

2 Kings 12

Verses 1 - 3

In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned for forty years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. ² Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all his days that Jehoiada the priest instructed him. ³ Only the high places did not end; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned for forty years in Jerusalem; and his mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

See chart 1205

Southern Kings					
	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

² Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all his days that Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

See 2 Chronicles 24:17 – 19

¹⁷ But after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and bowed down to the king, and the king listened to them. ¹⁸ And they abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols; so wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. ¹⁹ Yet He sent prophets to them to bring them back to the Lord; and they testified against them, but they would not listen.

Since Jehoash became king at age 7, he needed a good man to guide him and Jehoiada was a high priest and a man of great faith. But when Jehoiada died, Jehoash lost his way.

Then Joash did the unthinkable when he allowed (instructed) the officials to murder the prophet Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada.

See 2 Chronicles 24:20-22

²⁰ Then the Spirit of God covered Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest like clothing; and he stood above the people and said to them, “This is what God has said, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the Lord and do not prosper? Because you have abandoned the Lord, He has also abandoned you.’” ²¹ So they conspired against him, and at the command of the king they stoned him to death in the courtyard of the house of the Lord. ²² So Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Zechariah’s father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as Zechariah died he said, “May the Lord see and avenge!”

The Zechariah mentioned here has no connection with the Zechariah mentioned in the Gospel of Matthew.

See Matthew 23:34 – 36

³⁴ “Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will flog in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, ³⁵ so that upon you will fall *the guilt* of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

The Zechariah in Matthew is the son of Barachiah, not the son of Jehoiada.

Only the high places did not end; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

God had been quite clear that all of their sacrifices were to be taken to the place where His name resided. For 300 years the tabernacle in Shiloh was the center of worship but when it was replaced by the temple, the temple became the only accepted place to offer sacrifices to God

Only a few kings actively destroyed these pagan worship sites during their rule. The most notable king to do so was Josiah in 2 Kings 23.

Verses 4

⁴ Then Jehoash said to the priests, “All the money of the sacred offerings which is brought into the house of the Lord, in current money, both the money of each man’s assessment and all the money which anyone’s heart prompts him to bring into the house of the Lord,

Two kinds of money are mentioned here:

1. The money of each man’s assessment

Some commentators believe this is the half-shekel required by the Law.

See Exodus 30:11-16

¹¹ The Lord also spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² “When you take a census of the sons of Israel to count them, then each one of them shall give a ransom for himself to the Lord, when you count them, so that there will be no plague among them when you count them. ¹³ This *is what* everyone who is counted shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel is twenty gerahs), half a shekel as a contribution to the Lord. ¹⁴ Everyone who is counted, from twenty years old and over, shall give the contribution to the Lord. ¹⁵ The rich shall not pay more, and the poor shall not pay less, than the half shekel, when you give the contribution to the Lord to make atonement for yourselves. ¹⁶ And you shall take the atonement money from the sons of Israel and give it for the service of the tent of meeting, so that it may be a memorial for the sons of Israel before the Lord, to make atonement for yourselves.”

However, this ransom was only required when a census was taken. The half-shekel tax did not become a yearly tax until the Second Temple period (516 to 430 BC).

Other commentators say that “the money of each man’s assessment” refers to a law that was given in Leviticus.

See Leviticus 27:1- 2

Again, the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When someone makes an explicit vow, he shall be valued according to your assessment of persons belonging to the Lord.’

Verses 3 thru 9 spell out the assessment for each person.

See chart 1210

Price paid to a priest when a person was devoted to God by a vow

Age	Men		Women	
	shekels	Value	shekels	Value
Up to 5 years	5	\$3	3	\$2
5 to 20	20	\$12	10	\$6
20 to 60	50	\$30	30	\$18
Above 60	15	\$9	10	\$6

The average wage of a worker in Biblical times was about one shekel per month.
So these figures are very large.

