

Handout: 2 Kings Lesson 5

Joash [of Judah] did what Yahweh regards as right throughout the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest. Jehoiada found him two wives and he fathered several sons and daughters

2 Chronicles 24:2-3

Joash's reign can be divided into two phases (see 2 Kng 12 and 2 Chr 24):

- I. His reign under the influence of his uncle the High Priest Jehoiada:
 - A. Destruction of the temple of Baal and religious reform
 - B. Renovation of Yahweh's Temple
 - C. Reorganization of the Temple finances
- II. His reign after the death of his uncle Jehoiada the High Priest
 - A. Apostasy of the king and the people
 - B. Murder of Zechariah the priest/prophet and son of Jehoiada
 - C. Defeated in war with the Aramaeans and paid tribute to Hazael of Damascus
 - D. Assassinated by royal officials in retaliation for the murder of Zechariah (named by Jesus in Lk 11:51)

King Joash of Judah's new system for collecting money to repair the Temple:

1. He removed the priests from all responsibility and labor.
2. He ordered that the sacred donations were to be set aside for Temple repairs and were to be deposited directly into a special container.
3. The money was to be counted by two officials and distributed to special contractors for labor and materials.

The "sacred donations" were funds that were donated to the Temple for use by the priests (Num 18:19), and included all freewill offerings. This new plan took away moneys that had been used to maintain the priests and their families, but the funds that came from the purification and guilt offerings could not be used for the Temple repairs and remained priestly income.

Elisha made a prophecy by having King Joash of Israel perform a prophetic act in two stages:

1. The king took a bow guided by the prophet's hand and shot an arrow to the east in the direction of the enemy.
2. The king struck the ground with the remaining arrows.

The arrow shot to the east in the direction of the enemy represents the complete victory of Israel's army over the Aramaeans. The placing of Elisha's hand on the king's hand gives Joash a share in Elisha's own power. In the second stage, the king only received a small portion of Elisha's power because he hesitated and only struck the ground three times.

The symbolic meaning of King Jehoash of Israel's parable to King Amaziah of Judah:

1. The king of Israel is the powerful cedar.
2. The insignificant thistle is the king of Judah who seeks equality with one who is far above him (royal marriage request).
3. The thistle ends up being trampled by a powerful animal, symbolizing the army of Israel.

Jehoash's advice to Amaziah was to not continue with a venture that was sure to bring him disaster.

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