

2 Kings Chapter 12 Verses 01-03; Bible Study

2Ki 12:1 ¶ In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash began to reign; and forty years reigned he in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. 2 And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him."

Jehoash and Joash are the same person. Queen Athaliah and Jehu began to reign at almost the same time, and Jehoiada the priest crowned Jehoash in the seventh year of Athaliah's reign and slew her. Thus, it was the seventh year of the reign of Jehu when Jehoash began to reign.

We see here what bringing a child up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord does, because Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of God, under the instruction of Jehoiada the priest. We shall see that Jehoash turns away from God, listens to the people, and stops listening to Jehoiada. This proves that Jehoash was not reading the testimony of the Lord daily, given to him when he was crowned king over Judah, as directed by God.

What does this tell us about our lives as a child of God today? We see the prophetic picture of the New Testament Church and its status here in time. What do you mean? We shall see that Jehoash will do right in the sight of the LORD when he is following the instructions of the high priest. If the New Testament Church is following the instructions of its High Priest, Jesus the Christ, there will be peace, prosperity, and lives bringing forth good Spiritual fruit. What happens if we turn our backs on God and start listening to man? We become guilty of idolatry, and our lives are no longer bringing forth good fruit of the Spirit. And God will regard our actions as evil in His sight.

We learn here that it is important to do that which is right in the sight of the LORD. LORD, all caps, is the Hebrew word Jehovah, and means the self-existent God, or the very essence of God. Lord, with only the first letter capitalized, means sovereign as a king or ruler, which is why we call Jesus, Lord. This reminds us that whether LORD or Lord is used in reference to God, we are still to recognize that our LORD is the eternal God, and in the new birth we have the essence of the LORD placed within us, and we become His representatives here on earth. We also recognize our Lord is our sovereign King, as we acknowledge that Jesus is our King.

3 "But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places."

We see that idolatry is not completely wiped out in Judah, as it was not wiped out in Israel, which is a mistake. Why? Because God cannot behold sin with the least degree of allowance, and God will not share His due glory with any other. Idolatry is like cancer in the body, if it is not completely removed, it will spread throughout the body and bring death.

What were high places? High places were often exactly that: a place upon the top of a hill, or some other high place in elevation, where the people raised altars to many different gods and idols, which is strictly forbidden by God for Israel, seen in the very first commandment: ***Ex 20:3; 2 "I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."***

This is a warning to the New Testament Church, and to individual church bodies: be very careful that we do not let idolatry slip, or creep, into the worship of God. This was a problem when the New Testament Church was first established and still is today. Whenever, you see a church body begin to accept things into the worship service, and into church fellowship, which are expressly condemned by the Word of God, you are seeing idolatry entering that fellowship, which will in time bring God's judicial judgments upon said fellowships.

This is why Jehoash did right in the sight of the LORD while under the tutelage of Jehoiada the high priest. He was following ***"thus saith the LORD."*** It is why we read and study God's written testimony of Jesus Christ, the King James Bible, so we know what is ***"thus saith the LORD."*** It is why we make the choice every day to deny self and serve our King and High Priest, Jesus the Christ. Thank you, Jesus, for your eternal redemption of our sins and for the eternal life you have given us, Hallelujah! Amen!