

Jehoiada Anoints Joash**Lesson Scope:** [2 Chronicles 23](#)

References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise

Lesson Focus

In the scope of this lesson, Judah was now being governed by the wicked queen Athaliah, wife of former King Jehoram, and daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. Her strategy to establish herself as royalty included the slaying of all the royal seed. God providentially preserved Joash, infant son of the slain king Azariah, by the hand of Jehoshabeath, Wife of Jehoiada the priest. Joash and his nurse were hid in the house of God, and he remained hidden for the next six years.

Judah was experiencing a time of fear, turmoil, and political unrest. However, there was obviously a faithful remnant. Jehoiada, as a religious leader, recruited godly men “out of all the cities of Judah” to support him in re-establishing the throne to King David’s posterity. He also led out in destroying the temple of Baal and restoring true worship in Judah. God’s working through Jehoiada illustrates how God uses men with a zeal for truth to advance His purposes, even in times of spiritual darkness and seeming irreversible apostasy.

This lesson illustrates how God will always bless a sincere desire to follow His divinely prescribed plan. He uses dedicated individuals like Jehoiada as priest, David as a youthful shepherd, Esther as queen, and Nehemiah as king’s cupbearer, as well as all those who rallied around them, to providentially provide for the special needs of His people. God is still using individuals with this level of dedication today.

Jehoiada was born in the time of Solomon. He had lived through the reigns of six kings and at this time was about one hundred years old (2 Chronicles 12:13; 13:11-2; 16:13; 20:31; 22:2, 12; 24:15).

The printed text does not include the verses at the end of the chapter. Details given in these verses tell how true worship was reinstated following the patterns given in the Law and outlined by King David (23:18). Of special interest is the climactic comment in verse 21: “And the city was quiet.”

The Lord counts on men to stand for truth and to advance His kingdom in the world. The Lord's people need spiritual fervour and endurance to fulfil their mission.

Lesson Aim: To identify qualities of those who are committed to being the Lord's people.

Theme Verse: [1 Corinthians 16:13](#). Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Lesson Text

Uniting the People

[2 Chronicles 23:1-11](#) ^(KJV) And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him. ² And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the chief of the fathers of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. ³ And all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD hath said of the sons of David. ⁴ This *is* the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you entering on the sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, *shall be* porters of the doors; ⁵ And a third part *shall be* at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation: and all the people *shall be* in the courts of the house of the LORD. ⁶ But let none come into the house of the LORD, save the priests, and they that minister of the Levites; they shall go in, for they *are* holy: but all the people shall keep the watch of the LORD. ⁷ And the Levites shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whosoever *else* cometh into the house, he shall be put to death: but be ye with the king when he cometh in, and when he goeth out. ⁸ So the Levites and all Judah did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest had commanded, and took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that were to go *out* on the sabbath: for Jehoiada the priest dismissed not the courses. ⁹ Moreover Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds spears, and bucklers, and shields, that *had been* king David's,

which *were* in the house of God. ¹⁰ And he set all the people, every man having his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, along by the altar and the temple, by the king round about. ¹¹ Then they brought out the king's son, and put upon him the crown, and *gave him* the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king.

Countering the Opposition

2 Chronicles 23:12-15^(KJV) Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of the LORD: ¹³ And she looked, and, behold, the king stood at his pillar at the entering in, and the princes and the trumpets by the king: and all the people of the land rejoiced, and sounded with trumpets, also the singers with instruments of music, and such as taught to sing praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason, Treason. ¹⁴ Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over the host, and said unto them, Have her forth of the ranges: and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword. For the priest said, Slay her not in the house of the LORD. ¹⁵ So they laid hands on her; and when she was come to the entering of the horse gate by the king's house, they slew her there.

Establishing the Covenant

2 Chronicles 23:16-17^(KJV) And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD'S people. ¹⁷ Then all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

Questions for Study

Uniting the People

1. What qualities of leadership did Jehoiada demonstrate that rallied the people?
2. What responses of the people contributed to Jehoiada's success?
3. Enumerate ways in which differing roles can enhance the work of God's kingdom.
4. What applications can we make to Jehoiada's use of King David's weaponry?

