

21.15 Deaths of Jehoiada, Zechariah, and Joash (2 Chronicles 24:15-27; 2 Kings 12:17-21)

✓ “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), Ahaziah, and Joash.
- A few rocks the size of “stoning” rocks—5–7 inches in diameter
- A white board or chalk board and writing instruments so that simple line drawings (ovals with crowns for kings, stick figure praying, figure on bed, etc.) may be drawn at appropriate points in the story

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.

- *Joel*: The prophet Joel wrote during this period against nations, including Judah, prophesying their end because they did not serve God. [With a visual aid of Bible books, say the books of the Old Testament, stressing 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles, and Joel, to show where we are in our study of the Bible.] Joel talked about how locusts eat up everything. In the same way, God would destroy Judah if they didn’t repent.
- *high places*: “High places . . . were places of worship on elevated pieces of ground. High places were originally dedicated to idol worship (Numbers 33:52; Leviticus 26:30), . . . [but] not all high places were dedicated to idol worship. They played a major role in Israelite worship. . . . God commanded that all other high places [other than Jerusalem] be destroyed. King Josiah destroyed them in [2 Kings 22–23](#)” ([What is the significance of high places in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)).

Before and even after Jerusalem was established as the place to worship God (Deuteronomy 12:4, 6; 2 Chronicles 3:1), the people set up altars, called high places, nearer home. They did this, probably, ✓because it was more convenient than going clear to Jerusalem. Perhaps they thought, ✓“We’re worshipping God right here on this hill close to the house, but we are, after all, worshipping God.” Although this might have seemed like true worship, these altars could easily become a place to worship false gods. We read in the Bible that good kings did good things, but they didn’t get rid of the high places.

God says the place to worship Him today is in the local church. That doesn’t mean that we can’t worship him at home. In fact, we are told to worship Him every day. But the place to worship is not by the radio or TV but in the church. We should be faithful to church services.

- *avenge/revenge/vengeance*: to pay someone back for bad things they have done to you. God says, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay” (Deut. 32:35; Psalm 94:1; Romans 12:19). We are not supposed to seek revenge on others but let God take care of evening the score. He will do it; although it may seem to take a long time for Him to do so. Remember Ahab? God pronounced judgment on him—payback for his wickedness and for slaying Naboth—several years before his sons and wife actually died as God had promised. “The wheels of God’s justice sometimes grind exceedingly slowly, but they grind exceedingly finely.” That means God avenges, *i.e.*, brings justice to the innocent and judgment on the guilty, in the best, most complete way possible because God is the person who does it.

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Chronicles 24:15 But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died. He was 130 years old at his death. 16 And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, and toward God and his house.

17 Now after the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. 18 And they abandoned the house of the Lord, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. 19 Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the Lord. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention.

20 Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God, ‘Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.’” 21 But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the Lord. 22 Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah’s father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, “May the Lord see and avenge!”

23 At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. 24 Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the Lord delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the Lord, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash.

25 When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings. 26 Those who conspired against him were Zabad the son of Shimeath the Ammonite, and Jehozabad the son of Shimrith the Moabite. 27 Accounts of his sons and of the many oracles against him and of the rebuilding of the house of God are written in the Story of the Book of the Kings. And Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

2 Kings 12:17 At that time Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath and took it. But when Hazael set his face to go up against Jerusalem, 18 Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred gifts that Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah his fathers, the kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred gifts, and all the gold that was found in the treasuries of the house of the Lord and of the king’s house, and sent these to Hazael king of Syria. Then Hazael went away from Jerusalem.

19 Now the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? 20 His servants arose and made a conspiracy and struck down Joash in the house of Mollo,¹ on the way that goes down to Silla. 21 It was Jozacar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, who struck him down, so that he died. And they buried him with his fathers in the city of David, and Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

Introduction/Review:

Only seven years old, but he was a king! This boy king’s name was —? [Joash]. What important thing did he do to lead the people back to worship of the one true and living God? [He had the Temple repaired.] How was he able to rule since he was such a young man? [His uncle, Jehoiada the priest, helped him.] Jehoiada had saved Joash’s life from wicked Queen Athaliah, he had trained Joash in matters of Scripture and politics, he had crowned him king, and he had helped Joash to make wise decisions. As long as Jehoiada the priest lived, Judah served God in the Temple, offering sacrifices just as God had commanded.

