



Lesson 6: Good Start – Tragic End (2 Chron. 22-24)

This week we come to the 3rd revival king in the book of 2 Chronicles – Joash. As a young man Joash began the right way. He served God and sparked a revival. The end of his life, however, marks a tragic finale.

The life of Josiah, king of Judah, is an interesting study of a character who started in the right path, but ended in shameful disgrace

- His forty year reign saw him go from zealous advocate of service for God to a _____ of one who spoke the will of God.
- His reign began amidst joyful exclamation. It ended when one of his servants killed him in bed.
- His coronation took place in the house of God as he stood in the traditional place of kings. He was buried in _____ and not in the tomb of the kings.

The lessons we learn from the life of Joash are both about how to bring revival and how to stop revival.

_____ - Leading others toward revival

Despite the tremendous character of the last revival king (_____), Judah has been in chaos ever since his death. In the midst of this ungodly confusion one man has the courage to stand up and do what's right.

A. Standing up for the _____ (22:10-12)

Impassioned to claim the throne for herself _____ begins a murderous campaign slaughtering anyone with even the slightest connection to the throne. Enter our hero - _____! He submits to God's will and not the evil queens and rescues the baby Joash.

B. _____ for the Incident (23:1-3)

This is one of the most dramatic moments in Messianic history. Joash is now the only surviving heir to the throne of David. He is kept hidden from the wicked Queen Athaliah for _____ years by the High Priest Jehoiada.

GODLY _____ - Living in revival

The kingdom of Judah is faced with a practical problem: Joash is just _____ years old when he becomes king. The weight of the advisory role falls on Jehoiada. He does not install the king and then exit the scene. He remains a faithful servant of God and His people.

A. Living in revival requires listening to _____ men of God (24:1-2)

In chapter 24, a shift in focus takes place from Jehoiada to Joash. The latter half of verse 2 – "*all the days of Jehoiada the priest*" – suggests what comes later. For now there is a great blessing that comes as the _____ follows the counsel and leadership of the _____.

B. Living in revival requires _____ to _____ God's house (24:4-14)

The restoration of God's house has become the norm for our revival kings. On one occasion, Joash's zeal to do good even exceeded that of those who had helped teach him principles from God's law. In this instance, Joash showed not only was he influenced to do good, but he also influenced others to do good. It was a truly _____ beginning to his reign.

_____ - Leaving the blessings of revival

Complacency is often the death of leaders and in this case it followed the death of a leader. The end of Joash's life stands as a testimony to the importance of choosing right counselors.

A. Out of _____ = Out of _____ (24:15-19)

Jehoiada dies at the ripe old age of _____. When Joash loses his counselor he begins to be guided by his own vain heart and foolish understanding. As if he had learned nothing from the mountain top of revival he plummets head first off its summit. It took almost no time at all to "*_____ the house of the God*" (24:18)

B. Forgotten _____ = Forgotten _____ (24:20-25)

Forgetting the counsel of godly men was only the beginning of Joash's downfall. Joash forgot God and forged for himself a mission that was all his own. Jehoiada's own son could do nothing to stop this now wickedly focused king. Joash has Zechariah stoned. The death of this priest, the son of Jehoiada, ends up being the catalyst for the assassination of Joash. He dies in shame, a sad testimony of the _____ of forsaking God.

SAD TRUTH FROM THE LIFE OF JOASH

Those who leave the Lord and cause others to stray are often those who had the _____ of _____.