

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## 2 KINGS 11-14

An eight year-old once wrote this about his grandmother...  
"A grandma is a lady who has no children of her own, so she likes other people's boys and girls.

Grandmas don't have anything to do except be there. If they take us for walks, they slow down past pretty leaves and caterpillars. They never say 'Hurry up.'

Usually they are fat, but not too fat to tie shoes.

They wear glasses, and sometimes they can take their teeth out.

They can answer questions like why dogs hate cats and why God isn't married.

They don't talk like visitors do - which is hard to understand. When they read to us, they don't skip words or mind if it is the same story again.

Everybody should try to have a grandma, especially if you don't have a TV, because grandmas are the only grownups who always have time."

I don't know about you, but this is the picture I have of a grandma - a lovable lady who enjoys life, and imparts wisdom, and spends time with her grandkids.

But this is not the picture of a grandma we find in 2 Kings 11...

Imagine, a grandma mass murderer. She's mean, cutthroat, violence-prone, power-mongering old woman – with no loyalty even to her own family.

Her name is Athalia... and she learned from the best... The idolatrous King Ahab and the wicked, Queen Jezebel were her parents.

Athalia is living in the southern kingdom of Judah. She's the queen-mother. Her son, King Ahaziah, is killed by General Jehu as part of God's judgment on the house of Ahab. *How does Athalia respond to the death of her son?*

Verse 1 causes you to shudder. It hits you the way the news from Virginia Tech did two weeks ago when you heard of the mass shooting. It causes chill bumps...

**“When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs.”** *which included her own sons and grandsons.*

When Athaliah realizes her son, Ahaziah, is dead she makes herself Queen over Judah. And to solidify her reign she kills all of the heirs of Ahaziah.

She becomes the first, last, and only woman to sit on the throne in Israel. She was a usurper of power. Athaliah was rebel - a ruler God did not appoint.

One commentator says of Athaliah, **“No character in history, sacred or secular, stands out more hideous than her.”** She was *Hitler in a skirt*.

But in midst of the genocide **“Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed.”** One of the boys escapes.

Ahaziah's sister, Jehosheba, scoops up the baby boy, Joash, and hides him from grandma. The Jewish historian, Josephus, says she hid the baby and his nurse in a palace room where they stored spare furniture and mattresses.

**“So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.”** They tuck Joash away in the Temple.

And for the next six years while Athaliah rules Judah, Jehoiada the priest rears and trains Joash to be king. The Temple of Jehovah was a good hide-out – it was the one place the evil Athaliah would never visit... *And we all owe a debt of gratitude to a quick-thinking and daring young girl named Jehosheba...*

Understand, spiritually speaking this was an incredibly close call...

God had promised that a son of David would always sit on the throne of Israel. The ultimate fulfillment of that promise was Jesus. The Messiah was to be born of the lineage of David. Here, Athaliah tries to cut off all her Davidic competition.

She comes within an eyelash – one baby boy - of success. If all the heirs of Ahaziah and David had been exterminated, Messiah could never have been born.

Satan came within seconds of cutting off the Messianic line, and ending any possibility of our salvation. Hey, when we get to heaven we should all look up Jehosheba and say thanks. Literally, we owe this young girl our salvation!

Verse 4 tells us, “In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds - of the bodyguards and the escorts - and brought them into the house of the LORD to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son.”

Under heavy guard, the old priest revealed the true heir to David’s throne. Can you imagine the relief – the surge of hope? God’s promises had not failed.

And there’s a spiritual analogy here...

Today, the true King of the Earth is again hidden in the Temple. Jesus is in the heavenly Temple, while Satan, the usurper throws his weight around on earth.

But at the end of a 7 year period – *like we have here* – Jesus will be revealed.

The Bible calls the last seven years of the present age, “[The Great Tribulation](#).” At its close, Jesus will appear as King of kings and Lord of lords. He’ll depose the usurper, the Antichrist, and retake the throne that rightfully belongs to Him.

*Imagine the surge of hope that will be felt in that day!*

In verse 5 the priest organizes his troops. “Then he commanded them, saying, “This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king's house, (Notice, he doesn’t acknowledge there is a queen in Judah. The palace is the king’s house. It belongs to Joash.)

One-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the escorts. You shall keep the watch of the

house, lest it be broken down.

The two contingents of you who go off duty on the Sabbath shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD for the king. But you shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in." They can take no chances. This is a level red security alert.