This 2nd option better fits the meaning of “the money of each man’s assessment” since there is an actual assessment, not a flat tax as in the case of the half-shekel tax.

2. The money offered as free-will offerings

This was the 2nd kind of offering mentioned in verse 4. It needs no explanation.

Verse 5

⁵ The priests are to take it for themselves, each from his acquaintance; and they shall repair damage to the house wherever any damage is found."

The collection was to be made throughout Judah. Each of the priests collected the temple tax in his neighborhood.

Verses 6 - 8

⁶ But it came about that in the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, the priests had not repaired *any* damage to the house. ⁷ So King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the priest, and the *other* priests, and said to them, "Why do you not repair damage to the house? Now then, you are not to take *any more* money from your acquaintances, but give it up for the damage to the house." ⁸ The priests then agreed that they would not take *any more* money from the people, nor would they repair damage to the house.

⁶ But it came about that in the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, the priests had not repaired *any* damage to the house.

The king ordered the priests to repair the temple but the project never got off the ground. There are at least 3 possible reasons for this.

1. The priests were corrupt

This seems somewhat unlikely since Jehoiada was very faithful to God throughout his life and God rewarded him for his faithfulness.

See 2 Chronicles 24:15 -16

¹⁵ Now Jehoiada reached a good old age and he died; he was 130 years old at his death. ¹⁶ And they buried him in the city of David with the kings, because he had done well in Israel and for God and His house.

God extended his life far beyond the normal expectancy of that period and honored him with a burial place among the royal tombs.

2. The priests were in need of this income.

With 10 of the 12 tribes rejecting the temple in Jerusalem as the place to offer their sacrifices and many in Judah worshiping at the high places there was not enough support going to the temple, priests and the Levites.

3. This failure may have been the result of poor planning by a young king.

The project needed a fulltime coordinator that could oversee the work because it was a large undertaking and the priests were too busy with their own duties. They worked at the temple on a rotational basis, they had their own family and land to manage at home and they were responsible for teaching and helping people in their community.

⁷ So King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the priest, and the *other* priests, and he said to them, “Why do you not repair damage to the house?” Now then, you are not to take *any more* money from your acquaintances, but give it up for the damage to the house.” ⁸ The priests then agreed that they would not take *any more* money from the people, nor would they repair damage to the house.

Most likely the repairs were not done because the priests were too busy and the project needed a coordinator that could oversee the project because the temple had been neglected for many years and was now in need of extensive repairs.