Story: [Teacher, tell students, “When you hear these words, *avenge*, *revenge*, *vengeance*, or *judgment* in today’s story, show me you understand the meaning of these words by showing me clenched fists.”]

Jehoiada grew old and died. In fact, he was 130 years old when he died. All of Judah so respected him for the good he had done to Judah for God and His Temple that they buried him with the kings—David, Solomon, Jehoshaphat—all the good kings.

Joash turned

Now the time came for Joash to be tested. While Jehoiada was alive, Joash did well, bringing the people back to true worship of God. Would he continue to do good things?

Well, this is what happened. After Jehoiada died, the important men of Judah came to King Joash and bowed before him. The Bible doesn't exactly tell us what they said, but we can tell what it was because Joash listened to them and followed their advice. The Bible tells us what Joash did: "They abandoned the temple of the Lord, the God of their fathers." Abandoned!? What does that mean? Remember that last week we talked about the abandoned house? What does abandoned mean? [Left alone; not cared for.] What did Joash and these men abandon? [The Temple of the Lord.] Oh, no! Don't tell me Joash will abandon the very Temple he repaired! Is Joash doing right or wrong? [Wrong.]

Joash followed these men into greater wickedness than abandoning the Temple. I hate to report it, but the Bible tells us the bad that is done as well as the good. Joash worshiped idols and led the people to worship idols! How could he—after having all that wonderful training from Jehoiada, the faithful priest of God!? Plainly, students, Joash's heart was not changed; he was not saved.

There is no end to the evil any one of us can do if we don't know Jesus Christ as our Saviour from sin. Oh, I pray that you will follow the Lord and not dishonor His name as Joash did.

Prophets and Zechariah warned

God sent prophets to preach to the people—to bring them back to God—but the people and King Joash would not listen. His own cousin, Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, stood before the people to deliver the message that the Spirit of God had given him. This is what Zechariah said: "God says, 'Why do you disobey the Lord's commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.'" Zechariah was telling these people they were sinning against God!

Joash struck

Now, there are two ways to respond when someone tells you about your sin: (1) You can strike at your own soul, where it hurts, and repent, saying "Oh, I am wrong; I am truly sorry, God"; or (2) You can strike at the messenger or the message and hurt them. Which do you think Joash did—repent or strike at Zechariah? He [draw this statement out for effect] struck— at — his— cousin! Joash plotted to slay Zechariah, ordering men to throw stones—rocks—at him until he died.

The location of the terrible act of stoning an innocent man compounded the wrong. Where did they stone Zechariah? In the courtyard of the Temple—the very place where Joash had been crowned king by Zechariah's father, faithful and good Jehoiada! This is how 2 Chronicles 24:22 reports this incident: "Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, [Zechariah] said, 'May the LORD see and avenge!'" [Students should show fists.]

The Lord avenged

Will the Lord "see and avenge"? [Students should show fists.] Will He pay back Joash for this wickedness? Yes. This time he won't wait very long. Hazael, king of Syria [locate], came to Gath of Philistia [locate] and conquered it. Then, Hazael came to Jerusalem and would have conquered it right then, but Joash bribed him. He went to the temple storerooms and said to Hazael, ✓"Go away. Here, take the treasures of Jehoshaphat, of Asa, of Jehoram, of Ahaziah—four kings' treasures that are stored here. Here are all the temple treasures. Here, take all the gold we have in the Temple storehouses. Here, take all the gold we have in the king's house. But go away!"

Hazael accepted all these treasures, and Joash's bribe worked—for a short while. But by the beginning of the very next year, Hazael was back again. This time, even though he had a very small army, he was able to slay all those important men that had counseled Joash. Hazael took all the treasures of these important men and sent them back to Damascus, his capital city [locate]. Listen to 2 Chronicles 24:24: "Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the LORD delivered into [Syria's] hand [Judah's] very great army, because [Judah] had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus, they executed judgment on Joash." [Students should show fists.] God's vengeance [students should show fists] was at work.

