

IT'S NOT HOW YOU START, IT'S
HOW YOU FINISH
(2 Chronicles 24:1-23)

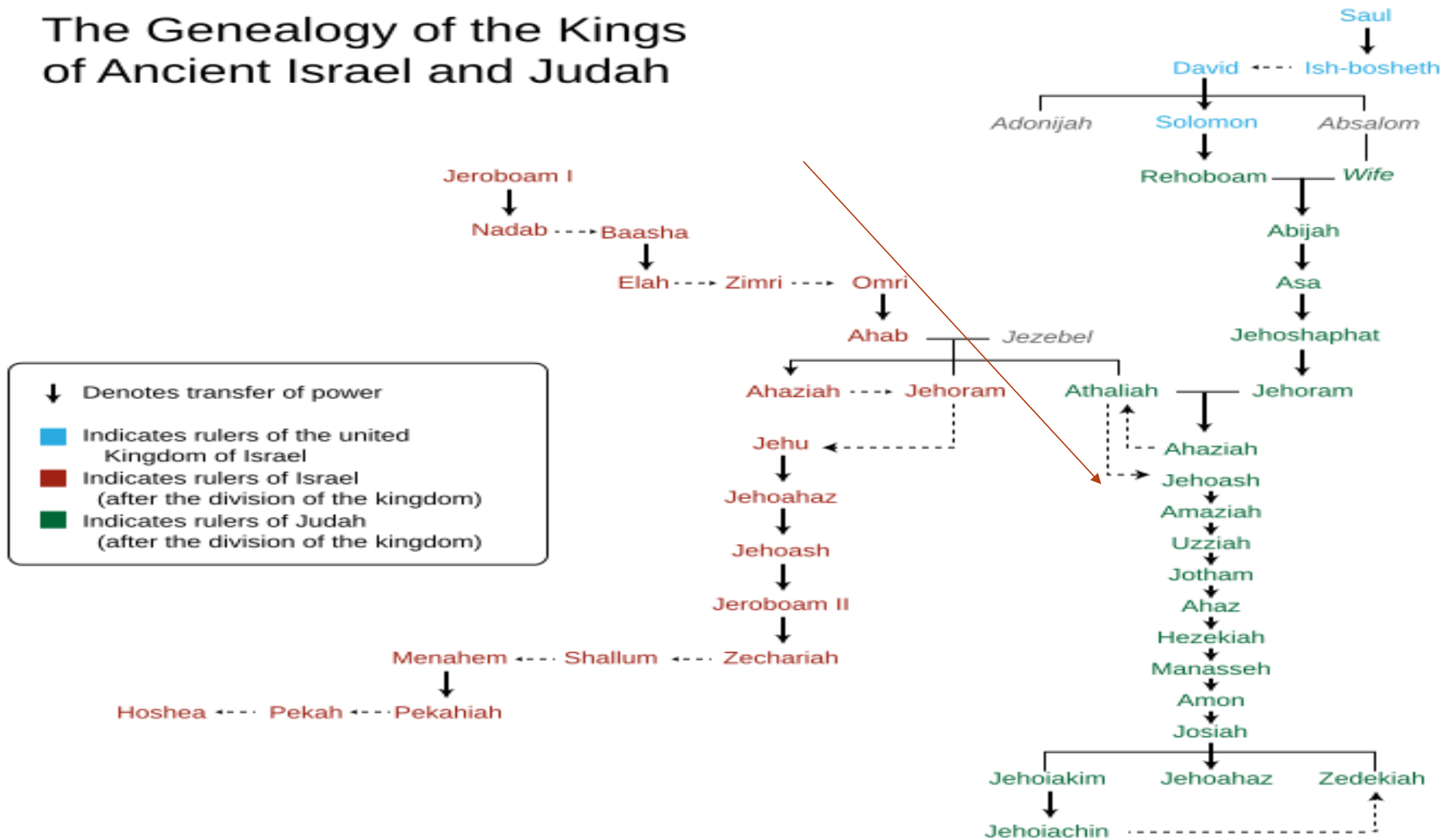


INTRODUCTION



BACKGROUND

The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah



BACKGROUND

◇ King Joash:

- Son of King Ahaziah of Judah
- Rescued from death at age 1 when his wicked grandmother, Athaliah, killed all his brothers to keep the throne for herself.
- Raised secretly in the temple precincts for 6 years by his godly uncle Jehoaida and aunt Jehoshabeath.
- Anointed as king at age 7, the same time that Athaliah was executed.