"So the captains of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each of them took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest." Jehoiada chose the Sabbath to crown the king – around the time of the changing of the guard. Two battalions of guards would be on hand. This way Jehoiada could mount extra security without attracting a lot of attention.

"And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of the LORD.

Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, by the altar and the house. And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony... The king's right to rule was based on the Law of God. Thus, the king of Israel was to have a *crown* and a *copy* - his own copy of the Scriptures.

Deuteronomy 17:18 commanded the king to pen a copy of the Law.

Don't you wish today's politicians understood that the right to rule over human affairs is a sacred trust given by God – and His Law supersedes our judgments.

So here's the boy king. He's 7 years old. He's wearing a crown and holding the Bible. We're told, **“they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, “Long live the king!”** Judah erupted in a thunderous celebration!

**“Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets.**

**So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, “Treason! Treason!”**

**And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, “Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her.” For the priest had said, “Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD.”** Don't turn the Temple of God into a place of execution.

**“So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and there she was killed.”** She was killed while resisting arrest.

**Verse 17 “Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the**

LORD's people, and also between the king and the people. And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.”

Remember, Athaliah was *the Jezebel of Judah*.

Just as Jezebel brought Baal worship to the northern kingdom of Israel, her daughter brought the same abominable practices to the southern kingdom.

Jehoiada cleans house in Jerusalem. He wipes out any traces of Baal.

“And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.

Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's house.

Then he sat on the throne of the kings. So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house.” The Davidic heir – the rightful king of Judah - is back on the throne.

Verse 21, “Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.” And legend says his first royal decree was... *Hear ye, Hear ye, PS2s for everyone!*

Chapter 12, “In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned 40 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.”

Earlier we called the boy “Joash.” Here he’s “Jehoash.”



Evidently, Joash is the shortened version of Jehoash. My wife always corrects me for shortening names.

Introduce yourself as Mitchell, and it won't be long before I call you Mitch. I call Deborahs, Deb – Michaels, Mike. She says it's rude to shorten someone's name.

All I can say is here's evidence to the contrary... Apparently, God had no problem calling Jehoash... Joash. I probably would've just called him "Ash".

Joash reigned 40 years in Judah, and for the most part he was a good king.

What's fascinating is that he was 7 years old when he took the throne.

Imagine a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader as President of the United States! His first decision would be to halt all federal funding to school lunchrooms that didn't serve ice cream as the main course. Air Force One would be flying to Disney World once a week.

Though, Jehoash was king, Jehoiada the priest, called the shots in the early years of his reign. Verse 2, "**Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.**" This turns out to be a sad summary of Joash's life – *he followed God only as long as he followed Jehoiada.*

2 Chronicles 24 tells us after Jehoiada died Joash turned to idols. Tragically, as soon as Jehoiada *passes away*, Joash *walks away* from the Lord.

And this is true of many believers today – **they'll walk in the Spirit as long as they're in the shadow of a man. A godly**



*influence* is good, but at some point it needs to become a *personal resolve*. Too many Christians are chameleons. They change to the color of their surroundings. Call it “[the Joash rash](#)”.

I hope you’re cultivating the strength to go it alone. You can ride the coat-tails of a friend’s faith for only so long. We all need to learn to stand on our own.

Verse 3 tells us, “**But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.**” Jehoash failed to obey God and centralize worship in Judah. God wanted all Israel to worship at the Temple.

This was God’s way of maintaining orthodoxy. If people were allowed to build their own high place, or altar, and worship individually deviations would creep in.

Idolatry would find a foothold... Convenience, not Scripture, would become the standard. In the end, it was the failure to destroy the high places that did in Judah.

I think we too can be guilty of building [a low down high place](#).

A high place today might be compared to an area in our lives where we try to strike a compromise between our convenience, and the demands of discipleship.

Maybe it’s music. We insist on listening to secular stuff, when God is calling us to lay it down. Maybe it’s finances. God wants us to give, but we keep holding back. Maybe it’s relationships. God wants us to adopt a Christian perspective to our dating, but we keep doing things our way. Guys, destroy the high places.

If you tolerate them, eventually they'll lead to your downfall.  
*Just ask Judah...*

When Jehoash took the throne it had been 135 years since Solomon built the Temple. It was due a face lift. In verse 4 he sets out to make needed repairs.

Understand repairs to an existing structure always cost more than the initial construction. We just paid \$40,000 to renovate four restrooms. It's spendy...

