

21.13 Jehoash (Joash) ☹ Repairs the Temple (2 Kings 11:21–12:16; 2 Chronicles 24:1–14)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Small poster (first shown in Lesson 21.10a) showing Ahab’s children—Athaliah, Ahaziah, and Joram—and Jehoshaphat’s line—Joram (married to Athaliah) and Ahaziah. Add Joash under Ahaziah.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *funds for Temple upkeep:* came from (1) census tax (money gotten when the population was counted) (half shekel = about \$87); (2) dedication money (between three and fifty shekels, depending on age and gender = about \$522 to \$8700); and (3) freewill offerings (\$?). The chart here was found at [Ancient Money Calculator - Testament Press, LLC](#).

Jewish or Tyrian Shekel	4 Roman Denarii [4 day’s wages] or 4 Greek Drachmae	\$174.00	. . . ½ of a shekel was the Temple tax, about \$87.
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Scripture: (ESV)

2 Chronicles 24:1 [2 Kings 12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu] Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Zibiah of Beersheba. 2 And Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the days of Jehoiada the priest. 3 Jehoiada got for him two wives, and he had sons and daughters. [2 Kings 12:3 Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away; the people continued to sacrifice and make offerings on the high places.]

4 After this Joash decided to restore the house of the Lord. 5 And he gathered the priests and the Levites and said to them, “Go out to the cities of Judah and gather from all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that you act quickly.” But the Levites did not act quickly. 6 So the king summoned Jehoiada the chief and said to him, “Why have you not required the Levites to bring in from Judah and Jerusalem the tax levied by Moses, the servant of the Lord, and the congregation of Israel for the tent of testimony?” 7 For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken into the house of God, and had also used all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord for the Baals.

8 So the king commanded, and they made a chest and set it outside the gate of the house of the Lord. [2 Kings 12:9 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in the lid of it and set it beside the altar on the right side as one entered the house of the Lord. And the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money that was brought into the house of the Lord.] 9 And proclamation was made throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring in for the Lord the tax that Moses the servant of God laid on Israel in the wilderness. 10 And all the princes and all the people rejoiced and brought their tax and dropped it into the chest until they had finished. 11 And whenever the chest was brought to the king’s officers by the Levites, when they saw that there was much money in it, the king’s secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and take it and return it to its place. Thus they did day after day, and collected money in abundance.

12 And the king and Jehoiada gave it to those who had charge of the work of the house of the Lord, and they hired masons and carpenters to restore the house of the Lord, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the house of the Lord. [2 Kings 12:11 Then they would give the money that was weighed out into the hands of the workmen who had the oversight of the house of the Lord. And they paid it out to the carpenters and the builders who worked on the house of the Lord, 12 and to the masons and the stonemasons, as well as to buy timber and quarried stone for making repairs on the house of the Lord, and for any outlay for the repairs of the house. . . .

15 And they did not ask for an accounting from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to pay out to the workmen, for they dealt honestly. 16 The money from the guilt offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the Lord; it belonged to the priests.]

13 So those who were engaged in the work labored, and the repairing went forward in their hands, and they restored the house of God to its proper condition and strengthened it. 14 And when they had finished, they brought the rest of the money before the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made utensils for the house of the Lord, both for the service and for the burnt offerings, and dishes for incense and vessels of gold and silver. And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the Lord regularly all the days of Jehoiada.

Introduction/Review:

Our last story about the kings of Judah spoke of a queen—Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel and wife of Joram of Judah, a wicked woman. After killing off all her grandchildren except one that she didn't know survived, she ruled over Judah six years. During this time, she took from the Temple of the living God all the sacred objects (bowls, shovels, platters, and large forks ✓to move animal sacrifices) and used them for worship in a temple to her god, Baal. Her husband, Joram, had worshiped Baal; her son, Ahaziah, had worshiped Baal. She had taught them the ways of Baal, and course, she had worshiped Baal. Although the priests of the living God still worshiped God, nearly everyone else in Judah followed the lead and command of the wicked king and queen to worship Baal.

But on the day Athaliah was slain and young Joash was crowned king, the people went to the house of Baal, tore it down, and destroyed its wicked priest.

Story:

Abandoned Temple

Have you ever seen an abandoned house—a house no one lives in or takes care of anymore? What happens to a house like this? Weeds grow up around it; windows get broken; after a while the roof falls in and the walls crumble. What do you suppose had happened to the Temple while so many people were going to the house of Baal and so few people were going to the Temple of the true God? Since it had been almost abandoned, it was in bad shape.

Now that Athaliah was gone, Joash (also called Jehoash) was the new king. He had been crowned at age seven—too young, you might think, to make wise choices as the ruler of a country. Right, but his uncle, Jehoiada, the priest, was close by to instruct and guide him.