EARLY LIFE OF KING JOASH

- ◇ Restoring the temple which had been desecrated and had fallen into ruin under Athaliah. (v. 4)
- ◇ Reprove the priests and even the godly Jehoiada himself, who were not progressing on the rebuilding project as quickly as they should have been (v. 6)
- ◇ Sets up a huge chest and placed outside at the gate of the temple of the Lord (v. 8)
- ◇ Gave the great amount of money collected to those who carried out the work required for the temple of the Lord (v. 12)
 - Resulted in significant progress of the repair of God's temple according to its original design.
 - The remaining money were used to make articles for the temple (service, burnt offerings, objects of gold or silver).

LATER LIFE OF KING JOASH

- ◆ Influenced by and listened to the officials of Judah (v. 17)
- ◆ Abandoned God's temple and worshipped idols (v. 18)
- ◆ Resisted attempts of the prophets to call him back to the Lord (v. 19)
- ◆ Murdered Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada who confronted him (v. 21-22)
- ◆ Judah and Jerusalem was invaded by army of Aram and all the leaders were killed. (v. 23)
- ◆ Murdered in his bed by his servants and was not buried in the place where kings were buried (v. 25).

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

◇ King Joash was blessed with spiritual privilege, so are we.

- God's providential hand was on Joash in a remarkable way. Only he alone was spared from death.
- His uncle & aunt could have been self-serving or refused to yield power when Joash was ready to be king, but instead they raised him up in the ways of the Lord.

Examples of spiritual privilege:

- We are privileged to be able to attend church every Sunday and listen to God's Word.
- We live in a land that still has freedom of worship.
- We can read the Bible and own one without restriction.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

- ◇ **King Joash demonstrated early spiritual zeal, so should we.**
 - He directed the priests to restore the temple (v. 4), and summoned Jehoiada when the project wasn't moving quickly (v. 6) and eventually got the job done so that worship was restored (v. 14).
 - We too should be zealous to do great things for God.
 - Danger: It's possible to get swept away with enthusiasm to do great things for God, but in the process we fail to build a foundation for a lifetime of ministry
 - If you aren't growing in personal holiness and devotion for God, then all your zeal for serving God in your youth is just a hollow shell that will crumble under temptation some day.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

◇ **King Joash faced spiritual testing, so will we.**

- Joash failed the spiritual test when his uncle, Jehoiada died (v. 17).
- Our enemy, the devil is constantly finding the right moment to attack us.
- We must be weaned and learn to stand on our own spiritual legs. We must develop and maintain our own walk with God, or else we will fall when Satan comes, as surely he will, to tempt us.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

◇ Dangers that Satan uses to test those who are spiritually privileged:

A. **The danger of spiritual piggyback**

- Those who grow up in a spiritual atmosphere are prone to ride on their parents' faith instead of developing a strong personal walk with God.
- The older you get, the more you need to be walking on your own.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

◇ Dangers that Satan uses to test those who are spiritually privileged:

B. The danger of making the holy commonplace

- When King Joash turned from the Lord, he gave the command for the godly Zechariah to be stoned to death in the temple precincts (v. 21). He should have regarded that place as sacred, but it didn't matter to him.

- When you grow up surrounded by the things of God, you're always in danger of treating those things as commonplace. No longer become fearful of God.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

◇ Dangers that Satan uses to test those who are spiritually privileged:

C. The danger of experimenting with sin

- King Joash fell for the words of the officials of Judah to be more “free” than he had been under Jehoiada.
- The appeal of idolatry is that you can make a god in your own image, according to what you like and how you want to live, and you don’t have to submit to the living God.
- If we have been raised in a Christian home from young, we too face the same temptation of experimenting with sins that have been off limits.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

◇ Dangers that Satan uses to test those who are spiritually privileged:

D. The danger of ungratefulness

- Joash didn't remember the kindness which Jehoiada had shown him, but murdered his son (v.22).
- If you come from a Christian home, you need to stop often and think about where you would be without the Lord.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

- ◇ **King Joash was given repeated occasions to repent, so are we.**
- King Joash was so weak as to give in quickly to the evil officials, and proved to be strong and obstinate in his resistance to the Lord.
- God doesn't leave us in our sin or rebellion.
- He provides opportunities for us to turn back to Him.
- God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. (Ezek. 33:11)
- God allows U-turns, but only for a while. If you repeatedly resist His offer of repentance, the time will come when you reap the consequences.

HOW IS THE HISTORY OF KING JOASH RELATE TO OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY?

- ◆ **King Joash reaped the consequences of his rebellion against God, so will we if we do not repent.**
- King Joash decided to forsake God; God has forsaken him to this invading army (24:20).
- King Joash cast off God's rule; his own servants cast off his rule.
- Joash conspired against Zechariah; Joash's servants conspired against him (24:21, 25).
- "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap (Galatians 6:7).

CONCLUSION

- Spiritual privilege requires spiritual reality or there will be spiritual consequences.
- Some questions to ponder:
 - Are you walking in reality with the living Lord?
 - Are you allowing His Word and His Spirit to confront sin in your heart?