Countering the Opposition

5. Why did the activity in the temple get Athaliah's attention? What parallels can we make?
6. To what influences do we need to be prepared to deal the deathblow today?

Establishing the Covenant

7. Who did the covenant include? What is the lesson for us?

Analysing the Passage

“In the seventh year” (23: 1) refers to the seventh year of Joash's hiding. “J Jehoiada strengthened himself” (23:1) reminds us that it took courage to do this important work. He also valued the support of faithful men—“the chief of the fathers” (23:2)--men who had proven themselves loyal and would support his intentions. Entering “into covenant with him” (23:1) shows us that this required confidentiality and the unified effort of all involved.

The Levites served in the temple in courses. King David had organized their responsibilities even before the temple was built (1 Chronicles chapters 23 & 24). Twenty-four courses, divided by families, took their turns serving in the temple, helping the priests. Jehoiada planned to anoint Joash at a time when the Levites changed courses. He did not dismiss the outgoing course (23:8) when the incoming one arrived so that there would be extra Levites on hand for this event. This detail indicates that temple worship was being conducted by the faithful, even in this time of spiritual darkness.

Joash was truly “the king's son” (23:11) by right of being Azariah's son. Athaliah's cry of treason would have applied better when she took the throne. The words “gave him the testimony” are only used here and in 2 Kings 11:12 speaking also of Joash. Perhaps it was a special charge, reinstating the royalty to David's lineage that by treason Athaliah had held for six years.

Jehoiada commanded that Athaliah be taken well beyond the holy sanctuary before she would be slain (23:14). Any who supported her were to be slain as well.

Principles and Applications

Uniting the People

1. Those who are committed to being God's people courageously take decisive action to remain God's people (23:1). It is right to be sensitive to being in harmony with God's timing, but we must also be willing to move ahead when God's will is known. A half-hearted approach to Christian life will certainly result in spiritual lethargy. We must maintain a vibrant devotional life and prayer life. We must appreciate the practical direction the church gives in areas of personal appearance, music, vehicles, technology, and Bible school standards.

2. Those who are committed inspire commitment in others (23:2).

Jehoiada knew this would require a united group effort. The task at hand was much bigger than he himself could accomplish. Today we continue to benefit from the direction of faithful leaders, but many times much of the work is done by many willing hands doing their small part.

3. Those who are committed to the Lord hold His Word in high regard (23:3). Jehoiada could move ahead with confidence because he knew God's plan for a son of David to be king. Each decision we make, whether personal or collective, must be weighed in light of Bible teachings. We can have the confidence of God working in our behalf if we follow His direction.

4. The committed willingly fill their individual roles in a collective effort against the enemies of God's people (23:4-8). This requires willing obedience and good cooperation. A lack of unity is a sure road to defeat. Just as the Levites doubled up for more security, so each of us must be willing to do more than our share in times of special need.

5. The committed understand the importance of being properly armed to face the foe (23:9-10). Victory over the enemy demands diligence and a resolute adherence to the truth of God's Word. This is possible only as we saturate our souls with the truth of God's Word. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day" (Ephesians 6:13).

Countering the Opposition

6. The forces of evil are constantly challenging the commitment of God's people (23:12-13). When God works in behalf of His people, the enemy takes notice and tries to interfere. The enemy of our souls is very subtle and persistent. Our weaknesses will always be the areas where we are the most vulnerable. "Angel of light" tactics abound in much of

the “spiritual” emphases of our day, which are only counterfeit spirituality.

7. Those who are committed rejoice when the cause of God prevails (23:13). Our interests and emotions should be touched by the gains and losses of God’s kingdom. When a personal victory is won, a new Christian home or congregation is established, another leader is added to the ranks, or the government rules in favour of our convictions, it should be a time of special rejoicing for God’s people.

Establishing the Covenant

8. Those who are committed are willing to seal their commitment with a covenant (23:16). Daniel had purpose of heart because he had made a personal covenant with God. We dare never take our commitments lightly; God will hold us accountable if we are negligent. Group revival is greatly influenced by the commitment of each one involved.

