

## Lessons from Ahaziah, Athaliah, Joash, and Jehoiada



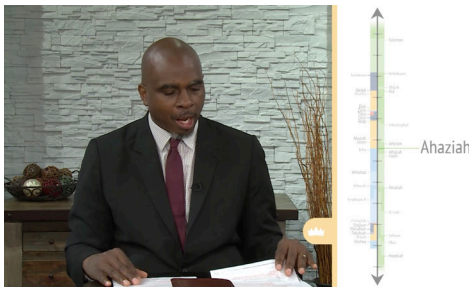
*Bishop Vincent Mathews, ThD*  
Experience: President of the Church of God in  
Christ World Missions Department

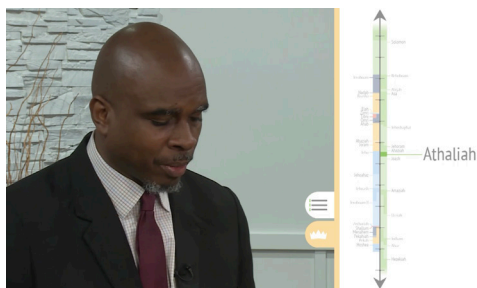
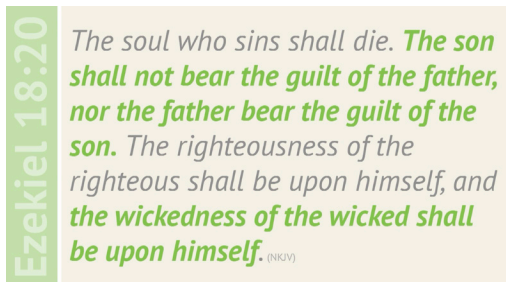
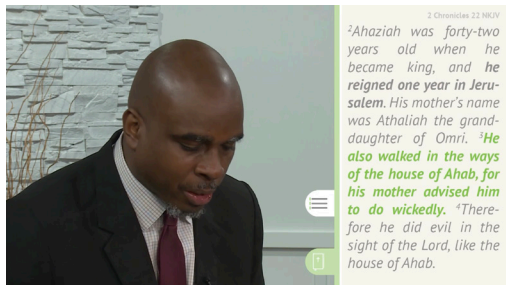
Welcome back. Session 6. I am so glad that we're walking together in this journey. I am excited because I know that God is sharpening our leadership skills. I know I've said it before in previous sessions, but please apply these lessons to your life. They are challenging. They may provide some challenges for you. We are all of different personality types. We all have different personality types, but these lessons are timeless. They transcend culture, region, race, ethnicity, nationality. Because it's from the Word of God, they apply to all of us. Wherever you are, whoever you are, apply these lessons to your life and watch God prosper your leadership.

We ended last session on a bad note. Jehoram had died of a disease of the intestines. And now the spiral is going to go down a bit. We're going to learn some things not to do. We're going to learn some things to do in difficult situations also. And I think every leader must be prepared for the challenging situations that we face.

### 22. Righteous leadership refuses to be manipulated.

And so we're going to go from Jehoram now to learn a lesson from his son, Ahaziah. I'm sure you've never heard of Ahaziah because he was a mama's boy, a nothing king, a puppet king. I use that term "mama's boy" very affectionately, clearly, and you'll understand why. The lesson we'll learn from Ahaziah is that righteous leadership refuses to be manipulated. Righteous leadership refuses to be manipulated. We see that in 2 Chronicles 22:3–5. Ahaziah was king for a very short period of time because he was easily manipulated. He was a puppet king. He was a mama's boy, as I said. And the reason why I said that is because he did whatever his mommy told him to do. He was a fully grown man. He was the king of a nation, but he followed what his mother, Athaliah, told him to do. His father was dead, but he followed his mother. We see this in 2 Chronicles 22:3. It said, "He walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother advised him to do





wickedly.” Just like his father, Jehoram, he followed the things of the people of Israel. He followed the ways of Ahab. Married couples: oftentimes this is what undermines the leadership in our marriages is that we follow the things that others are doing. Husbands, as leaders, follow what their friends or others have done, and they follow wickedly. Or fathers, husbands, become mama’s boys, doing what mommy and daddy told them to do. Or the same, wives, following what their friends or their family tell them to do, instead of hearing from God. When you’re controlled by others and not controlled by the Holy Spirit of God, you find yourself in trouble.

In 1 Corinthians 13:11, it says something. It’s such a phenomenal text. It says, “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” He didn’t understand that. He didn’t put away the childish things. He continued to lead as a child. Ezekiel 18:20—it’s very clear—it says, “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.” In other words, I don’t have to do exactly what my parents have done and vice versa. Parents would not be guilty for things that their children have done. I can create a new mode. His counselors were worldly kings of Israel. This was the problem with Ahaziah. He followed the wrong people, and he died an untimely death, because we see in 2 Chronicles 22:7 “his going to Joram was God’s occasion for Ahaziah’s downfall.” He went to Joram (this is the king of Israel). He was with him. And when God was judging Israel, he was right there, and he was killed when he should have been at home in Judah. But he wanted to be like them and follow them. And he finds himself killed. And it says when Jehu, the son of Nimshi, who the Lord had anointed to cut off the house of Ahab, came, he killed Ahaziah also right with Joram because he had followed the things and the advice of his mother.

