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2 Kings 11

"Standing Firm when Heroes Die"

Pastor Gary Hamrick

Pastor Gary's teaching on the life of King Joash started with a detailed look at his family tree. Pastor Gary's message centers on three important principles that every Christian person needs to consider when thinking about his or her relationship with the Lord: investment, instruction, and influence.

The Family Tree

1. Ahab and Jezebel had a son named Joram, who became king after Ahab's death.
2. They had a daughter named Athaliah, who was a key player in this story.
3. Athaliah married the son of Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, whose name was Jehoram.
4. Athaliah and Jehoram had a son named Ahaziah, who became king of Judah after Jehoshaphat died.
5. Ahaziah also had several unnamed sons.
6. Because Jehoram died and Ahaziah was killed, Athaliah got the idea that she would be the ruler!
7. Athaliah's strategy to assume power was impeded by the fact that Ahaziah had sons who would have been the rightful heir to his throne.

8. This fact didn't stop this wicked woman from plotting to eliminate anyone who would stand in her way, so one-by-one, she killed all of Ahaziah's sons, which put her in position to be the Queen and ruler of Judah!
 - a. Athaliah ruled over Judah, the southern kingdom, for six years.
 - b. She was the only woman who ruled during the period of the kings.
 - c. The point needs to be made that she was not God-appointed, but self-appointed.
 - d. She was not a strong leader like Margaret Thatcher or Golda Meir.
 - e. She was an evil, wicked, murderous grandmother who had a taste for blood, which mirrored that of her mother, Jezebel.

The Rescued Heir

9. When he was one year old, Ahaziah's son, Joash, was rescued by his Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada.
10. Jehosheba was Ahaziah's sister, and Jehoiada, her husband, was the high priest.
11. Jehosheba and Jehoiada hid Joash in the Temple for six years!
12. Joash had what we might call a rough childhood, especially when you consider these facts:
 - a. His father and all of his brothers were murdered.
 - b. His grandmother was a bloodthirsty, murdering woman.
 - c. The first six years of his life were spent in hiding.
13. When Joash turned seven, Jehoiada called all of the Levites to the Temple to serve as bodyguards for Joash, and he armed them with spears and shields that belonged to King David so they could protect him from Athaliah.
14. Jehoiada was determined that Joash, the sole descendent of King David and the rightful heir to the throne, would become king.
15. They brought Joash before the people and anointed him with oil as the king of Judah, and, according to [2 Kings 11:12](#), "*[all the people] clapped their hands and shouted, 'Long live the king!'* "
16. When Athaliah heard the cheering, she ran toward the Temple to see what was happening, and when she saw Joash, she declared they were participating in an act of treason!

17. The account of Athaliah's demise is found in [2 Kings 11:13-16](#).

The 7-Year Old King

18. No 7-year old can run a kingdom, so Jehoiada was the godly man who helped guide Joash in the ways of the Lord until he was able to rule by himself.

19. [2 Kings 12:1-2](#) - *"In the seventh year of Jehu, Joash became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem forty years. His mother's name was Zibiah; she was from Beersheba. Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him."*

20. The first thing Joash did was to have the people tear down the altar of Baal, smash all of the altars and idols throughout the land, and kill Mattan the priest of Baal.

21. Joash's greatest accomplishment was refurbishing the Temple.

a. [2 Kings 12:11-12](#) - *"When the amount had been determined, they gave the money to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. With it they paid those who worked on the temple of the Lord - the carpenters and builders, the masons and stonecutters. They purchased timber and dressed stone for the repair of the temple of the Lord, and met all the other expenses of restoring the temple."*

22. Joash did a number of good things, and that's why the Bible tells us that he was a good king, however, the Bible also makes an important distinction when it says that he *"did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years Jehoiada the priest instructed him."*

23. The inference is that as long as Joash heeded the godly instruction of Jehoiada, he was a godly king, but the moment Jehoiada died, so did Joash's godly reign.