But God was not done avenging [students should show fists] the innocent blood of Zechariah. Joash, in the battle against Hazael, was severely wounded. He lay in agony in his bed at the fort of Jerusalem called “the Millo.” Two servants, seeing their wicked king in his weakened condition, decided to take vengeance [students should show fists] on this wicked king for his slaying of Zechariah. They slew King Joash in his own bed, but they didn’t get by with it. The next king took care of them in revenge [students should show fists]. As for Joash, he was buried in Jerusalem but not with the kings.

¹The *Millo*: “(Heb. always with the article, ‘the’ Millo). Probably the Canaanite name of some fortification, consisting of walls filled in with earth and stones, which protected Jerusalem on the north as its outermost defence. . . . It was already existing when David conquered Jerusalem ([2 Samuel 5:9](#)). He extended it to the right and left, thus completing the defence of the city. It was rebuilt by Solomon ([1 Kings 9:15](#); [1 Kings 9:24](#); [11:27](#)) and repaired by Hezekiah ([2 Chronicles 32:5](#))” ([Millo Definition and Meaning - Bible Dictionary \(biblestudytools.com\)](#)).

²(from “We See Jesus” below) The Hebrew Old Testament is arranged as follows: *The Law* (Genesis–Deuteronomy); *The Prophets* (Joshua, Judges, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the 12 Minor Prophets); *The Writings* (Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Song of Songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra-Nehemiah together, 1&2 Chronicles) ([Old Testament Books in Hebrew Order - Bible History Online - Bible History \(bible-history.com\)](#)). Thus, Zechariah’s martyrdom is in the last book of the Hebrew Old Testament.

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
Zechariah was the last martyr recorded in the Hebrew Old Testament.² Although Jesus’ death was for the redemption of His people, in a sense He, too, was martyred. Those who killed Him, thought they had done a great service.
- “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come” (Ecclesiastes 12:1), and don’t forsake the Lord when you grow older.
- Rather than turning to friends for direction, turn to God, to your parents, your pastor, or to wise older Christians.
- Let God, not you, take vengeance. When your little brother hits you, don’t hit back.

Activities:

- Play dough: Gold coins, spoons of gold, shields (things Joash might have given the Syrians); a bed; a headstone for a grave or a tomb
- Snack: *Golden* Grahams® Party Mix found at [Golden Grahams Party Mix - Yummy Healthy Easy](#)
- Read the following from Ethel Barrett’s *Which Way to Nineveh?* (Gospel Light, 1969, p. 11):

“[Joash] had never really grown up. What about you?”

“When people tell you, ‘Oh, grow up!’—what do you think they mean? Think of some decisions you still have to make on your own even though you are under your parents’ authority.

“Of course to grow up spiritually you’ve got to have life to begin with. You can ‘come alive’ in Jesus Christ by believing that He is the Son of God and [receiving] Him as your Lord (John 3:3: [“Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God”]; 1:12: [“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”]).

“The Bible says that God will strengthen you and make you what you ought to be and *equip* you with

everything good so you can carry out His will (Hebrews 13:20, 21). But after you get your instructions the Bible tells you—‘Don’t just stand there—do something!’ (See James 1:22: [“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only”].) You can never grow up without exercising your spiritual muscles. And you are being trained now for the time when you are on *your own*. When Joash was on his own, he blew the whole thing into shambles. You are being trained so you won’t.”

- Review questions: (Game: Prepare the cropped picture of Joash found below for a pocket chart (print on cardstock) or flannel board (glue paper towel or flocked scraps to the back of the printed copy). Place the figure at the right side of the chart or board. If a student answers a question correctly, move the figure to the left 1/6 of the width of the chart or board. This is to show, not for positive emphasis but merely to illustrate the story—how Joash regressed in his spiritual walk. If all six questions are answered correctly, you might lay him on his back to show his death and God’s vengeance.)
 1. Who came to give advice to Joash after Jehoiada’s death? [The important men of Judah.]
 2. What did Joash do, following the advice of the important men of Judah? [“Abandoned the house of the Lord; served idols.”]
 3. Besides the prophets, what man testified against Joash’s wickedness? [Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada and cousin to Joash.]
 4. What happened to Zechariah? [By command of the king, he was stoned to death.]
 5. What did Zechariah say as he was dying? [“May the Lord see and avenge!”]
 6. Name one way in which God avenged the death of innocent Zechariah. [Syria took many treasures; Syria fought against Judah and destroyed the important men of Israel; Joash was severely wounded by the Syrians; Joash was slain by his servants.]

