

Jehoiada the Righteous – “*Jehovah Knows*”¹. God knew His man Jehoiada



Gates of Argonath – *The Lord of the Rings*, Part 1² - A Picture of Matthew 23:35

“That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.” “*Barachias*” is “*the blessed one*,” namely Jehoiada. Why?

Jehoiada – A Righteous Man

Jehoiada was the priest and adviser to King Joash of Judah during his 40-year reign.³ God blessed Jehoiada because he was a righteous man, as his epitaph shows (used for the tomb of The Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey).

“And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house” 2 Chronicles 24:16.

How did Jehoiada do good “***both toward God, and toward his house*”**?

Jehoiada – A Righteous Minister

2 Chronicles 23:11, 16 describe the coronation of King Joash and show that Jehoiada was a righteous minister. ***“Then they brought out the king’s son, and put upon him the crown, and gave him the testimony, and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, God save the king...And Jehoiada made a covenant between him, and between all the people, and between the king, that they should be the LORD’S people.”***

2 Chronicles 24:2, 14 show how God answered the prayer “***God save the king.*”**

“And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest...And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada.” 2 Chronicles 23:11, 16, 24:2, 14 therefore, show that “***the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*”** James 5:16. “***A righteous man*”** should, of course, be a righteous minister and Jehoiada was both. He was also a righteous father.

Jehoiada – A Righteous Father

Sadly, Israel fell into apostasy when Jehoiada died. Yet, Jehoiada was a righteous father, because he left a righteous son, Zechariah. Zechariah was righteous like his father before him because he stood up to fulfil Psalm 94:16 for his God and his nation. **“Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? or who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?”** 2 Chronicles 24:20-21 describe how Zechariah did so and what happened.

“And the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, which stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of the LORD, that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken the LORD, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of the LORD.”

It seems therefore that Jehoiada’s ministry and fatherhood ended in failure and tragedy but God’s people are blessed of Jehoiada to this day. How? In answer, note that the Old Testament Canon⁴ closes with Nehemiah about 389 B.C. but the Hebrew Old Testament does not end with Nehemiah, as the Lord Jesus Christ revealed in Matthew 23:35, as mentioned:

“That upon you [the Jews of Jesus’s time] may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.”

The Hebrew Old Testament has 22 Books⁵ that give 39 Books in the English Old Testament. The Hebrew Bible begins with Genesis (“Abel”) and ends with 2 Chronicles (“Zacharias” i.e. “Zechariah”). That is how the Gate of Argonath applies. Abel and Zechariah are like God’s sentries that resist intrusion into **“the scripture of truth”** Daniel 10:21 of **“the wisdom of this world”** 1 Corinthians 1:20 that is **“earthly, sensual, devilish”** James 3:15.

Part of that **“earthly, sensual, devilish”** wisdom is **“philosophy and vain deceit”** about which Paul warns in Colossians 2:8, like that of the famous, or infamous, Greek philosopher Socrates⁶. Socrates did not believe in hell and taught his students the same. He has a lot of hell-bound disciples today but the Old Testament warns about **“hell”** 31 times, as in Psalm 9:17. **“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”**

The sentries, one of whom is Jehoiada’s son, have therefore stood guard well. **“Philosophy and vain deceit”** have never corrupted **“the scripture of truth”** and never will. Socrates knows that now. So will all his present-day disciples. However, Hebrews 6:9 says **“beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation”** so we close with an exhortation to parents and children with respect to Jehoiada, a righteous example.

Jehoiada – A Righteous Example

Ephesians 6:1, 4 state **“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right...And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”** Jehoiada is a righteous example of that scripture, as is Zechariah.

We should pray Luke 10:37, therefore, as parents and/or children, in the words of the Lord Jesus Christ that God would enable us to **“Go, and do thou likewise.”** Amen.

References

All web references were current at the time of writing. Web reference and author are given as appropriate the first time a particular work is cited. See shop.timefortruth.co.uk/ruckman.html for Dr Ruckman’s books.

¹ www.amazon.co.uk/new-compact-Bible-dictionary/dp/B0000CNORX *The New Compact Bible Dictionary*

² www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/404972191485258078/

³ store.kjv1611.org/ *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 655-657

⁴ *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 694

⁵ store.kjv1611.org/ *The Book of Matthew* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, pp 505-508

⁶ store.kjv1611.org/ *The Christian’s Handbook of Science and Philosophy* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, pp 63-64