Joash knows the Temple face lift will be costly, so he does some budgetary management. "Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD - each man's census money, each man's assessment money - and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found." Joash allocates funds, but the work doesn't get done...

"Now it was so, by the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple." So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple." Evidently, they were hoarding funds until they had enough to finish... Joash wanted to pay as they built.

"And the priests agreed that they would neither receive any more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the

**temple.”** In other words, not use future funds for repairs, until the money they’d already accumulated was depleted.

Jehoash also changes collection procedures. Rather than using Temple taxes, they employ a voluntary system of giving. Verse 9, **“Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD.”** It was an offering box.

Jehoash adopts the CCSM method of collections. Just drop it in the box.

**“So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.”** Notice here, two men always counted the money. No one ever counted it alone. There was accountability.

**“Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD, and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple.”** Notice, the labor wasn’t donated. Often when you use free labor you get what you pay for... This was a professional construction crew that got paid.

“However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD. But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it.”

Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully.” As we saw earlier the Jews employed systems of accountability, but no system is foolproof.

Given enough time and opportunity unscrupulous people will beat any system. That’s why the best safeguard is not a system, but men of integrity and honesty.

Verse 16 “The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests.”

“Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath (an old Philistine city, west of Jerusalem), and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria.

Then he went away from Jerusalem.” This was a tragedy of unbelief.

Jehoash puts so much great effort into Temple repairs - then he depletes the Temple of its treasures. When the king of Syria threatens to attack – rather than trust the Lord, Joash

uses Temple treasures to pay a ransom. He refurbishes the temple, only to undermine the project because he doesn't fortify his faith.

Guys, we are the New Testament Temple.

Here's a good quote, "My body is a temple... with ample parking in the rear." I don't know about your parking, but individually and together we're God's Temple in the world today. And we need to constantly do those things that build up our faith. Read the Word, pray, fellowship, worship, serve, and share our faith...

*So what if a church repairs a building, if it ignores a dilapidated faith!*

Verse 19 "Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?"

And his servants arose and made a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla." In the end, Joash was assassinated.

For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place."

Chapter 13, "In the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned 17 years." After two chapters in Judah, the author shifts to the northern kingdom of Israel. Jehu is succeeded by his son, Jehoahaz. He reigns from Samaria.

This was the beginning of God's promises to Jehu. In 2 Kings 10:30 God had promised that he would have a son to reign in his place to the fourth generation.

But Jehoahaz “did evil in the sight of the LORD, and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. He did not depart from them.” Of the 19 kings in Israel a similar statement was made about each one.

“Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Israel, and He delivered them into the hand of Hazael king of Syria, and into the hand of Ben-Hadad the son of Hazael, all their days.” They were conquered by the Syrians to the north.

“So Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him; for He saw the oppression of Israel, because the king of Syria oppressed them.”

Jehoahaz was like so many people – the only time he sought the Lord was when he was in trouble. When the Syrians came against him, we're told in verse 4, “Jehoahaz pleaded with the LORD, and the LORD listened to him.” God raised up a deliverer, but as soon as the threat passed Israel went right back to her idols.

“Then the LORD gave Israel a deliverer, so that they escaped from under the hand of the Syrians; and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents as before.” An unnamed deliverer led Israel in revolt against Syria. For some reason God didn't see fit to give us his name – but be certain, he has not been forgotten in heaven.

Here's a quiz... “Who can recount the name of the Good



Samaritan?” The answer, *“No one, because the Scripture doesn’t mention his name.”*

Hey, not everyone who serves the Lord and makes a vital contribution to God’s kingdom gets mentioned in the credits at the end of the movie... CCSM is the classic example. Our unnamed servants are the backbone of our church.

It reminds me of the private at the military armory. One day he gets a call from a man who wants a count of the equipment on hand.

The private tells us, *“We’ve got 3 jeeps, 4 tanks, 500 rifles, and a ton of ammo... And we’ve got two Cadillacs for the fat generals.”*

There’s a long silence – then the voice says, *“Private, do you know who I am?”* “No” *“I’m General Westin.”* The private says, *“General, do you know who I am?”*

General Westin says, *“No.”* The private replies, *“See you later, fatty.”* The moral of the story... I guess there are some advantages in being the unnamed servant.