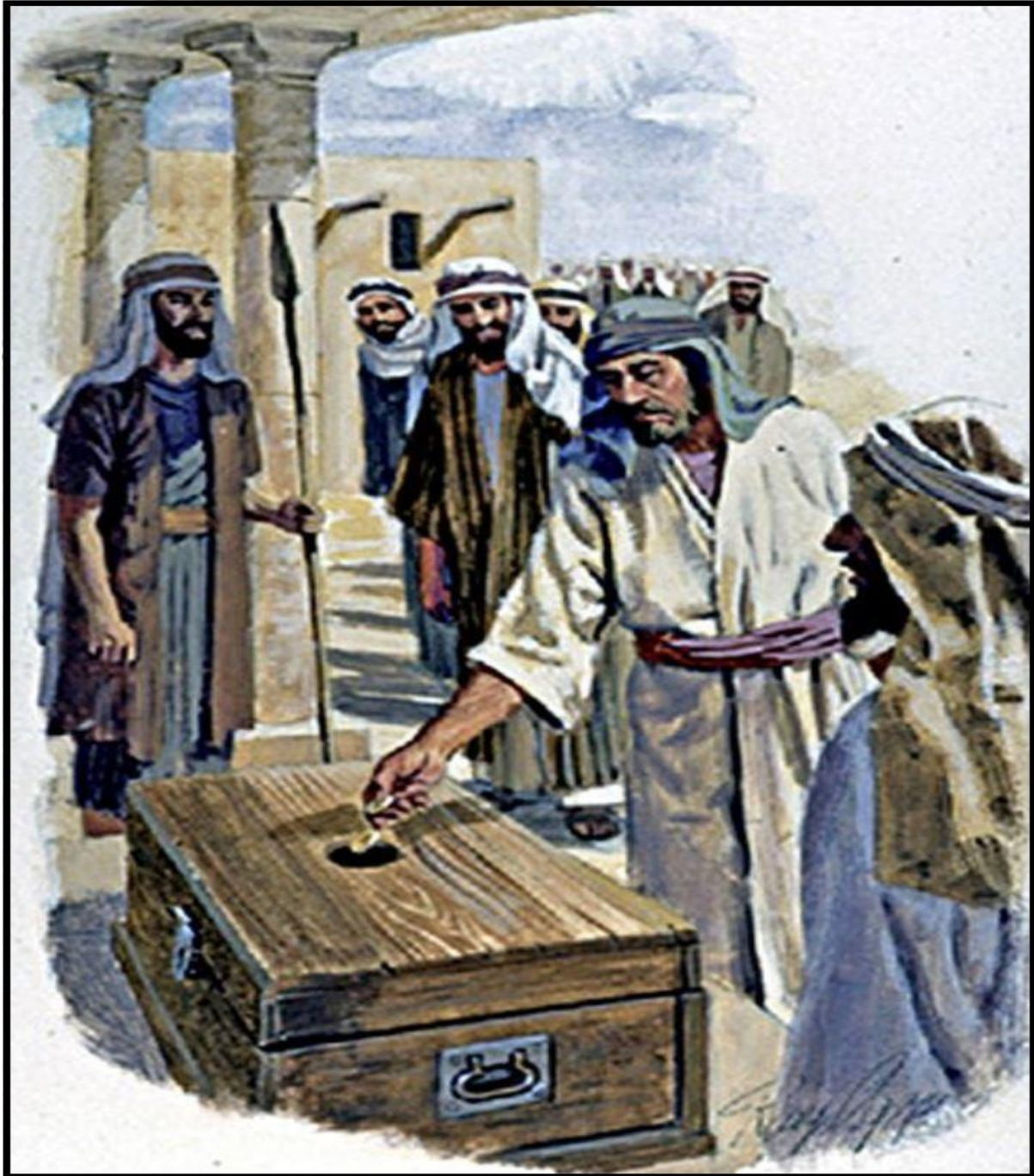
Apparently, there were some negotiations on this matter and the priests agreed to stop collecting the money but neither would they be responsible for the repairs to the temple.

Verses 9 - 12

⁹ Instead, Jehoiada the priest took a chest and drilled a hole in its lid and put it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the Lord; and the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the Lord. ¹⁰ When they saw that there was a great *amount of* money in the chest, the king’s scribe and the high priest went up and tied *it* up in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the Lord. ¹¹ And they handed the money which was assessed over to those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the Lord; and they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the Lord; ¹² and to the masons and the stonecutters, and for buying timber and cut stone to repair the damage to the house of the Lord, and for everything that was laid out for the house to repair it.

⁹ Instead, Jehoiada the priest took a chest and drilled a hole in its lid and put it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the Lord; and the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the Lord.

See pic 1215



Amazing how these pics survived for so many centuries. ☺

Instead of the priests collecting the money in their home towns a chest was put on the right side as one comes into the Temple. Something very similar was still in use during the time of Christ when the widow cast in her two mites.

See Mark 12:41 – 44

⁴¹ **And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and began watching how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large amounts.** ⁴² **And a poor widow came and put in two lepta coins, which amount to a quadrans.** ⁴³ **Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; ⁴⁴ for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”**

¹⁰ **When they saw that there was a great *amount of* money in the chest, the king’s scribe and the high priest went up and tied *it* up in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the Lord.**

The king put his scribe and Jehoiada the High Priest in charge of the money.

