

2 Kings Chapter 12 Verses 13-21; Bible Study

2Ki 12:13 "Howbeit there were not made for the house of the LORD bowls of silver, snuffers, basons, trumpets, any vessels of gold, or vessels of silver, of the money that was brought into the house of the LORD: **14** But they gave that to the workmen, and repaired therewith the house of the LORD. **15** Moreover they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to be bestowed on workmen: for they dealt faithfully."

We are told here that they did not make the bowls of silver, snuffers, basons, trumpets, vessels of gold, or vessels of silver, which were tools of service for the priests to make sacrifices to God. However, we are told in **2Ch 24:14** *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 they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.* Thus, we find the vessels were made after all.

There is a warning for us here also. It is necessary to keep the exterior, and the interior of the house of God in full repair, as well as the things needed to properly carry out the services of our Lord. This leads us back to the earlier reference of purging ourselves of ungodliness, that we may be fruitful vessels in the hand of our God, and in our service to the Lord.

We notice also that the workers and those who handled the money were people of integrity, who did not overcharge or waste the funds entrusted to them. We can make application of this integrity; in how we handle the Word of God. We should always use the Word of God in faithfulness to God. We are not to twist the words of God to suit our own selves, which is a picture of the priests not properly handling the funds coming into the house of God, until order was restored by the king, through the high priest. Neither should we neglect to follow the commandment of our King Jesus, nor of our High Priest, Jesus Christ, as the priests disobeyed their king. For our King, and High Priest, has certainly set in order, the proper way for the New Testament Church to worship God. This is defined by singing hymns of praise, praying, and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, from a pure heart, in Spirit and Truth, which will bring glory and honor to the name of our God. Neither are we to neglect to love the Lord with all the heart, mind, soul, and body, and love our neighbors as ourselves, especially our brethren in Christ.

16 "The trespass money and sin money was not brought into the house of the LORD: it was the priests'."

This money was dedicated for the priests to provide them sustenance in life, as seen in **Le 5:14-16; 14 ¶** *"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 15 If a soul commit a trespass, and sin through ignorance, in the holy things of the LORD; then he shall bring for his trespass unto the LORD a ram without blemish out of the flocks, with thy estimation by shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for a trespass offering: 16 And he shall make amends for the harm that he hath done in the holy thing, and shall add the fifth part thereto, and give it unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him."* All the other funds were to be dedicated to the house of God.

Among the Primitive Baptist, there are many pastors who do not receive a salary from the church they pastor. Some by choice, since God has already met their needs, and some of necessity, to not be burdensome to small and poor congregations. However, this does not relieve the congregations from their obligation to provide love offerings to their pastor, so that the expenses, he expends on behalf of serving the church, are compensated for. We see an example of this in **1Co 9:9-12; 9** *"For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? 10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. 11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? 12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless, we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ."* Paul is simply explaining to the Corinthians, there are those who are not preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, who are among you to fleece you for monetary benefits. I have refused such monetary benefits, to which I am scripturally authorized to receive from you, that I may not appear to be as one of these false preachers, who are doing the devil's work, and fleecing the flock of God in pretense of preaching the gospel.

17 ¶ "Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. 18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem."

Gath was a city to the west of Jerusalem and a little bit south of Jerusalem. It was almost due west of Bethlehem. It was taken from the Philistines during the reign of king David and had remained in the possession of Israel until this event takes place. When Hazael took the city of Gath, he set himself to go to Jerusalem and take it also. Jehoash took everything that was of monetary value in the temple, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael. Hazael accepted the gift and did not go to Jerusalem to besiege it, at that time. We point out that the things of the house of God were not the king's to give. Instead of giving away the things of the house of God, Jehoash should have went to God in prayer, asking God what to do, and to deliver them from Hazael, for the sake of God's name and God's chosen holy city, Jerusalem.

Jehoiada, the high priest has died some time before this happens. Jehoash has revolted against God, disregarded all the advice of Jehoiada the high priest, and rejected the testimony of God, killed the sons of Jehoiada the high priest, and turned to the will of the flesh, which is why this invasion is happening, seen in **2Ch 24:17-22; 17 "Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. 18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass. 19 Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear. 20 And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. 21 And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD. 22 Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, The LORD look upon it, and require it. 23 And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus. 24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So, they executed judgment against Joash."** This is why God sent Hazael to take the city of Gath. Jehoash bribed his way out of Hazael's attack on Jerusalem, but Hazael comes back about a year later and takes Jerusalem. You see: Jehoash made a big mistake, because he did not turn to God for help but trusted in the arm of flesh, and riches of the world. Thus, we see that God's judicial wrath upon Jehoash, for forsaking God, and for murdering the sons of Jehoiada, is carried out, when he is slain by his own servants.

What a sad thought. Joash began to be king, under the tutelage of Jehoiada the high priest, and was given a copy of the testimony of God when he was anointed king. As soon as Jehoiada dies, Joash neglects to read the word of God daily, (if he was reading it at all) and is persuaded by the princesses of the land to turn away from God to idolatry. For one who had such a great beginning, it is very sad that he comes to so tragic an end.

There is the picture here that children of God are not to be persuaded by the things and the reasoning of the world, the devil, but always trusting in the promises of God in the bible. Remember the warning to the children of God seen in **Re 2:10 be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."**

19 "And the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 20 And his servants arose, and made a conspiracy, and slew Joash (Jehoash) in the house of Millo, which goeth down to Silla. 21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath, and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, smote him, and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David: and Amaziah his son reigned in his stead."

We see the end of Joash with better light in **2Ch 24:23-25; 23 "And it came to pass at the end of the year, that the host of Syria came up against him: and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, and destroyed all the**

princes of the people from among the people, and sent all the spoil of them unto the king of Damascus. 24 For the army of the Syrians came with a small company of men, and the LORD delivered a very great host (Israelites) into their hand, because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers. So, they executed judgment against Joash. 25 And when they were departed from him, (for they left him in great diseases,) his own servants conspired against him for the blood of the sons of Jehoiada the priest, and slew him on his bed, and he died: and they buried him in the city of David, but they buried him not in the sepulchers of the kings."

We see here that God not only sent Hazael the Syrian to destroy the work of Joash and Jerusalem, but God also struck Joash with great diseases because of his rejection of God, by his embracing the will of the people, and plunging headlong into idolatry. Since Amaziah his son reigned in his stead, it is apparent that Judah had no problem with the lineage of king David continuing to be on the throne of Judah, which is continuing of God's promise to king David.

They did not bury Joash with the kings, because of the disgrace of his last few years as king over Judah. What a sad picture to review for one who had a great beginning with his heart seemingly set upon serving God, and then to turn from God to idolatry. His ending tells us: the reason he was a good king, at the start, was he followed the instruction of Jehoiada. When Jehoiada dies, he shows his true heart and falls in sin. A great warning to us to be very careful how we live out our lives as children of God. The fear of the Lord should reign in our hearts, so that we may be as Paul said in ***1Co 9:27 "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*** Praise God for the eternal remission of our sins, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and the gift of eternal life in the new birth. Hallelujah! Amen!