



# Church of God Sunday School

## JOASH BECOMES KING

2 Chronicles 22:2-24:14

When Ahaziah became the King of Judah, he was forty-two years old. He was a wicked king. He followed the wicked advice of ones from the house of Ahab, and he followed the wicked advice of his mother, Athaliah.

After Ahaziah died, Athaliah wanted to be the Queen. She knew that she could only be queen if all the royal children were dead, so she wanted them to be killed. Imagine that: she was a grandmother, but she was not a very nice grandmother, was she?

Athaliah had all the king's royal family murdered. That is, she thought she had. One baby son, Joash, had been saved. Here is how. Joash had an aunt named Jehoshabeath. She was the wife of the good priest, Jehoiada. Jehoshabeath knew of the plot against the royal family, so she stole Baby Joash from among his brothers and hid both him and his nurse.

When Queen Athaliah thought she had disposed of all the royal family, she began her wicked reign. For six years she reigned over the land and served the idol, Baal.

During the time that Athaliah ruled, Joash was growing up in the temple of God. His aunt Jehoshabeath took care of him, and Uncle Jehoiada taught him about God and the Law of Moses. But Joash had to stay hidden away all the time, so his life was not that of the average child. For instance, he could not go outdoors to play, to enjoy the sunshine and the nice days, because someone in the Queen's service might see him.

But in the seventh year, Jehoiada felt that the time had come to make it known that Joash, one of Ahaziah's own children, was still alive. So Jehoiada told all the captains of the army about Joash and persuaded them to help him make Joash the King. Then they went and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, with the chief leaders of Israel, and told them about Joash. These men all came to Jerusalem. In the house of God, they all joined with Jehoiada to make Joash the King.

Jehoiada had a plan. He said that on the next Sabbath, a third part of the priests and the Levites

should guard the doors of God's house. A third part should guard the house of the king. Another third part was to guard the gate of the foundation. All the people were to gather in the courts of the Lord's house and be on guard. They were to allow no one to enter the Lord's house except the priests and the Levites. If any others dared to enter, they were to be killed.

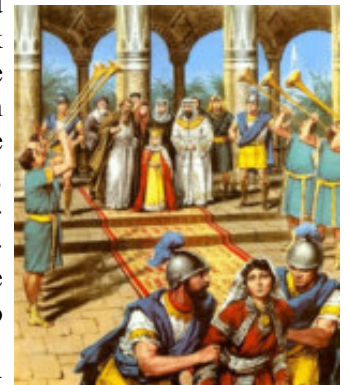
On the Sabbath day, the priests, the Levites, and the people of the congregation of Judah were all in their positions, as Jehoiada had told them to be. Jehoiada had armed them with weapons that had been King David's.

Then young Joash was brought out. He was just seven years old. After he was anointed, crowned, given the testimony, and made king, Jehoiada and his sons said, "God save the king."

All the people began to shout and rejoice. Their rejoicing made quite a noise! Queen Athaliah heard the noise. She went to the house of the Lord. She went in! She saw all the people rejoicing and blowing trumpets. She saw the king standing by his pillar. She saw the singers playing on instruments and singing praises to King Joash. Then Athaliah tore her royal garments and shouted, "Treason, Treason," meaning she had been betrayed.

Jehoiada commanded the captains of the army to take Athaliah outside the Lord's house and kill her. Anyone who went with her was to be killed too. So they took hold of her and out they went. They took her as far as the horse gate and killed her. Soon after Jehoiada had made sure Athaliah was dead, he called the people together and made a covenant between him, the people, and King Joash to follow the Lord.

But they were not done yet. Everyone went to the temple of Baal and tore it down! They tore Baal's altars down, broke his images, and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal.



Then Jehoiada gave the responsibility for the offices in the house of the Lord into the hands of the priests, the Levites. They were to see that burnt offerings were made to the Lord, according to the Law of Moses, with lots of rejoicing and singing, such as David had ordained. Guards, or porters, were set at the gates of the Lord's house to make sure no one who was unclean, in any way, entered God's house. The people then rejoiced some more that Athaliah's wicked reign was over.