¹¹ **And they handed the money which was assessed over to those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the Lord; and they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the Lord; ¹² and to the masons and the stonecutters, and for buying timber and cut stone to repair the damage to the house of the Lord, and for everything that was laid out for the house to repair it.**

The king’s scribe and the high priest paid it out to the supervisors of the workman and they in turn paid the various workers.

1. The carpenters and the builders
2. The masons and the stonecutters,
3. Those that secured and bought timber and cut stone

We can see from this that the extent of the repairs was enormous. The temple was completed in 959 BC and the repairs on the temple did not take place until the 23rd year of Joash in 812 BC. Almost 150 years after the temple was built.

See chart 1218

1st Kings timeline Part 1

Ch.	Event		Year
1	Solomon becomes king		970
2	David Dies		970
6	Temple started		966
6	Temple completed ---- 7 years		959
8	Ark brought to the temple		958
9	Solomon finishes his palace ---- 13 years		946
10	Queen of Sheba visits		
11	Solomon dies		930
12	Rehoboam king of Judah	1s	930
12	Jeroboam king of Israel	1n	930
12-13	Golden Calves at Bethel and Dan		
14	Treasures of the Temple raided by Egypt		925
15	Asa King of Judah	3s	910

2nd Kings timeline Part 2

Ch.	Event	Other	Year
8	Jehoram king of Judah	5s	848
8	Ahaziah king of Judah	6s	841
9	Jehu kills Joram and Ahaziah	9n,6s	841
10	Ahab's family killed		841
11	Joash king of Judah	7s	835
12	The temple repairs begin		812
13	Jehoahaz king of Israel	11n	814
13	Jehoash king of Israel	12n	798

Verses 13 - 16

¹³ However there were not made for the house of the Lord silver cups, shears, bowls, trumpets, any receptacles of gold, or receptacles of silver from the money which was brought into the house of the Lord; ¹⁴ for they gave that to those who did the work, and with it they repaired the house of the Lord. ¹⁵ Moreover, they did not require an accounting from the men into whose hands they gave the money to pay to those who did the work, because they acted faithfully. ¹⁶ The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the Lord; it belonged to the priests.

¹³ However there were not made for the house of the Lord silver cups, shears, bowls, trumpets, any receptacles of gold, or receptacles of silver from the money which was brought into the house of the Lord; ¹⁴ for they gave that to those who did the work, and with it they repaired the house of the Lord.

These items were in short supply because the sons of Athaliah had robbed these items from Solomon's temple to use in the pagan temple of Baal.

See 2 Chron. 24:7

⁷ For the sons of the wicked Athaliah had broken into the house of God, and even used the holy things of the house of the Lord for the Baals.

However, the most important priority at this time was repairing the temple so these items would have to be replaced at a later date.

¹⁶ The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the Lord; it belonged to the priests.

According to the law these two types of sacrifices belonged to the priest.

1. The sin offering

See Leviticus 6:24 - 26

²⁴ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁵ “Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, ‘This is the law of the sin offering: in the place where the burnt offering is slaughtered, the sin offering shall be slaughtered before the Lord; it is most holy.

²⁶ The priest who offers it for sin shall eat it. It shall be eaten in a holy place, in the courtyard of the tent of meeting.

2. The guilt offering

See Leviticus 7:7

⁷ The guilt offering is like the sin offering: there is one law for them. The priest who makes atonement with it shall have it.

Verses 17 -18

¹⁷ Then Hazael the king of Aram went up and fought against Gath and captured it, and Hazael was intent on going up against Jerusalem. ¹⁸ So Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred offerings that Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had consecrated, and his own sacred offerings, and all the gold that was found among the treasuries of the house of the Lord and of the king's house, and sent *them* to Hazael king of Aram. Then he withdrew from Jerusalem.

Then Hazael the king of Aram went up and fought against Gath and captured it, and Hazael was intent on going up against Jerusalem.

