

*Finishing Well Requires Good Advice and a Good Memory*

**II Kings 12**

***Joash the renovator . . . a leader who obeys the Lord (1-16)***

- ◆ Johoida = mentor, advisor, father-figure, matchmaker, II Chron. 24:3
- ◆ Joash's concern for the temple (where he was protected) is exemplary, as his concern for it is similar to David and Solomon's.

***Joash the renegade . . . a leader who forsakes the Lord (17-21)***

- ◆ Bad advice ruins Joash's reign as we have seen so often before.
- ◆ Joash *forsook* the Lord (3x: vss. 18,20,24); now he is *forsaken* (20b,25).
- ◆ Buying off an invader like Hazael was common, as in II Kgs. 16:8,9, but it is clearly a sign of a lack of faith, see in II Chron. 16:1-9. The Aramean incident in II Chron. 24:23ff. appears to be a later separate conflict.
- ◆ Many see Zechariah as the prophet Jesus spoke of in Mtt. 23:35 rather than Zechariah, *son of Berechiah*, in Zech. 1:1. This means Zechariah would be Jehoidah's grandson and Berechiah was his unnamed father.
- ◆ Riches used to flow from Aram to Israel in David / Solomon's day; now it's the reverse. Likewise God used to give the Hebrews victory even if greatly outnumbered, but now that too is reversed (24:24).
- ◆ Based on Joash's spiritual meltdown, what can help us finish strong?

Three Judean Kings in a row who began well but finish poorly		
<b>Joash</b> 835-796	<b>Amaziah</b> 796-767	<b>Uzziah</b> 767-739
forsook Lord and killed a prophet	bowed before idols and began a foolish war	profaned the temple
(is murdered)	(is murdered)	(is made leprous)
2 Kgs. 12 II Chron. 24	II Kgs. 14 II Chron. 25	II Kgs. 15 II Chron. 26