*“Nevertheless they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin, but walked in them; and the wooden image also remained in Samaria. For He left of the army of Jehoahaz only 50 horsemen, 10 chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers; for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing.”* Despite God’s deliverance Israel refused to repent.

Verse 8, *“Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz, all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Jehoahaz rested with his*



fathers, and they buried him in Samaria.

Then Joash his son reigned in his place.”

In the 37<sup>th</sup> year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz became king over Israel in Samaria, and reigned 16 years.” One of the problems you encounter when you read 2 Kings is the overlap of names.

There’s 2 Jehorams, 2 Joashes, 2 Jeroboams - different men, same names.

The Joash in chapters 11 and 12 is king of Judah - the boy king who’s hidden by the priest. The king in chapter 13 is Joash of Israel – son of Jehoahaz.

“And he did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, but walked in them.

Now the rest of the acts of Joash, all that he did, and his might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Joash rested with his fathers.

Then Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.” Jeroboam II as history knows him - gets named after the northern kingdom’s first king - and ends up ruling 41 years - longest of the kings of Israel.

But before we get to Jeroboam II, an event occurs in the reign of Joash...

Elisha contracts a fatal illness. Verse 14, **“Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die.”** We’re not given the prophet’s age at this point, but one commentator suggests 120 years old. Elisha had been a fixture in Israel for a very long time. He’d been a beacon of truth and righteousness in a rebellious land.

**“Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, “O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!”**

King Joash pays the sick prophet a visit. Evidently he expects Elisha to depart the earth like Elijah - in a fiery chariot. The king cries out, **“O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!”** But Elisha doesn’t escape death like his predecessor. It’s interesting, Elisha healed others, but when it came time for God to take him, his illness proved fatal. Not all God’s servants are healed in this life.

Elisha will die, but first God uses him to utter a deathbed prophecy...

**“And Elisha said to him, “Take a bow and some arrows.” So he took himself a bow and some arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, “Put your hand on the bow.” So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.**

**And he said, “Open the east window”; and he opened it.”** Syria was eastward.

**Then Elisha said, “Shoot”; and he shot.”** It was customary to shoot an arrow or throw a spear toward a country you planned to invade. **“And he said, “The arrow of the LORD's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you**

must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them." All this was assurance that *God would fight for Israel and would deliver Israel from the army of Syria.*

Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them.

And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it!

But now you will strike Syria only three times."

Joash hit the ground 3 times, and stopped. Elisha got angry. "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times." Apparently, Elisha could tell the king's lack of fervor in that moment was indicative of his overall lack of resolve.

He was willing to fight, and trust, and commit, and obey... only to a point.

This is our problem at times. We strike at sin once or twice, then quit.

We get sin on the ropes - then let it go. We need a killer instinct. If Joash had been truly desperate for victory he would've smacked the arrow until it broke.

Some of you may remember Bo Jackson. Bo played baseball for the Kansas City Royals – and when he happened

to strike out, he'd break his bat over his knee. I was always impressed with the strength it took to break a bat like that.

And Bo's actions were never taken as bad sportsmanship – but determination. It was just obvious, *Bo knows desire*. Apparently, this is what Joash lacked.

The king didn't realize that faith is persistent. It doesn't just try once, or twice, or three times - and gives up. Real faith keeps pounding until the bat breaks.

Verse 20 “Then Elisha died, and they buried him.” Notice the terseness of the statement. The implication is a *simple burial* rather than a *state funeral*.

When Elisha died he was not given a hero's burial. It was a no-frills funeral.

“And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year.

So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.”

Even after he was dead, Elisha's bones were still working miracles. Remember, Elisha had asked Elijah for a double portion of the Spirit. I think he got his request.

Verse 22 “And Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz.

But the LORD was gracious to them, had compassion on them, and regarded them, because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not yet destroy them

or cast them from His presence.

Now Hazael king of Syria died. Then Ben-Hadad his son reigned in his place.

And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz recaptured from the hand of Ben-Hadad, the son of Hazael, the cities which he had taken out of the hand of Jehoahaz his father by war. Three times Joash defeated him and recaptured the cities of Israel.”

His three victories fulfilled Elisha’s deathbed prophecy.

Chapter 14 shifts to Judah, and King Amaziah, successor of Joash.

“In the second year of Joash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel, Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, became king. He was 25 years old when he became king, and he reigned 29 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jehoaddan of Jerusalem. And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, yet not like his father David; he did everything as his father Joash had done.

However the high places were not taken away, and the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.” This was also his father’s downfall.

