

2CHRONICLES 24: 1 Joash was seven years old when he began to reign; and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem: and his mother's name was Zibiah, of Beersheba.

Joash begins to reign when seven years old, and reigns well all the days of Jehoiada the priest, 2Chr 24:1-3. He purposes to repair the temple of God; and makes a proclamation that the people should bring in the money prescribed by Moses, 2Chr 24:4-9. They all contribute liberally; and the different artificers soon perfect the work, 2Chr 24:10-13. The rest of the money is employed to form utensils for the temple, 2Chr 24:14. Jehoiada dies, 2Chr 24:15, 2Chr 24:16. And the people after his death become idolaters, 2Chr 24:17, 2Chr 24:18. Prophets are sent unto them, 2Chr 24:19. And among the rest Zechariah the son of Jehoiada, who testifies against them; and they stone him to death, 2Chr 24:20-22. The Syrians come against Jerusalem, and spoil it, 2Chr 24:23, 2Chr 24:24. Joash is murdered by his own servants, 2Chr 24:25, 2Chr 24:26. His acts, 2Chr 24:27.

Verse 1

Joash was seven years old - As he was hidden six years in the temple, and was but seven when he came to the throne, he could have been but one year old when he was secreted by his aunt; see on 2Chr 22:10 (note).

2CHRONICLES 24: 2 Joash did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.

2CHRONICLES 24: 3 Jehoiada took for him two wives; and he became the father of sons and daughters.

2CHRONICLES 24: 4 After this, Joash intended to restore the LORD's house.

Verse 4

To repair the house of the Lord - During the reigns of Joram and Athaliah, the temple of God had been pillaged to enrich that of Baal, and the whole structure permitted to fall into decay; see 2Chr 24:7.

2CHRONICLES 24: 5 He gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah, and gather money to repair the house of your God from all Israel from year to year. See that you expedite this matter." However the Levites didn't do it right away.

Verse 5

Gather of all Israel money - As the temple was the property of the whole nation, and the services performed in it were for the salvation of the people at large, it was right that each should come forward on an occasion of this kind, and lend a helping hand. This is the first instance of such a general collection for building or repairing a house of God.

From year to year - It must have been in a state of great dilapidation, when it required such annual exertions to bring it into a thorough state of repair.

2CHRONICLES 24: 6 The king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said to him, "Why haven't you required of the Levites to bring in the tax of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the assembly of Israel, out of Judah and out of Jerusalem, for the tent of the testimony?"

Verse 6

The collection - of Moses - This was the poll-tax, fixed by Moses, of half a shekel, which was levied on every man from twenty years old and upward; and which was considered as a ransom for their souls, that there might be no plague among them. See Exo 30:12-14.

2CHRONICLES 24: 7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up God's house; and they also gave all the dedicated things of the LORD's house to the Baals.

2CHRONICLES 24: 8 So the king commanded, and they made a chest, and set it outside at the gate of the LORD's house.

Verse 8

They made a chest - See the notes on the parallel places, 2Kgs 12:4 (note), etc.

2CHRONICLES 24: 9 They made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in for the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God laid on Israel in the wilderness.

2CHRONICLES 24: 10 All the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end.

2CHRONICLES 24: 11 It was so, that whenever the chest was brought to the king's officers by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the chief priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to its place again. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance.

2CHRONICLES 24: 12 The king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the LORD's house; and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the LORD's house, and also such as worked iron and brass to repair the LORD's house.

2CHRONICLES 24: 13 So the workmen worked, and the work of repairing went forward in their hands, and they set up God's house in its state, and strengthened it.

2CHRONICLES 24: 14 When they had made an end, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, of which were made vessels for the LORD's house, even vessels with which to minister and to offer, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver. They offered burnt offerings in the LORD's house continually all the days of Jehoiada.

2CHRONICLES 24: 15 But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; one hundred thirty years old was he when he died.

2CHRONICLES 24: 16 They buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house.