Unhurried priests

Joash had ✓lived in the priests' rooms of the Temple for six of his first seven years. ✓Certainly, he had noticed the desolate disrepair of the house of God. Now that he was king, he decided to do something about this situation. He gathered the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go out to the cities of Judah and gather from all the people the money to repair the house of your God. Get the (1) census tax of one-half shekel = about \$87; (2) the dedication money of between 3 and 50 shekels, depending on age and gender = about \$522 to \$8700; and (3) freewill offerings of whatever amount a person wants to give. Take this money and start repairing the Temple. Now, hurry up and do as I command."

But the Levites did not hurry up. Years passed. Joash was thirty years old; he had been king for 23 years! Still the priests had made no repairs on the Temple. He called the priests to him. "Why aren't you repairing God's house?" he demanded. "Stop taking money, but hand over what you have for repairs. Furthermore, make a big box—a chest. Drill a hole in the top of it. Place this chest beside the altar on the right side as people enter the court of the Temple. Let all the people know that they should bring their (1) census tax of one-half shekel = about \$87; (2) dedication money (between 3 and 50 shekels, depending on age and gender = about \$522 to \$8700; and (3) freewill offerings."

Joyful givers

Well, now the people were happy to bring in their (1) census tax (half shekel = about \$87); (2) dedication money (between 3 and 50 shekels, depending on age and gender = about \$522 to \$8700); and (3) freewill offerings (gifts). They came and dropped their money into the chest. Every day, when a lot of money had accumulated, the king's secretary and the chief priest's officer emptied the chest, counted the money, and tied it up in bags. They collected a lot of money!

Honest workmen

Joash and Jehoiada gave this money to the supervisors of workmen. These workers were [Teacher, act out the following activities of each workman] carpenters [saw wood], builders [hammer wood], stone cutters [hammer blows at a chisel], masons [lay stone], iron workers [hammer as a blacksmith does], bronze workers [shape metal]. These honest men worked hard to repair the house of the Lord. [Teacher, have young students do the following activities with you.] Sawing wood, hammering wood, cutting stone, laying stone, working with iron, working with bronze. Joash and Jehoiada kept giving money to their overseers until the workmen completely restored the house of God to its proper condition and made it strong.

Restored worship

Money was left over when the work was complete. Did the workmen keep it? No, they gave it back to the king and Jehoiada. With that money craftsmen made the special tools—bowls, trumpets, large animal forks, shovels of gold and silver—for the Temple. From that time until the death of Jehoiada, the priests offered burnt offerings in the house of the Lord continually. No longer was the Temple abandoned and in disrepair, but it was fit for worshiping the great and true and living God.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:

The tabernacle and Temple were but symbols of the True Temple, Jesus Christ. Speaking of Himself, He said, "I tell you that something greater than the temple is here" (Matthew 12:6).

"According to the witness of the Gospel writers, he was acting as God's replacement temple, or, perhaps more accurately, as the reality to which the temple pointed all along. All that the temple had meant for Israel for almost one thousand years was now to be found in Israel's Messiah. The presence of God which human beings so longed for was to be found through a personal connection with Christ, not in a building in East Jerusalem. The hunger for divine teaching could be satisfied, not in the courts of a glorious sanctuary, but by feeding on the words of Jesus. True "pilgrims" could henceforth declare their praises, not within the walls of one sacred building, but wherever people gathered in honour of the Messiah. And forgiveness of sins could be enjoyed through the one priestly sacrifice of Jesus, not through priest and sacrifice" ([Jesus as Temple - a forgotten aspect of his own claim to authority — John Dickson](#)).

- "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come" (Ecclesiastes 12:1).
- Give willingly to the Lord.
- Be honest with the things and money given to you.

Activities:

- Play dough: a hammer, saw, and chisel; a box with a hole in its top
- Snack: From a baking sheet of brownies or bars, cut out and frost shapes to resemble a hammer and saw. See an example at [edible hammer and saw - Bing images](#). Or put frosting on the brownies/bars to indicate the hammer and saw. Let students see these before cutting the snack into individual servings.
- Legos®: Build strong walls with staggered "bricks" every other row.
- Review questions: (Game: Prepare for a pocket chart or flannel board the clipart of hammers and saws

found below. The teacher will choose two teams, the “Hammers” and the “Saws.” Teams that answer a question correctly place a hammer or saw in a pocket chart or on a flannel board. Ask each team two questions. After those four questions, if the score is a tie, the fifth question will be “up for grabs”—the first team to answer correctly wins.)

1. What had Athaliah the queen done that required the Temple to be repaired? [Had the people worship Baal; had abandoned the Temple for the temple of Baal; had taken things from God’s Temple.]
2. Joash told the priests and Levites to do what? [Go throughout Judah to gather money to repair the Temple.]
3. How quickly did the priests and Levites gather money? [They didn’t act quickly.]
4. What did Joash have Jehoiada the priest do to gather money? [Make a box with a hole in the top so that people who came to the Temple might donate.]
5. What did the priests do with the money collected? [Gave it to the workmen for their labor and materials to repair the Temple.]

