



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 44.3

Old Testament Survey: The Divided Monarchy, Judah - Part 3

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
We continue this study as we focus on a few final kings in Judah, before returning to the Northern Kingdom to see the fall of Samaria/Israel. We resume our study with the child king Joash. Let us earnestly desire to follow in God's truth. Let us not rationalize away his clear directions, thinking we "know better." May we heed Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."
- Prayer for obedient and humble hearts.
- Video (37 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ "...because Jehoiada the priest instructed him" (2 Kings. 12:2).
Is there any reason to read Scripture? Is there any reason to attend real teachings of Scripture? Is there any reason to have godly counselors and friends? Is there any reason to marry inside the faith? These stories and the Prophet Historian shout, "ABSOLUTELY!" If we fail to see how easy it is to stray as a result of the ungodly advice from friends or even loved ones; if we fail to see the dangers from lack of regular study in the ways of God, we are fooling ourselves. It is not that Joash was a religious slouch. There but for the grace of God go most of us! As we consider the events of Joash's life within the context of those kings that surrounded them, a consistent theme emerges that a number of these rulers started strong in the ways of Yahweh, and blessings followed their obedience.
- ❖ "...he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, yet not with a whole heart" (2 Chron. 25:2).
How does this story hit you? Does it seem right that Amaziah could have a heart for the Lord and yet suffer such wretched defeat at the hands of a pagan Israelite king? We can see that Amaziah let his obedience waiver, beginning to trust in his own might, rather than the Lord's, but is that a satisfactory reason for God giving him into the hands of a total reprobate who worshipped idols "full time"? For that matter, are you even a little troubled that the Prophet Historian writing Kings would say in summary that Amaziah "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD" when we see the fuller story unfold in the Chronicler's account? In short, Amaziah let his pride and self-importance trump his humble search for God and his will. Like his father, he started strong, but failed to run the race with endurance.
- ❖ "Now the rest of the acts of Azariah, and all that he did, are they not written..." (2 Kings 15:6).
The stories of Azariah are legion, yet the Prophet Historian in Kings gives us very little. Why? We can fairly surmise that the stories were readily available for readers to learn by the reference to the Annals of the Kings of Judah, so the Prophet Historian did not have a need to simply recount history. The Kings accounts are accelerating at this point to the fall of Israel. The Prophet Historian was driving this account for a reason. I suggest you begin a habit of each morning and each evening doing something very specific. Each morning take a moment to think about your day. Then in prayer, dedicate that day to the Lord.

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