Verse 16

They buried him - among the kings - He had, in fact, been king in Judah; for Joash, who appears to have been a weak man, was always under his tutelage. Jehoiada governed the state in the name of the king; and his being buried among the kings is a proof of the high estimation in which he was held among the people.

2CHRONICLES 24: 17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king listened to them.

Verse 17

The princes of Judah - made obeisance to the king - I believe the Targum has given the true sense of this verse: "After the death of Jehoiada, the great men of Judah came and adored King Joash, and seduced him; and then the king received from them their idols."

2CHRONICLES 24: 18 They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherah poles and the idols; and wrath came on Judah and Jerusalem for this their guiltiness.

2CHRONICLES 24: 19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again to the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear.

2CHRONICLES 24: 20 The Spirit of God came on Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you disobey the commandments of the LORD, so that you can't prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you.'"

Verse 20

And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah - "When he saw the transgression of the king and of the people, burning incense to an idol in the house of the sanctuary of the Lord, on the day of expiation; and preventing the priests of the Lord from offering the burnt-offerings, sacrifices, daily oblations, and services, as written in the book of the law of Moses; he stood above the people, and said." - Targum.

2CHRONICLES 24: 21 They conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the LORD's house.

Verse 21

Stoned him - at the commandment of the king - What a most wretched and contemptible man was this, who could imbrue his hands in the blood of a prophet of God, and the son of the man who had saved him from being murdered, and raised him to the throne! Alas, alas! Can even kings forget benefits? But when a man falls from God, the devil enters into him; and then he is capable of every species of cruelty.

2CHRONICLES 24: 22 Thus Joash the king didn't remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son. When he died, he said, "May the LORD look at it, and repay it."

Verse 22

The Lord look upon it, and require it - And so he did; for, at the end of that year, the Syrians came against Judah, destroyed all the princes of the people, sent their spoils to Damascus; and Joash, the murderer of the prophet, the son of his benefactor, was himself murdered by his own servants. Here was a most signal display of the Divine retribution.

On the subject of the death of this prophet the reader is requested to refer to the note on Mat 23:34, Mat 23:35.

2CHRONICLES 24: 23 At the end of the year, the army of the Syrians came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all their plunder to the king of Damascus.

2CHRONICLES 24: 24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men; and the LORD delivered a very great army into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. So they executed judgement on Joash.

2CHRONICLES 24: 25 When they were departed from him (for they left him very sick), his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed, and he died; and they buried him in the city of David, but they didn't bury him in the tombs of the kings.

2CHRONICLES 24: 26 These are those who conspired against him: Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonitess, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabitess.

Verse 26

These are they that conspired against him - The two persons here mentioned were certainly not Jews; the mother of one was an Ammonitess, and the mother of the other was a Moabitess. Who their fathers were we know not; they were probably foreigners and aliens. Some suppose that these persons were of the king's chamber, and therefore could have the easiest access to him. It has been, and is still, the folly of kings to have foreigners for their valets and most confidential servants, and they have often been the causes of murders and treacheries of different kinds. Foreigners should be

banished from the person of the sovereign by strong and efficient laws: even in this country they have often been the cause of much political wo.

2CHRONICLES 24: 27 Now concerning his sons, and the greatness of the burdens laid on him, and the rebuilding of God's house, behold, they are written in the commentary of the book of the kings. Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

Verse 27

The greatness of the burdens laid upon him - Meaning, probably, the heavy tribute laid upon him by the Syrians; though some think the vast sums amassed for the repairs of the temple are here intended.

Written in the story - מדרש midrash, the commentary, of the book of Kings. We have met with this before; but these works are all lost, except the extracts found in Kings, Chronicles, and Ezra. These abridgments were the cause of the neglect, and finally of the destruction, of the originals. This has been often the case in works of great consequence. Trogus Pompeius wrote a general history of the world, which he brought down to the reign of Augustus, in forty-four volumes. Justin abridged them into one volume, and the original is lost.