9. Those who are committed to the Lord understand the importance of dealing with the influences that militate against their relationship with God (23:17). Pride, disrespect for authority, materialism, a love for pleasure, casualness, and a competitive spirit are all areas where we must be on our guard. The New Testament warns us against covetousness. First John 2:16 sums it up as “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.” One of the most effective tools of the devil today is the screen.

Many in the world, especially young people, are obsessed to the point it has become idolatry.

Important Teachings

1. Those who are committed to being God’s people courageously take decisive action to remain God’s people (23:11).

2. Those who are committed inspire commitment in others (23:2).

3. Those who are committed to the Lord hold His Word in high regard (23:3).

4. The committed willingly fill their individual roles in a collective effort against the enemies of God’s people (23:4-8).

5. The committed understand the importance of being properly armed to face the foe (23:9-10).

6. The forces of evil are constantly challenging the commitment of God’s people (23:12-13).

7. Those who are committed rejoice when the cause of God prevails (23:13).

8. Those who are committed are willing to seal their commitment with a covenant (23:16).

9. Those who are committed to the Lord understand the importance of dealing with the influences that militate against their relationship with God (23:17).

Answers to Questions

1. What qualities of leadership did Jehoiada demonstrate that rallied the people?

Jehoiada acted on his knowledge of God's will and did not procrastinate in performing a difficult task. He was not intimidated by the opposition that surfaced. He saw the importance of a unified effort but also gave specific direction for the carrying out of individual responsibilities. He persevered until the work was finished.

2. What responses of the people contributed to Jehoiada's success?

Jehoiada had obviously won their respect, and they diligently followed his direction. They willingly and obediently carried out their individual responsibilities. They armed themselves properly in order to be effective in combating the opposition.

3. Enumerate ways in which differing roles can enhance the work of God's kingdom.

No one person can do all the work. The roles of the older and younger are different but equally important. Individual abilities are not equal in every area but, like the differing members of the body, can make a specific contribution to the whole (see 2 Corinthians 12:17). God's kingdom is safeguarded because the different positions make it possible to see the enemy from all directions.

4. What applications can we make to Jehoiada's use of King David's weaponry?

The enemy is the same, and the same weapons will be effective in combating the enemy. The Scriptures are our defense against the enemy no matter what time period we live in. The defenses outlined by our forefathers should not be easily disregarded. A fellowship that lightly esteems traditional practices will quickly degenerate to every man doing that which is right in his own eyes.

5. Why did the activity in the temple get Athaliah's attention? What parallels can we make?

It was a time of special rejoicing, and the people were participating wholeheartedly. When a choice is made to withstand evil and diligently follow the Lord—whether personally or collectively—the enemy of our souls takes notice and brings on new conflict.

6. To what influences do we need to be prepared to deal the deathblow today?

Our baptismal vows include the devil (temptations), the flesh, our own carnal will, and sinful desires. Teachings that are contrary to the Scriptures must be avoided. We cannot entertain immoral thoughts without them bearing fruit. Romans 8:13 and Colossians 3:5 list things we must mortify.

7. Who did the covenant include? What is the lesson for us?

The covenant included everyone—the king, the leaders, and the people. It was a covenant to return to God. The strength of a group revival is determined by the commitment of each one involved.

Summarizing the Lesson

Jehoiada was a man of faith, conviction, courage, vision, initiative, resourcefulness, justice, thoroughness, and perseverance. The willing obedience and contribution of the people enhanced the cause. “And all the people of the land rejoiced: and the city was quiet” (23:21). Today the Lord continues to bless His people when leaders have this kind of vision and when their people rally around them and fulfill their individual responsibilities.

Research Guide

1. Read the parallel passage in 2 Kings 11.

2. Read 1 Chronicles 23—24, where the details of how David established the courses are given.

3. Research the positions of the gates mentioned in this chapter: the gate of foundation (23:5), the horse gate (23:15), and the high gate (23:20). Some sources suggest that the horse gate had some connection to the idolatrous worship of the sun. (See also 2 Kings 23:11.) Was Athaliah's exit here significant?