But the house of God had been vandalized by Queen Athaliah's sons during her reign. They had taken the sacred things that were dedicated to God and dedicated them to Baal. Joash wanted to repair the house of the Lord. At his command, a collection chest was set by the gate to the Lord's house. In time,

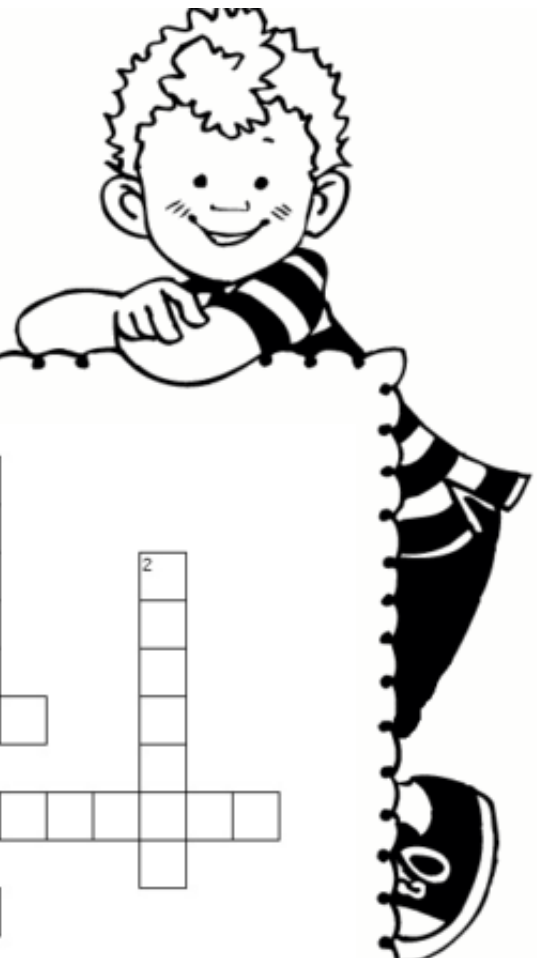
enough money was collected to repair the house of God. There was even enough left over to make vessels for use in the house of the Lord: gold and silver vessels and spoons.

Although Joash was only seven years old when he became king, he listened to and obeyed what Jehoiada told him to do. He did what was right in God's sight and served God faithfully all the days that Jehoiada lived. Joash had burnt offerings made unto the Lord continually.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers . . ."* —1 Timothy 4:12

# King Joash



**Across**

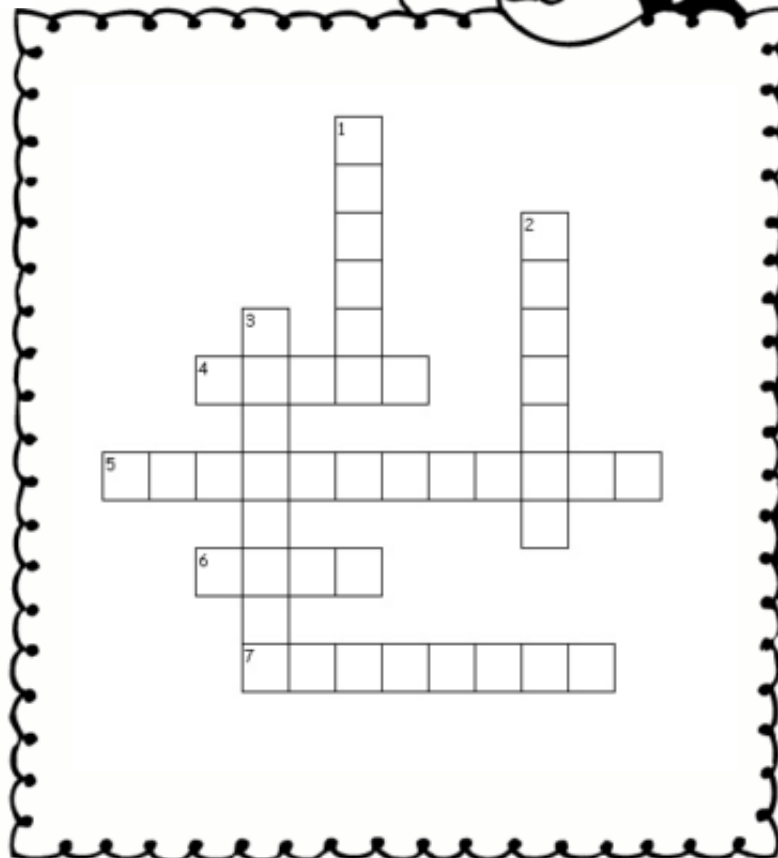
- 4. Joash's age when he became king
- 5. Joash's aunt
- 6. Athaliah's god
- 7. Joash's grandmother

**Down**

- 1. Joash had this repaired
- 2. Joash's father
- 3. Joash's uncle

**Use These Words**

- Baal
- temple
- Athaliah
- Jehoiada
- Jehoshabeath
- seven
- Ahaziah



# Put the Story in Order



**Draw a line from the picture to the correct description:**

**Jehoshabeath hides baby Joash**

**Joash is old enough to be king**

**Joash is crowned king**

**Queen Athaliah shouted, "Treason!"**





## Jehoshabeath Hides Baby Joash