

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles

Please read 2 Chronicles Chapter 24

In this chapter we learn that a great work begun well may well run aground if spurious alliances are made. I want to focus on the latter half of the chapter which concerns Joash's apostasy. Whilst Jehoiada watched over him, Joash served well. Alas, when he died Joash spurious 'leaders' stepped into his shoes. We're not told precisely what they advised but it's clear that Joash heeded them (v17). We need to be wary of the company we keep & recognise that we are liable to compromise our (godly) principles among those who allow themselves to compromise. Principally it was the mode/content of God's worship that suffered (v18). Too plain was the result: "and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem because of their trespass" (v18b).

In the mercy & kindness of God, correction came via the mouths of Jehoiada's son – Zechariah (v20). Did Joash listen? Not at all! On the contrary, they stoned him publicly (v21) in the court of the House of the Lord (i.e. in the temple itself)! This was a great sin. Joash readily forgot the kindness of Zechariah's father! How terrible. With his closing breath, Zechariah invoked God's retributive judgement (v22).

PROVIDENTIALLY, the Syrian army attacked and defeated the leaders of the Southern kingdom. WE are explicitly told that the Lord destroyed the multitude of God's people by the hand of a small band of Syrian soldiers.

Joash died ignominiously at the hands of his own men who conspired to kill him. He did not enjoy an honourable funeral, having disgraced himself and the cause of the kingdom in his later years. Would Amaziah do any better?

Notice how the fortune of the nation swung on the presence or lack of integrity of the king. It DOES matter who rules us! It DOES matter how they rule and who they appoint as advisers, etc.

Finally, note that it is futile to enter into disputation about the spiritual status of Joash. We do not know the secret machinations of his heart.

"The secret things belong to the Lord" (Deut 29:29).

"Nevertheless, the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, the Lord knows them that are his. And, let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. (2 Timothy 2:19-21)

Covid Keys & Cures in 2 Chronicles – Questions from Ch 24:

- ***How can we keep ourselves from stumbling before God? Have we forgotten God's blessing upon our nation from days of old? Is our own memory fickle?***
- ***Does God respect the integrity of our political leaders? If they capitulate to compromise & infidelity to God's covenant what, according to this passage, tends to happen next?***
- ***Was the final conspiracy just? Was it right for Zabad and Jehozabad did?***
- ***How might we work together 'politically' to bring an end to this present Government's tyranny? Would such a course of action be honourable?***

"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov 14: 34)