“Now it happened, as soon as the kingdom was established in his hand, that he executed his servants who had murdered his father the king.

But the children of the murderers he did not execute, according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, in which the LORD commanded, saying, "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; but a person shall be put to death for

his own sin."

The Scriptural reference is Deuteronomy 24:16.

Amaziah also "killed 10,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt (or around the Dead Sea), and took Sela by war, and called its name Joktheel to this day."

It's possible the city called "Sela" was the rock city of Petra.

According to 2 Chronicles 25 Amaziah's victories over Edom went to his head. His minor successes caused him to feel invincible. He wanted bigger fish to fry.

"Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, king of Israel, saying, "Come, let us face one another in battle." At the time Israel was the dominate power. Judah was no match to the armies of Israel.

"And Jehoash king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, "The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, 'Give your daughter to my son as wife'; and a wild beast that was in Lebanon passed by and trampled the thistle." Judah is a thistle – a bush. Israel is the cedar tree. Jehoash warns that Judah is about to be trampled by the northern kingdom.

Verse 10 "You have indeed defeated Edom, and your heart has lifted you up. Glory in that, and stay at home; for why should you meddle with trouble so that you fall - you and Judah with you?" But Amaziah would not heed."

Beware of pride – Amaziah thought that just because he won the Pee Wee championship he was ready to take on the Braves. He miscalculated...

“Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went out; so he and Amaziah king of Judah faced one another at Beth Shemesh, which belongs to Judah.

And Judah was defeated by Israel, and every man fled to his tent.

Then Jehoash king of Israel captured Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash, the son of Ahaziah, at Beth Shemesh; and he went to Jerusalem, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate - 400 cubits. And he took all the gold and silver, all the articles that were found in the house of the LORD and in the treasuries of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria.” It was a bitter defeat and brought on by a man’s pride.

Verse 15 “Now the rest of the acts of Jehoash which he did - his might, and how he fought with Amaziah king of Judah - are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Jehoash rested with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. Then Jeroboam his son reigned in his place.” During the reigns of Joash and Jeroboam II the northern kingdom of Israel experienced a period of strength and prosperity. It was a final reprieve – the calm before the storm. One last period of *God’s blessing*, before *God’s judgment*.

During this time God sent prophets – like Hosea and Amos - to warn Israel.



Jonah also ministered to Israel during the reign of Jeroboam II. He's mentioned by name in verse 25. This flurry of prophetic warning was God's final call to Israel.

Verse 17 "Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, lived 15 years after the death of Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz, king of Israel. Now the rest of the acts of Amaziah, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?"

And they formed a conspiracy against him in Jerusalem, and he fled to Lachish; but they sent after him to Lachish and killed him there. Then they brought him on horses, and he was buried at Jerusalem with his fathers in the City of David."

"And all the people of Judah took Azariah, who was 16 years old, and made him king instead of his father Amaziah." Imagine, you get your driver's license, and you're crowned king the same year. We've now talked about a 7 year old king, and a 16 year old king... and I'm not sure which one I'd rather want to live under...

Azariah "built Elath and restored it to Judah, after the king rested with his fathers." Elath is a seaport on the Red Sea. Today it's Israel's tropical resort.

Azariah goes by a more popular name, Uzziah. Isaiah 6 begins, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple." Uzziah was a contemporary of Isaiah.

And he turned out to be a good and godly king who ruled Judah for 52 years.

We'll study more about him next time.

“In the 15<sup>th</sup> year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, became king in Samaria, and reigned 41 years.

And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin.” He followed the idolatry of his namesake. The sin of Jeroboam was the two golden calves in Dan and Bethel.

“(Jeroboam II) restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah (from north to south), according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hopher. For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter; and whether bond or free, there was no helper for Israel.

And the LORD did not say that He would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven; but He saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.” Perhaps Jonah played a pivotal role interceding for Israel and obtaining God’s mercy.

“Now the rest of the acts of Jeroboam, and all that he did - his might, how he made war, and how he recaptured for Israel, from Damascus and Hamath, what had belonged to Judah - are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? So Jeroboam rested with his fathers, the kings of Israel.

Then Zechariah his son reigned in his place.”

Jeroboam II died in 752 BC. During his reign Syria was

preoccupied with her neighbor, the growing Assyrian empire. This allowed Israel to prosper for a time.

Sadly, though Israel prospered economically she was bankrupt spiritually.