

2 Chronicles 24:1-14 ¹ Joash was **seven years old** when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Zibiah of Beer-sheba. ² **And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord** all the days of Jehoiada the priest. ³ And Jehoiada took for him two wives [Jehoiada arranged for Joash to marry two women]; and he begat sons and daughters. ⁴ And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded [Joash decided] to repair the house of the Lord. ⁵ And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, "Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year [money to maintain the house of your God regularly], and see that ye hasten the matter [and make this collection a priority]." *Howbeit the Levites hastened it not* [But the Levites did not do what they were told]. ⁶ And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, "Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the Lord, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness [Why hasn't the money for the maintenance of the Temple been collected]?" ⁷ For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God [For Athaliah's sons have vandalized the house of God]; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord did they bestow upon Baalim [and they've stolen all the furnishings and taken them to the temple of an idol]. ⁸ And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the Lord [they made a chest and placed it at the door of the Temple]. ⁹ And they made a proclamation through Judah and Jerusalem, to bring in to the Lord the collection that Moses the servant of God laid upon Israel in the wilderness (see Exodus 35:4-29). ¹⁰ And all the princes and all the people rejoiced, and brought in, and cast into the chest, until they had made an end [until they had completed the offering]. ¹¹ Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again [the king's scribe and an officer of the high priest stored the money safely and returned the empty chest to the Temple door]. Thus they did day by day, and gathered money in abundance. ¹² And the king and Jehoiada gave it to such as did the work of the service of the house of the Lord, and hired masons [The king and Jehoiada planned for the Temple repairs, and hired bricklayers] and carpenters to repair the house of the Lord, and also such as wrought iron and brass [and also men who worked in iron and brass] to mend the house of the Lord. ¹³ So the workmen wrought [worked], and the work was perfected by them [and they skillfully completed the work], and they set the house of God in his state, and strengthened it [and they restored the Temple to its original condition, and made it stronger than before]. ¹⁴ And when they had finished it, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, whereof were made vessels for the house of the Lord, even vessels to minister, and to offer withal, and spoons, and vessels of gold and silver [and Jehoiada, and paid skilled craftsmen to make furnishings (which had been stolen) that the priests used to perform their functions in the Temple]. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the Lord continually all the days of Jehoiada. (Parallel passage {same story recorded by a different author} in 2 Kings 12:1-16)

I. Introduction

Psalms 127:3 *Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward*

A. Some history

1. In 914 BC, United Kingdom of Israel under Saul, David, & Solomon divided into two (2) kingdoms, Judah in the south and Israel in the north – 2 Chronicles 10:15-16, 11:4
2. Only 1/3 of Judea's kings listed as "good" kings in Kings & Chronicles, all of the kings of Israel were characterized as "evil".
3. Can still find some foundation stones from both first temple (by Solomon) & second temple (rebuilt by Herod) on the Temple mount in Jerusalem today.

B. King Joash

1. Joash means "given by the Lord"
2. Great grandson of good king Jehoshaphat
3. Grandson of evil Queen Athaliah
4. Raised secretly by his aunt Jehoshabeath – 2 Chronicles 22:11-12
5. Joash only seven (7) years old when became king
6. Joash ruled as king for 40 years

II. Priority of a Godly Child (verses 4-5, 7)

A. Priority described

1. King Joash set his mind (heart) to repair God's house (the Jerusalem Temple) as he got older
2. King Joash did not follow in his father or grandfather's evil footsteps
 - a. His grandfather King Jehoram followed after kings of Israel
 - b. King Jerhoram married woman from King Ahab's family (a political and family influence to the throne of Judah)
3. King Joash similar to King David's example
 - a. King David wanted to build the Temple himself. He was forbidden to build the Temple by God (1 Chronicles 28:3). David would not see the first Temple built
 - b. King David made preparations for his son Solomon to build the temple – 1 Chronicles 22:5

- c. King David used resources out of his personal treasury for temple preparations

1 Chronicles 29:3 *Moreover, because I [King David] have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good [of my personal resources], of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God (the Jerusalem Temple), over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house*

4. King Joash commanded Levites to collect offerings from the people for the Temple, but they didn't do what they were told.

B. Priority shared

1. Temple & equipment had been desecrated, broken, & pieces stolen for the god (idol) Baal (also called Baalim) by his grandfather, father, and Queen Athaliah (verse 7)
2. King Joash saw need to repair God's house (Temple)
3. The same method of providing for the building of worship buildings was followed in Jesus' time. Two thirds (2/3) of Jesus parables about money or coins
4. The same method of providing for the building of worship buildings is prescribed by the Apostles for the church age. Paul exhorts (reminds) Christians to give offerings

