

Episode: Kings and Prophets Series No. 14

Narrator: Jehoiada and King Joash

Primary Scriptures: 2 Kings 11-12, 2 Chronicles 13-24

Story Summary: The kingdom of Joash

Location: The Southern Kingdom

Time: 900-800 BC

Suggested Memory Scriptures: 2 Chronicles 15:2, 17; 16:9; 24:2, 20

This episode steps back to the Southern Kingdom, the Kingdom of Judah, after the death of its first king, Rehoboam. All of the kings of the Southern Kingdom were descendants of King David.

Abijah was the king after Rehoboam, and was Rehoboam's son. He waged war against the Northern Kingdom and regained a little territory from them. He was king for three years.

Asa was the king after Abijah, and was Abijah's son. Asa was one of the good kings who eliminated many of the idols and places of worship built in the time of Solomon. Unfortunately, in the last year of his reign, the Northern Kingdom threatened to overtake the Southern Kingdom. Asa sent all of the gold and silver in the Temple to the kingdom of Aram seeking their support, but since Asa relied on Aram instead of God, he was punished.

Jehoshaphat was the king after Asa, and was Asa's son. He began well, and God rewarded him as king. However, as his kingdom prospered, he chose to align himself with the Northern Kingdom in battle. Even so, he was a good king who destroyed idols and idol worship.

Jehoram (or Joram) was the king after Jehoshaphat, and was the husband of Athaliah. Her parents were the evil Ahab and Jezebel, king and queen of the Northern Kingdom. He reigned eight years, and drove the kingdom right back into idol worship. The vassal kingdoms of Judah rebelled against him, and the Lord afflicted him with a painful, deadly disease. He ruled eight years.

Ahaziah was the son of Jehoram and Athaliah. He ruled only one year before God decreed that he should die, along with the other descendants of Ahab.

When Ahaziah died, the throne was seized by his mother, Athaliah, the only queen to occupy the throne of the Southern Kingdom. She tried to kill all of the descendants of Jehoram that could have been a threat to her, but she did not know one of them escaped. She was very wicked.

Joash was the son of Jehoram, but his mother was not Athaliah. He was hidden by the priest Jehoiada in the Temple, and was raised in secret there. Jehoiada later led a revolt against the evil Athaliah and had her killed. Joash came to the throne at age seven, and turned out to be a king faithful to God...at least while Jehoiada was alive!

Discussion Questions:

1. According to 2 Chronicles 13:1, Abijah became king of the Southern Kingdom while Jeroboam was still king of the Northern Kingdom. How did that affect Abijah's goals?

2. According to 2 Chronicles 13, the Southern Kingdom under Abijah relied on the Lord, and on the promise that David's house would rule forever. How did God reward that faithfulness?
3. Explain the message of 2 Chronicles 16:7-9 and how it might relate to your life or the actions of your church in today's times?
4. Discuss 2 Chronicles 16:12 and how it might guide you in your prayers about when people are ill.
5. Discuss the story of 2 Chronicles 18 and how it might guide you in choosing your friends and sources of wisdom. Does that fit with 2 Chronicles 19:2?
6. 2 Chronicles 20:1-29 is one of the most powerful stories in the Old Testament. Do you think God would still act in that powerful way again if his people followed him closely and relied on him? According to 20:22, when did God begin to act?
7. What does the story of King Joash tell about the importance of the ways we raise our children?

1. It drove Abijah to war against the Northern Kingdom to regain territory, regain honor, and to lead the people of the Northern Kingdom back to God. 2. God gave him victory over the Northern Kingdom and Jeroboam, and gave him a successful reign.

Application Questions:

1. 2 Chronicles 15:1-7 says that Azariah told King Asa that he should reform the country from worshipping idols, and that God would reward him if he did so. If someone was to come tell you a similar message, what parts of your life would need reforming? Would you be willing to listen to and heed that message? According to 2 Chronicles 16:10, was King Asa willing to listen when the message was not so positive?
2. What does 2 Chronicles 15:17 tell you about the conflict that sets up when you want to worship God but continue to follow certain ways of the world?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. 2 Chronicles 15:8 says that King Asa listened to good advice and took it. Do you tend to seek out advice or avoid listening to it? How has that worked out for you? Whose advice do you trust? Why? Are there others you should be asking for advice? Why or why not?
2. According to 2 Chronicles 17:3-6, why was the Lord with Jehoshaphat? According to 17:10, how did his actions affect the surrounding countries? Do you ever think how your being a Christian might affect those around you?
3. What might 2 Chronicles 19:2 mean in your life?