### 23. Righteous disobedience is a great trait for a true leader.

So now father is gone. Jehoram is gone. Son is gone. Ahaziah has passed away. And now his mother, the same one who controlled him, Athaliah, becomes the queen mother—yes the queen mother—a queen of Judah. No one talks about this queen, mainly because she’s a very wicked woman. The queen mother, we’re going to learn some lessons from her reign. Not necessarily from her (there’s nothing to learn from her) but from her reign.



23 RIGHTEOUS DISOBEDIENCE IS A GREAT TRAIT FOR A TRUE LEADER.

There may come a time where, as a leader, we must *not* do what we're told.



2 Chronicles 22:10-11  
 10 Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah. 11 But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered. . . [and] hid him from Athaliah so that she did not kill him.

Romans 13:1

*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.* (NIV)

And the lesson that we're going to learn from the time that she reigned is that righteous disobedience is a great trait for a true leader. Righteous disobedience is a great trait for a true leader. And we see this in 2 Chronicles 22:10–11. Now this is interesting because I said “disobedience.” That there's a time where, as a leader, we must *not* do what we're told; we must break some rules at times. There will come a time, as Christians, where we will end up breaking the law. Oh boy. I can sense your apprehension right now. But we see it in the book of Acts. And we see it in the biblical text that the great apostles broke the law when the law did not align with God. And the wickedness of our nations, where we live, there are many people in persecuted nations who break the law to read the Bible, to share the Word of God, to protect the innocent, to be able to lift others up. There may come times when we must have disobedience to what is legal but not lawful for God.

Now what happens here? How do we see this in this text? Athaliah becomes the queen mother. Athaliah continued in the spirit of murder of her husband, though. Remember, her husband, Jehoram, had killed all of his brothers so no one could be king. But now his son becomes king. Athaliah, his wife, continues in that same thing. In Verse 10, we see, in 2 Chronicles 22:10, it says that “when she saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs of the house of Judah.” In other words, Athaliah killed all of her grandchildren so that she could be the only heir to the throne. This is terrible. Now, you must understand something. Going back to Jehoram in a few sessions back, Jehoram married Athaliah, who was a daughter of Ahab. The reason why her son followed and was over there in Israel is because his mother was a descendent. He was with his cousins. He married this daughter of Ahab. He killed all his siblings.

Now Jehoshabeath, her daughter, and Jehoiada disobeyed their leader. As she was killing all of her grandchildren and anyone who's an heir, so that she could be in charge, a man named [Jehoiada and his wife, Jehoshabeath] disobeyed this directive, and they took one of the grandchildren and hid him, because they recognized that they had a choice, that righteous disobedience is a great trait in true leadership. Romans 13:1 says, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” We see this. So we should support our government. We should support. We should pray for our president, no matter what party he or she is. We should pray for those who rule over us, in the Congress, in the Parliament, and other places. We should pray



for the mayors and the school board. However, when their laws contradict the laws of God, God's laws are supreme. We see in Acts 5:29, the apostles, Peter and John. Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

I would love to believe that if I were in Nazi Germany, I would have resisted against the Nazis and preached righteousness and helped save the Jews and helped protect people. Sinful laws contradict God. I would love to be able to say that I would have been against it. I would love to believe that if I was around during the times of slavery, I would have not only resisted slavery, but spoken against it to overturn it. Just as in this time it's legal to kill children through abortion, that the saints of God, whether it's legal or not, must resist it and adopt children and ask women to protect lives. This is what we do during this time.

And so we see ourselves in a difficult time, and Jehoshabeath and Jehoiada did this. True leaders know when to disobey their leadership. Athaliah is now queen. She's in charge. She has the mantle of God's nation. But they recognize, "We're not going to do what you say to do." And so there is power in adoption. And so they rejected it, and they took this young baby named Joash, and they hid him in the church. They hid him in the temple, while all of his siblings, all of his cousins, were being killed by their grandmother. Jehoshabeath and Jehoiada hid this child, this baby child, and nurtured him. And these were really religious people, because James 1:27, one of my favorite Scriptures—I know I've said that before, but this is. I guess there's a lot of favorite Scriptures. One of my favorite Scriptures says, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world." In other words, when we take care of widows and orphans, we're doing something. They were doing just that. They took this boy and hid him in the church. They took this boy who would have been killed through infanticide. And unfortunately, there are people who are teaching infanticide in our universities and in our world today [for] whatever reason from a secular utilitarian, humanist perspective. And we must say, "Not so." No matter what the experts say from their social Darwinism, humanist perspectives, we must say, "Not so! The lives of our children are important." And you know what? They hid him in the church just as parents hide their children today from this secular culture by raising them in the ways of God in the church. I've got to move from this point and take us to the next point that we learn from his life. Because there are two more I want to look at during this session.



