, #1 from the parental point of view. Its one thing to teach your kids to follow orders, but its another thing altogether to teach them how to live and make the right decisions, and allow them to suffer the ramifications of the wrong ones on their own. As long as Jehoiada was there to tell Joash what to do, things went well, but when Jehoiada was removed from the picture, Joash didn't have a clue how to do anything on his own, his life just fell apart. He was a "yes" man to his father figure, but he never established roots of his own. So when dad dies (kind of a thing) he's up the creek with out a paddle.

Another way to see this is how dangerous it is to have our focus on an individual rather than the Lord. Or to hinge my relationship with the Lord vicariously upon another person, because then when that person is gone, I'm not going to have the same fortitude or stick-to-itiveness that I had when they were here. It's as though Joash's relationship with the Lord was predicated upon Jehoiada. As long as he was in the picture, all was well, but when he was removed the foundation under Joash crumbled. That's why Paul was all the time trying to get people's focus off of him and on to Christ, because Paul can't sustain you. I'll let you down, other people will come and go, and if you decide to follow Christ with your buddy, or with your spouse, or your folks, or whatever, but never take the time to establish yourself in Christ apart from them, than as soon as they're gone, or removed perhaps from the equation, or maybe they stumble and fall away, then you'll decide it isn't worth it anymore for *you* to follow Christ either. That's why it's called a *personal* relationship. You've got to purpose in your heart that you're going to follow Christ regardless of what your spouse, your best friend, or anyone else does. Joash didn't really seem to do that, he followed the Lord as long as Jehoiada was around, but when he was gone, he just headed down the slippery slopes of spiritual decay. So make the decision in your own heart that come what may, you're going to follow Christ and stay committed *to* Christ regardless of what anyone else does, or who happens to come into or out of your life over the years.

Vs4-5

Since the worship of Baal had been infused into the nation, the temple had fallen into disrepair. It was already over 100 yrs old, it had been attacked, neglected, 2nd Chron tells us that Athaliah allowed her sons to break into the temple and take of the items of the temple to serve in the temple of Baal. So Joash says, “Hey take the money that comes in from the people and fix it back up.” Now there were 3 basic ways that money would be given to, or come into the temple, #1 The census money, #2 The assessment money, and #3 The money that a man would simply purpose on his heart to bring into the house of the Lord.

The *census* money was the money that every adult male 20yrs of age and older would pay the temple at each census and the rate was ½ a shekel.

The *assessment* money dealt with the redemption price of the 1st born, (you can read Num 18- Lev 27 for more info on that). You see there were certain aspects of giving that were *required* of the Lord, the tithe, the census, the assessment and though the tithe is recorded in the law, it actually predates the law going back even to Ab who gave a tithe of all that he had to Melchizedek, so the tithe is seen before the law. It’s spoken of by Christ when He said, “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*” Matt 23:23 So the tithe (which means 10th) is seen before the Law, during the law, its endorsed by Christ, its simply a biblical premise. In the book of Malachi God accuses His people of robbing Him, by not giving the tithe that *belongs* to Him over to Him. But above and beyond the tithe there’s something else.

All the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the Lord. The freewill offering, and this is that which the Lord loves so much, Paul said, “*So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*” 2 Cor 9:7 God just loves it when we give to Him, not because we’re *required* to, but just because we *desire* to, out of the overflow of our love for Him. Joash says, “Take of these things and use them to repair the house of the Lord.” Of course this is really relevant to us, because right now we’re trying to do just that, take of that which is entrusted to us here and amongst everything else, (missions, ministries, bills etc) we want to see our building project completed. So as the Lord provides and the weather allows we’re doing just that. Please keep it in your prayers.

Vs6-8

They didn’t manage the funds wisely, nor were they qualified to do the work. So they said, “We won’t be responsible for the funds anymore, nor will we try to do it ourselves.” They were going to begin to delegate the work, allow those who were able to do the work to be involved with the work. That’s wisdom, none of us can do it all ourselves, we allow those who are gifted in the area of need, to do what needs to be done, so that it might get done and be efficient.

Vs9-16

So the workers themselves were better money managers and more faithful in that regard than were the priests. And we notice that they cut back on some things, they didn't make any silver sprinkling bowls, trumpets, trimmers, articles of gold or things like that while the building project was taking place. These are just some real practical points, if things are tight, and you need to do some cutting back to see the work propelled, than do it, when everything is done, the resources can be reverted back, but for now do what you need to do to get the job done. And if that means things get a little tight here and there, than so be it.

Vs17-18

See, all those years that the priests spent trying to refurbish the items of the temple rather than the temple itself were just a waste. Joash just took them and gave them to Hazael to pay him off so that he wouldn't attack Judah. Huge blunder by the way, but by now Jehoiada had died, which means Joash was out of fellowship, he had turned his back on the things of God and so he sold out.

Vs19-21

Lets turn quickly to 2nd Chronicles 24: and you'll glean just a few more details about the end of Joash.

Vs15-25

Vs22

How do you like that, he killed the son of the man who took him in as his own and raised him, guided him and was good to him all his life.

So Joash was one who began well, but didn't finish well, strayed from fellowship, didn't have a solid foundation and ultimately forsook the ways of the Lord. In the big picture he was a good king for Judah, but towards the end he just seemed to fall apart. God help us to endure, and be faithful to Him till the end

Prayer points: That's our prayer, Lord that You would strengthen us with all might in the inner man, that we might endure, hearing the words "Well done, good and faithful servant." Lord that our relationship with you wouldn't be predicated on anyone else, that we'd be careful to maintain godly fellowship, rather than listening to bad company that would corrupt the morals you've instilled in us. Help us Lord to be cheerful, willing givers from the heart, and be committed to You that we might glean the revelation, insight and understanding of You. Teach us to know Your ways, that we might know You.