24. Pastor Gary commented on the fact that having people in your life (Jehoiada for Joash) who encourage, challenge, instruct, and inspire you, is a blessing from the Lord.

a. Examples in the Bible include:
i. Joshua and Moses
ii. Timothy and Paul
iii. Ruth and Naomi

25. Sadly, when Jehoiada died, Joash chose not to stand for the Lord, and in the process, he violated three important principles: investment, instruction, and influence.

Joash Violated The Principle Of Investment

26. You must make a personal investment in your relationship with God.
27. You must own it for yourself!
28. No relationship with the Lord can be sustained on the back of another individual.
29. Joash's problem was that he never made his relationship with God personal.
30. In Joash's case, his relationship with God was lived vicariously through Jehoiada, and when Jehoiada died, so did Joash's walk with God.

Joash Violated The Principle Of Instruction

31. You must remain under the regular instruction of God's Word.
32. Joash received godly instruction from Jehoiada, but when he died, Joash removed himself from the instruction of the Word of God.
33. **Psalm 119** is the longest chapter in the Bible, and it's also a chapter that is exclusively devoted to the benefits of the Bible in a person's life.
- a. If you follow the Bible you will be blessed.
 - i. **Psalm 119:2** - *"Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart."*
 - b. The Bible strengthens us against the struggle with sin.
 - i. **Psalm 119:9** - *"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word."*
 - ii. **Psalm 119:11** - *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."*
 - c. The Bible counsels us.
 - i. **Psalm 119:24** - *"Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors."*
 - d. The Bible encourages us.

- i. [Psalm 119:28](#) - *“My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.”*
- e. The Bible comforts us.
 - i. [Psalm 119:52](#) - *“I remember your ancient laws, O Lord, and I find comfort in them.”*
- f. The Bible gives us wisdom, direction, understanding, protection, joy, and the list goes on and on!

Joash Violated The Principle Of Influence

- 34. You must be careful whom you surround yourself with, and whom you allow to speak into your life.
- 35. After Jehoiada died, Joash started listening to the wrong people, and when he did he lost the courage to do the right thing, as well as conviction about doing the wrong thing.
 - a. [2 Chronicles 24:17-19](#) - *“After the death of Jehoiada, the officials of Judah came and paid homage to the king, and he listened to them. They abandoned the temple of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and worshiped Asherah poles and idols. Because of their guilt, God’s anger came upon Judah and Jerusalem. Although the Lord sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.”*
- 36. The evil influence Joash allowed in his life became so bad that when Zechariah, Jehoiada’s son, stood before him and rebuked him for violating the Lord’s commands and rebelling against God, Joash gave orders to have Zechariah stoned to death!
 - a. [2 Chronicles 24:22](#) - *“King Joash did not remember the kindness Zechariah’s father Jehoiada had shown him but killed his son, who said as he lay dying, ‘May the Lord see this and call you to account.’ ”*
- 37. Pastor Gary said he could not emphasize too strongly or mention too often the importance of screening the voices we listen to and the people we allow to have influence in our lives.
- 38. Pastor Gary also cautioned parents to remember that their children will never be the best judges in this area, and that God has placed them in position of loving leadership and protection over their children to filter out bad company.
 - a. Parents must be courageous enough to tell their children they are not allowed to hang out with specific individuals.

- b. Refusing to correct your child will ensure long-term damage for a short-term benefit.

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [2 Kings 11:1-3; 12:1-21](#) to provide the foundation for this study.
3. Spend time talking about the ways Joash violated the principle of investment. (See #23 through #27 above)
4. What are some of the ways you invest in your relationship with the Lord?
5. Was there a time in your life when you lived vicariously through the life of another Christian (parent, grandparent, sibling, friend, etc.)?
6. Spend time talking about the ways Joash violated the principle of instruction. (See #28 through #30 above)
7. What are some of the ways you are intentional about placing yourself under the instruction of the Word of God?
8. Spend time talking about the ways Joash violated the principle of influence. (See #31 through #35 above)
9. Allow the people in your group to share their stories about times when they've allowed ungodly people, etc., to negatively impact their walk with the Lord.
10. If you are a parent, how have you ensured long-term benefits for your child/children by handling an issue or conflict?
11. Spend time talking about the person or people the Lord brought into your life that were a godly influence.
12. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).