Syria was fairly dominate at this time. King Hazel had invaded the land of Israel east of the Jordan River at the end of Jehu's reign (814 BC) and captured it.

See 2 Kings 10:32-33

³² In those days the Lord began to cut off *pieces* from Israel; and Hazael ^[aa]defeated *them* throughout the territory of Israel: ³³ from the Jordan eastward, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites, the Reubenites, and the Manassites; from Aroer, which is by the Valley of the Arnon, that is, Gilead and Bashan.

See map 1220 below

(The area outlined in yellow).

And now at the end of Joash's reign (796 BC) Hazael has fought against Gath and capture it and is threatening Jerusalem.

See map 1220 again

(The area west of the Jordan River).



So Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred offerings, and all the gold that was found among the treasuries of the house of the Lord and of the king's house, and sent *them* to Hazael king of Aram. Then he withdrew from Jerusalem.

This appeased the King of Aram for a period of time but he returned to inflict Judah and Joash with a more severe punishment.

See 2 Chron. 24:23-24

²³ Now it happened at the turn of the year that the army of the Arameans came up against *Joash*; and they came to Judah and Jerusalem, destroyed all the officials of the people from among the people, and sent all their spoils to the king of Damascus. ²⁴ Indeed, the army of the Arameans came with a small number of men; yet the Lord handed a very great army over to them, because Judah and Joash had abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers. So they executed judgment on Joash.

God may have sent this disaster upon Joash and his officials in answer to the dying prayer of Zechariah.

See 2 Chronicles 24:22

²² So Joash the king did not remember the kindness which *Zechariah's* father Jehoiada had shown him, but he murdered his son. And as Zechariah died he said, "May the Lord see and avenge!"

Verses 19 - 21

¹⁹ Now as for the rest of the acts of Joash and everything that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? ²⁰ And his servants rose up and formed a conspiracy; and they struck and killed Joash at the house of Millo as *he* was going down to Silla. ²¹ For Jozacar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck *him* and he died; and they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and his son Amaziah became king in his place.

²⁰ And his servants rose up and formed a conspiracy; and they struck and killed Joash at the house of Millo as *he* was going down to Silla.

This was the first time that a southern king was killed by his servants.

See chart 1225

Southern Kings and their successors

	King	A son reigned after his father except in 4 cases	How the king died	End of one and the beginning of another
1	Rehoboam		Natural Death	1 Kings 14:31
2	Abijah (aka Abijah)		Natural Death	1 Kings 15:8
3	Asa		Natural Death	1 Kings 15:24
4	Jehoshaphat		Natural Death	1 Kings 22:50
5	Jehoram		Natural Death	2 Kings 8:24
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)		Killed by Jehu	2 Kings 9:27-28
NA	Athaliah - Not a king	Wife of Jehoram, daughter of Ahab	Put to death by the army	2 Kings 11:16
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)		Overthrown by his servants	2 Kings 14:1
8	Amaziah		Died from a conspiracy	2 Kings 14:19-21
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)		Natural Death	2 Kings 15:7
10	Jotham		Natural Death	2 Kings 15:38
11	Ahaz		Natural Death	2 Kings 16:20
12	Hezekiah		Natural Death	2 Kings 20:21
13	Manasseh		Natural Death	2 Kings 21:18
14	Amon		Overthrown by his servants	2 Kings 21:26
15	Josiah		Killed by Pharaoh Neco	2 Kings 23:29-30
16	Jehoahaz		Imprisoned by Pharaoh Neco	2 Kings 23:33
17	Jehoiakim	Son of Josiah	Bound & a donkey's burial	2 Chr. 36:6, Jer. 22:19
18	Jehoiachin		Imprisoned by king of Babylon	2 Kings 24:15-17
19	Zedekiah	Son of Josiah & uncle of Jehoiachin	Imprisoned by king of Babylon	2 Kings 25:7
NA	Gedaliah (Governor)	Not a descendant of David	Ishmael & 10 men kill him	2 Kings 25:22