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 at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://Psalm 139 - NKJV (thywordcreations.com)). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some teachers think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. However, this Psalm 139 song book breaks the passage 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.

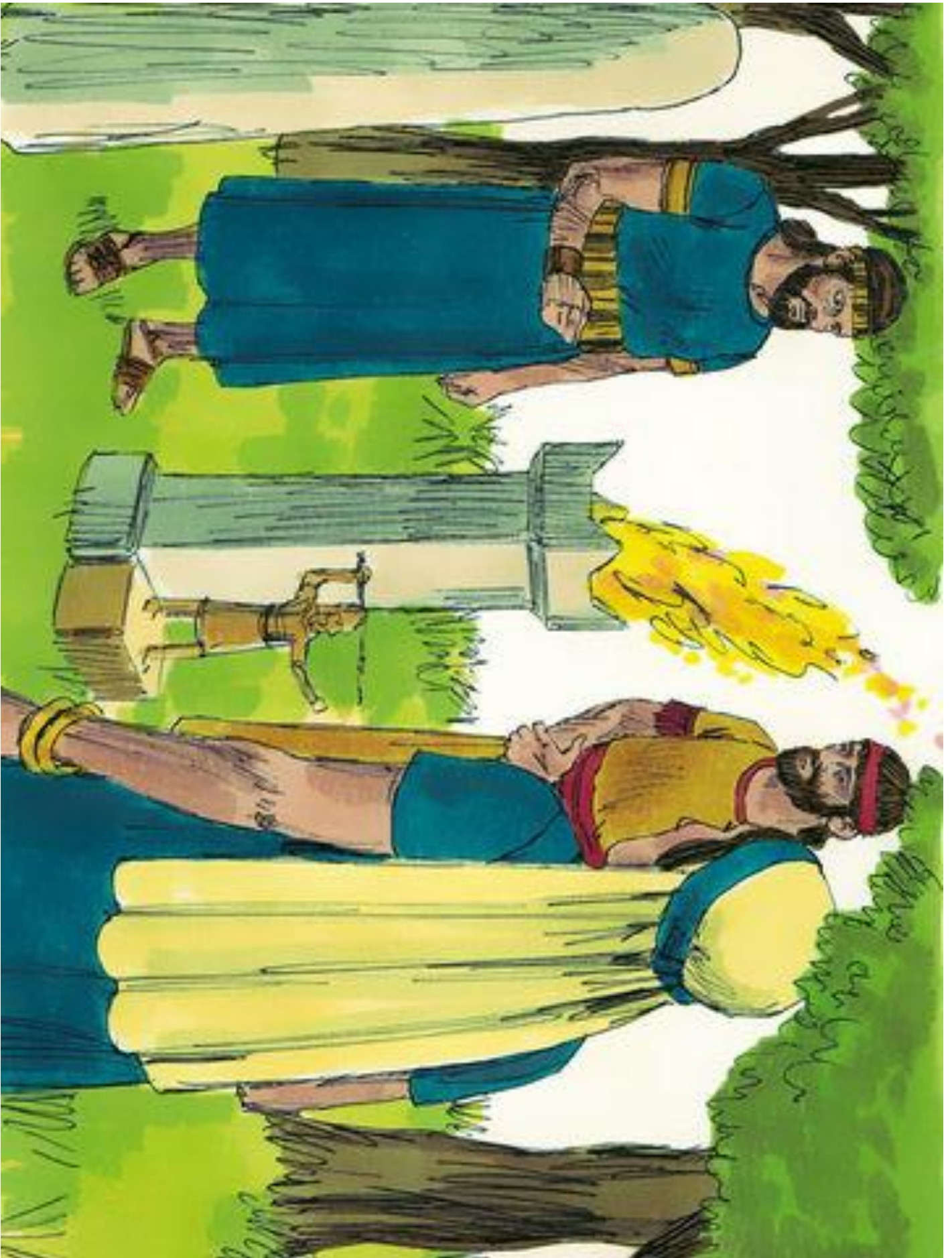
Handwork:

- Print the clipart comic of King Joash found below. Students will color the picture.