23 RIGHTEOUS DISOBEDIENCE IS A GREAT TRAIT FOR A TRUE LEADER.

True leaders know when to disobey their leadership.

James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their trouble**, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (NKJV)

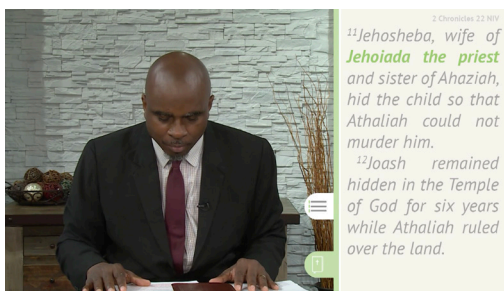
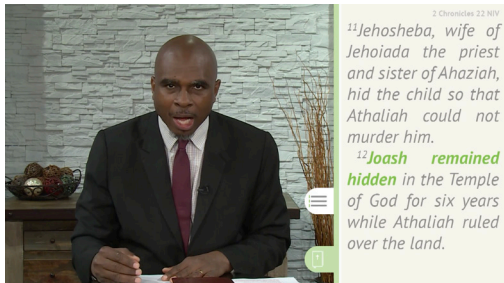
## 24. Sometimes leaders are hidden until the right time of introduction.

Sometimes leaders are hidden until the right time of introduction. Sometimes leaders are hidden until the right time of introduction. Sometimes! You're not out front. No one knows who you are. Until it's the right time. God has hidden you sometimes in plain sight until it's the right time to bring you forward. It's like fruit on a tree. You're not picked until you're exactly ripe. Second Chronicles 22:12, Joash was the heir to the throne, but it was not his time to emerge. They hid him. Joash needed time in the house of God. He was in the temple, hidden. They hid him in the very place that Athaliah would never go. She was worshiping other gods. She was doing other things. She was ruining the kingdom, bringing about destruction. And meanwhile he was hidden in the house of God, where she never would have gone. And we see here before he could lead he needed that time. They hid this young boy for six years, where they had to endure wayward and unrighteous leadership before he emerged. They had to endure Athaliah's reign of terror before he could emerge as leader.

There are many of us who've been called to lead, and you feel like, "When is my time to emerge forward?" And God has said, "It's not your time to come forward. Yet. I need you to wait." In Galatians 6:9 there's a Scripture that I want to remind you of. It says, "And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we will reap if we faint not." In other words, wait your time. The clock may seem like, "I'm overtime. I'm overdue. I should be out there." But you're looking at the Chronos. But God is saying, "Look at the Kairos," God's supernatural time, when you will emerge forth and your time of leadership shall come forth. So don't look at your age. Don't look at the time.

## 25. The mentor is a powerful leader that touches the future.

And the final thing that we want to look at just for a moment, the final lesson that we want to look at, is that (this is still in the life of Joash) the mentor is a powerful leader that touches the future. The mentor is a powerful leader that touches the future. Jehoiada is the man, Jehoshabeath's husband, who mentored this young boy, who was protected from being killed from his grandmother when all of his other siblings and cousins were killed. Jehoiada's role, as the mentor to Joash's life, cannot be overstated. In 1 Thessalonians 2:6–9, it says, "Nor did we seek glory from people, whether from you or from others, when we might have made



Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. **But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.** For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. (NKJV)



25 THE MENTOR IS A POWERFUL LEADER THAT TOUCHES THE FUTURE.

Surround yourself with 3 types of people:

1. Mentors you look up to
2. Peers on your level
3. People you mentor

demands as apostles of Christ.” This is the apostle Paul speaking. “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her children. So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.” He continues to say, “For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we preached to you the gospel of God.” Notice the nurturing, that he said to these people in Thessalonica, “We nurtured you, just as a mother nursing her child. We nurtured you. We mentored.” That’s the term, “We nurtured, we disciplined, you.” The mentor is a powerful leader that touches the future. When you, as a leader, mentor others who are emerging and coming up, you touch the future. Jehoiada did this. He mentored this young boy not only when he was in the temple for six years, even later when he emerged, which we will see later. The role of the mentor literally changes the future because even after you go off the scene, you have made an impact on future leaders. The role of the mentor impacts many more than merely the mentee, but you touch the ones that they will mentor. Not only do you touch the mentee, but you touch the ones that they will mentor. The nation rejoiced that the regime moved on and things happened, but he mentored him when no one else could or would.

And I say to you, if you’re a good leader, every good leader surrounds themselves with three types of people. First, someone you look up to, that you seek out to mentor you. Two, a peer, someone who’s on your level, that you can share with and discuss with. Three, no leader is complete without having people that you are bringing around, that you are mentoring and pulling to new levels in their lives. The true mentor is powerful. Thank you for this time.