2 Corinthians 9:5-6 ⁵ *Therefore I [Paul] thought it necessary to exhort [encourage] the brethren, that they would go before unto you [that they would arrive at your church before I do], and make up beforehand your bounty [offering], whereof ye had notice before [because I had previously told you of this need], that the same [that this offering] might be ready, as a matter of bounty [voluntary offering], and not as of covetousness [not a grudging obligation].* ⁶ *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully [generously] shall reap also bountifully.*

C. Priority shunned

1. Levites were slow in collecting the offerings (verse 5)
2. King Joash had to work in spite of the apathetic priesthood
3. King Joash took control of the collections in year 23 of his reign (He was 30 years old when all this was happening)

2 Kings 12:6 *But it [the collected monies were used to employ skilled workers to repair the Temple] was so, that in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash (same as Joash) the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house [the priests were slow in executing their duties].*

III. Plan for the Offering (verses 6, 8-9)

A. Leadership responsibility

1. God tells us that Christians have a reward in doing good

Galatians 6:7-9 ⁷ *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* ⁸ *For he that soweth to his flesh* [human lusts] *shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the* [Holy] *Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.* ⁹ *And **let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season*** [at the proper time] ***we shall reap*** [be rewarded], *if we faint not* [if we continue in doing good].

2. Christians are a spiritual priesthood offering spiritual sacrifices to God

1 Peter 2:5 *Ye also, as lively* [living] *stones, are built up* [into] *a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.***

B. It Was a determined plan

1. Moses' Law commanded certain temple taxes to be paid each year (Deuteronomy 14:22)

2. By 23rd year, King Joash stopped priestly collection and changed his plans

2 Kings 12:7 *Then king Jehoash (same as Joash) called for Jehoiada the priest, and the other priests, and said unto them, "Why repair ye not the breaches of the house* [Why aren't you fixing the Temple with the monies you've collected] *? now therefore receive no more money of your acquaintance, but deliver it for the breaches of the house* [now therefore stop this collection and start the repairs]."

3. King ordered an offering chest made with small opening in the top & Jehoiada the priest placed it by the Temple gate

4. A Christian's freewill offerings are an acceptable sacrifice to God

Philippians 4:18 *But I* [Paul] *have all, and abound* [have more than I need]: *I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you* [the Philippian church], *an odor of a sweet smell, **a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.*** (Several verses from the Old Testament that describe sacrifices to God as a "sweet savor": Genesis 8:21; Exodus 29:18, 25; Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17; Numbers 15:3, 7, 19, 13, 14, 24; Ezekiel 6:13, 16:19, 20:28, 41)

5. Leadership responsibility to plan, provide materials, and communicate the vision; the people are responsible to get to work & get job done

- a. Principles are few & do not change

- b. Methods can be many & can change to fit the circumstances

C. It Was a declared plan

1. King Joash made royal proclamation (order) to bring collections to the temple itself & place them in the chest

Malachi 3:8-10 ⁸ *Will a man rob God? Yet ye [the Jews of Malachi's time] have robbed me. But ye say, "Wherein [how] have we robbed thee?" "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse [the Temple], that there may be meat [food] in mine house, and prove me now herewith [and test me in this way]," saith the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

2. Chest enabled people to add free will collection when they came to the temple
3. Along with God's commands come God's entitlements/provisions

IV. Participation of the People (verses 10-14)

A. Collection was supplied

1. Chest emptied full chest every day into the treasury – overseen by two officials (verse 11)

2 Kings 12:10 *And it was so, when they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up, and they put up in bags, and told the money that was found in the house of the LORD.*

2. Everyone (rulers & people) contributing together achieved more results
3. Offerings supplied cheerfully

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Every man [should give] according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly [like you feel you have to give, but you really don't want to], or of necessity [as if you feel social pressure to give]: for **God loveth a cheerful giver.***

4. Temple chest did not include other offering moneys
 - a. Regular sacrifices (trespass and sin offerings) not counted with chest amount. These were usually animal sacrifices rather than currency.
 - b. Regular tithe belonged to priests for their daily needs

2 Kings 12:16 *The trespass money and sin money was not brought into the house of the LORD: **it was the priests'.***

5. Christians to lay up heavenly treasures

Matthew 6:19-21 ¹⁹ *Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

6. Your treasure is the connection between your heart and your actions

1 Corinthians 16:2 *Upon the first day of the week let every one of you [Corinthian church members] lay by him in store [set aside a portion of your earnings], as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I [Paul] come.*

7. Sacrificial giving hallmark of God's character

B. Work was started

1. Levites purchased supplies & hired workers to repair Temple

2. Offering paid for much more than temple repairs (verse 14)

a. Also paid for more temple furniture & devices

b. This benefitted the Priests in their duties, allowing them to continue the burnt offerings

3. Rhyme (for hearing people): "Do the giving while you're living, so you're knowing where it's going."

4. Work is where faith becomes sight

V. Conclusion

A. Purpose: There is always work to do for the things of God

B. Plan: An offering to God for His work, and a reward sent ahead to your heavenly bank account

C. Participate: Everyone giving cheerfully