Memory Verses:

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24 (NKJV)

(A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals [I water colored mine] and a CD is available as a learning tool for this psalm at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this passage may take six months or more. Some people think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. The Psalm 139 song book mentioned above breaks after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks or more. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.)

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Alternative verse: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord” (Psalm

122:1).

Handwork:

- Color the clipart found below of Joash thinking about repairing the Temple.
- Or older students could make a paper box. A 4-minute video showing the process is found at [Paper Box Craft - Bing images](#)[Paper Box Craft - Bing images](#).

Funds for Temple Upkeep

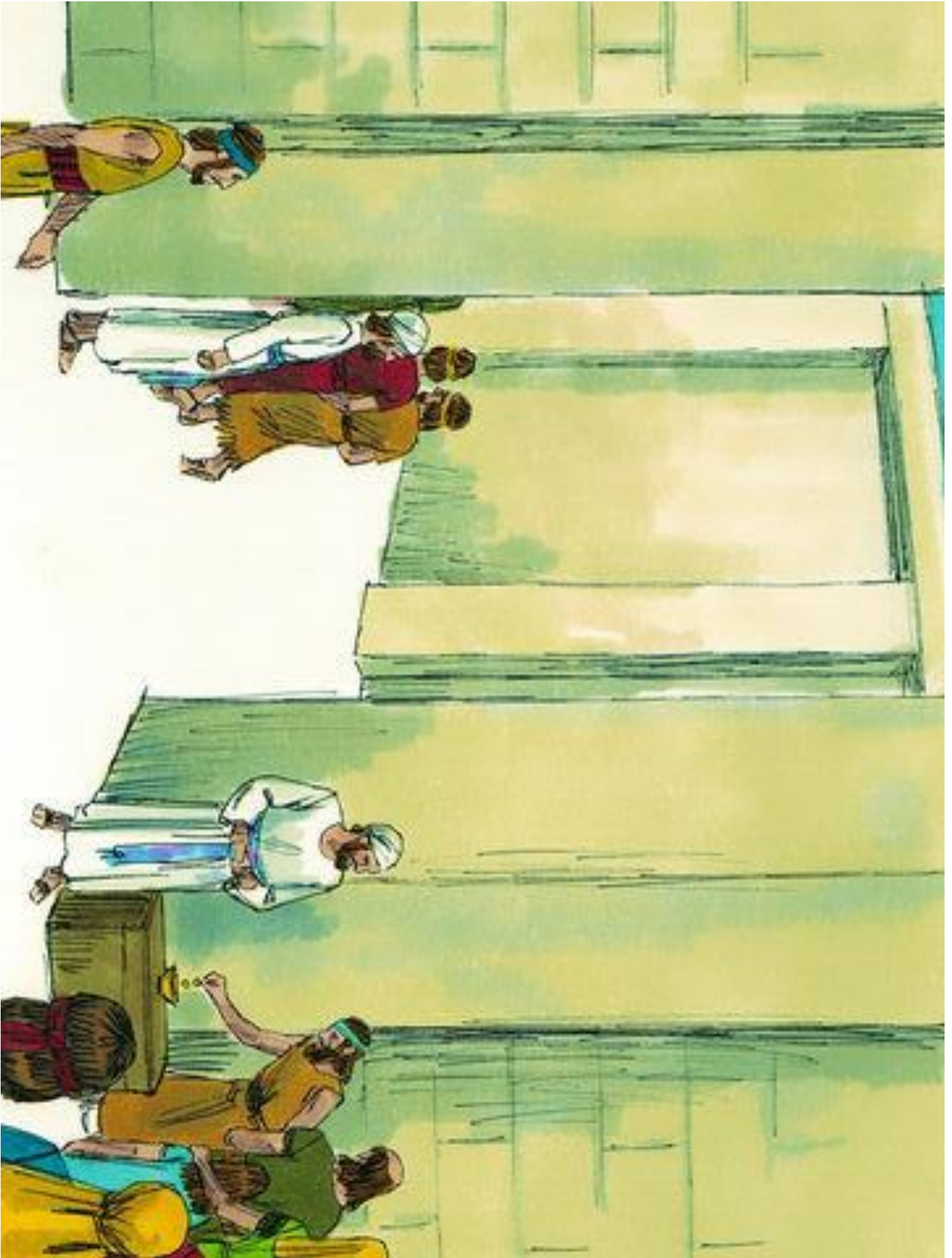
