
Day 163 - June 12

The Divided Kingdom (930-725 BCE)

The Era of Joash in Judah

Readings: *2 Chronicles 22:10-12; 2 Kings 10:18-31; 11:1-21; 2 Chronicles 23:1-21; 2 Kings 12:1-3*

Reflections:

- The stories in this section continue to reveal communities in disarray. Athaliah's rise to power in Judah and her evil, echoes of the evil of Jezebel. Jehu's death trap set for the priests of Baal reminds us of the horror of judgment being experienced during this time. Jehu's acceptance of the worship of the golden calf's reminds us that for whatever devotion is expressed to God at this time, there is also a constant presence of idolatry and sin.
- The crowning of Joash at seven years old is shocking by itself. A seven year old king? This gives affirmation to children and how they at times can show a God-honoring heart that exceeds what adults may possess. This challenges the reader to consider that Israel's rejection of God and demand for a king has ultimately led to part of their nation being led by a seven year old. Now God seems to work through Joash as he is directed by spiritual advisers but still we are a long distance away from the powerful king that Israel envisioned when they demanded a king to lead them. God is showing us again that it is not the powerful but the weak that he chooses to use. In time, Josiah at the age of 16 will rise to power and may be one of the greatest kings who are used by God to point the nation back to God.
- So we come away with two lessons to reflect on. First, when you walk away from God and do your own thing, be careful. Our way looks good in the beginning but ends up giving us the exact opposite of what we were aiming for. For example Israel wanted a powerful King and then at one point the best king they could find was a seven year old! As we will see in Jesus, God's way may seem completely foolish (Jesus was anything but powerful! He was meek and humble and declared that all people should become like children) but in the end God used Jesus to triumph over all kings and kingdoms!
- This leads to our second lesson: God uses our weakness to be a showcase for his power. God's power is revealed as perfect in our weakness. Because this is true, God at times delights to work through children or through child-like adults to accomplish his purpose.