Census tax, $\frac{1}{2}$ Shekel = \$87

Dedication, 3 to 50 Shekels =
\$522 to \$8700

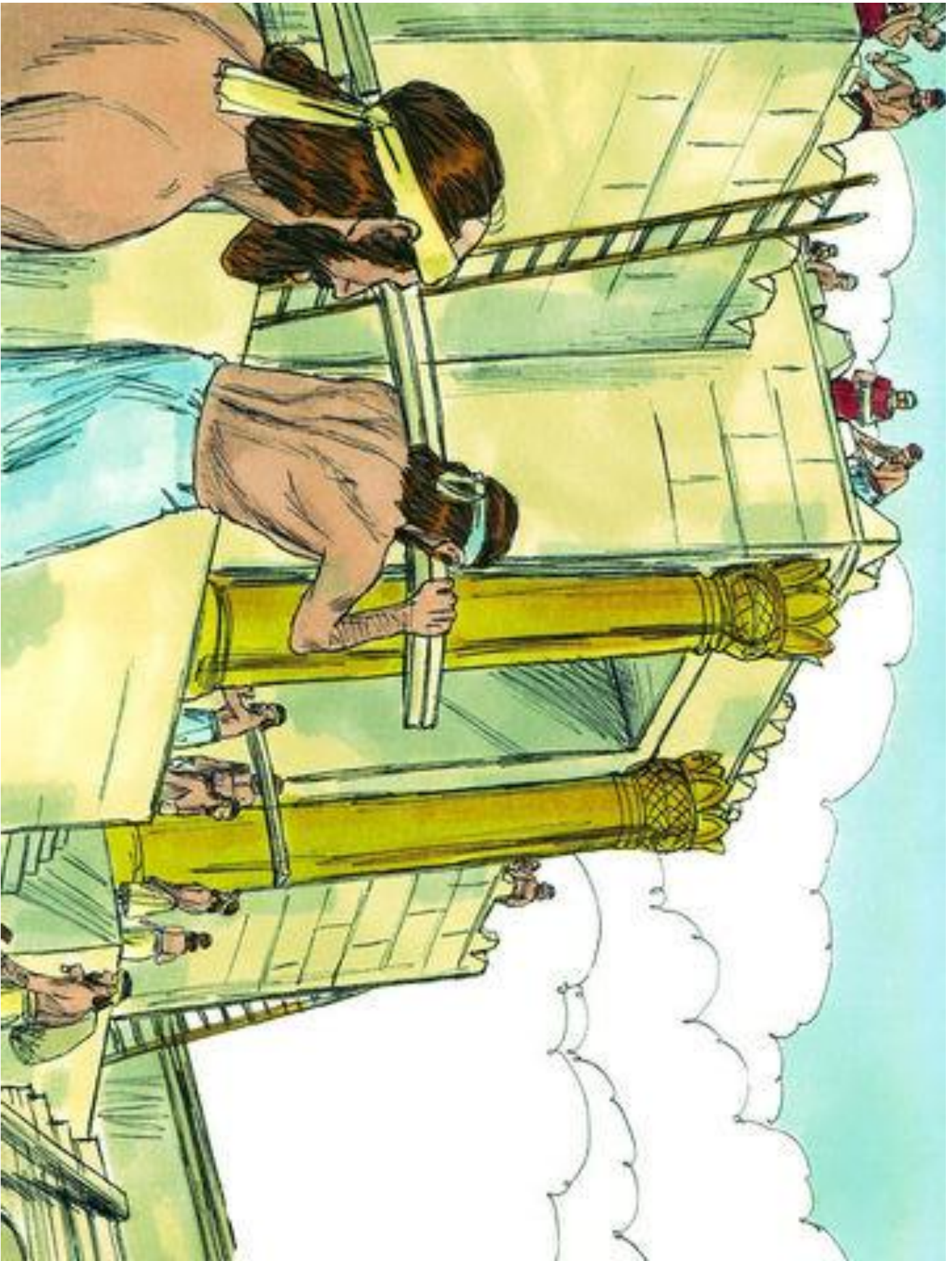
Freewill offerings = ?



[FreeBibleimages](#) :: Joash the boy king :: Joash becomes king of Judah at the age of seven with the help of Jehoiada the priest (2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21)



[FreeBibleimages :: Joash the boy king :: Joash becomes king of Judah at the age of seven with the help of Jehoiada the priest \(2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21\)](#)



[FreeBibleimages :: Joash the boy king :: Joash becomes king of Judah at the age of seven with the help of Jehoiada the priest \(2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21\)](#)

112. JOASH REPAIRS THE TEMPLE

(2 KINGS 12:1-19)



“And they gave the money, being told, into the hands of them that did the work, that had the oversight of the house of the LORD: and they laid it out to the carpenters and builders, that wrought upon the house of the LORD,”

2 KINGS 12:11