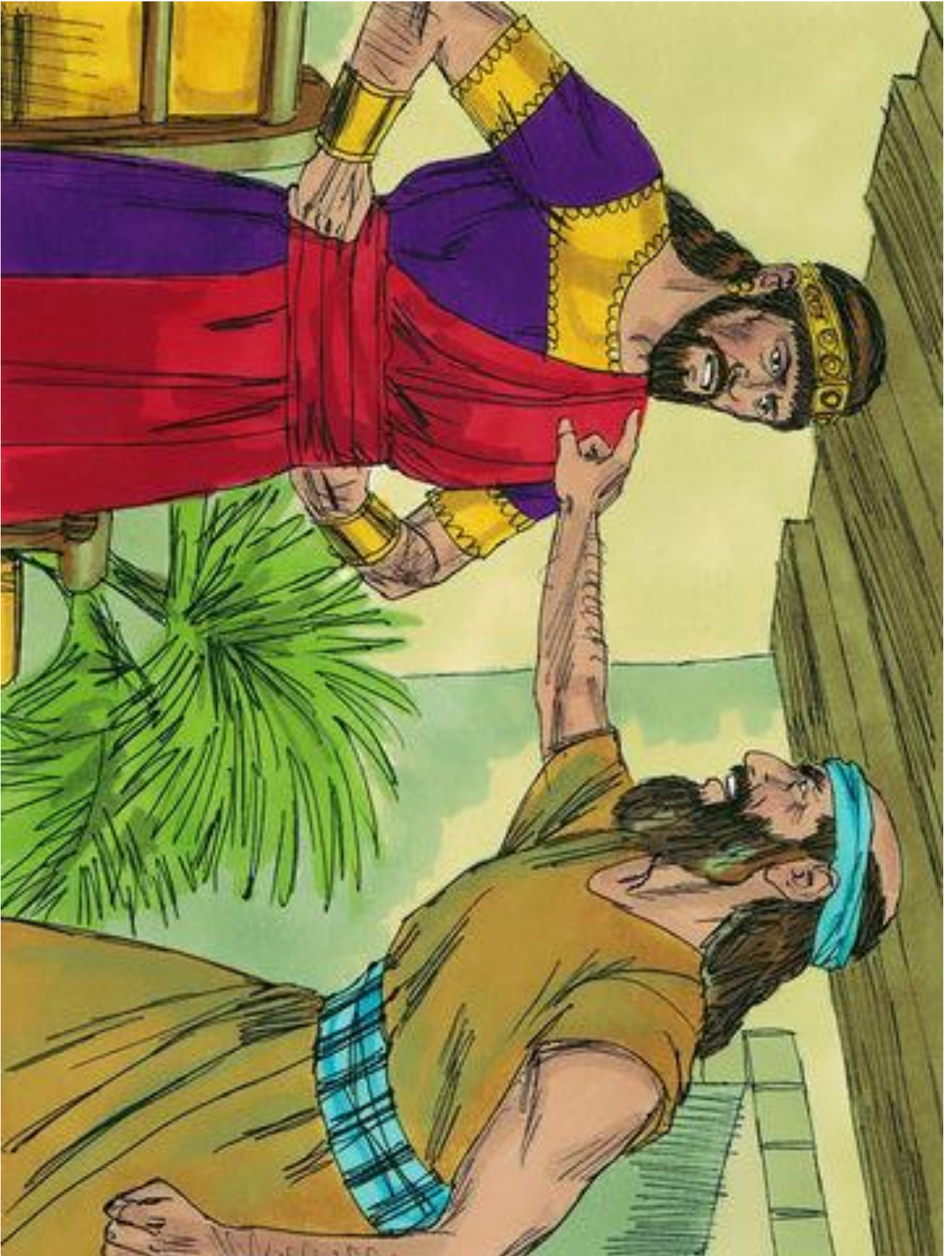
Joel

high places

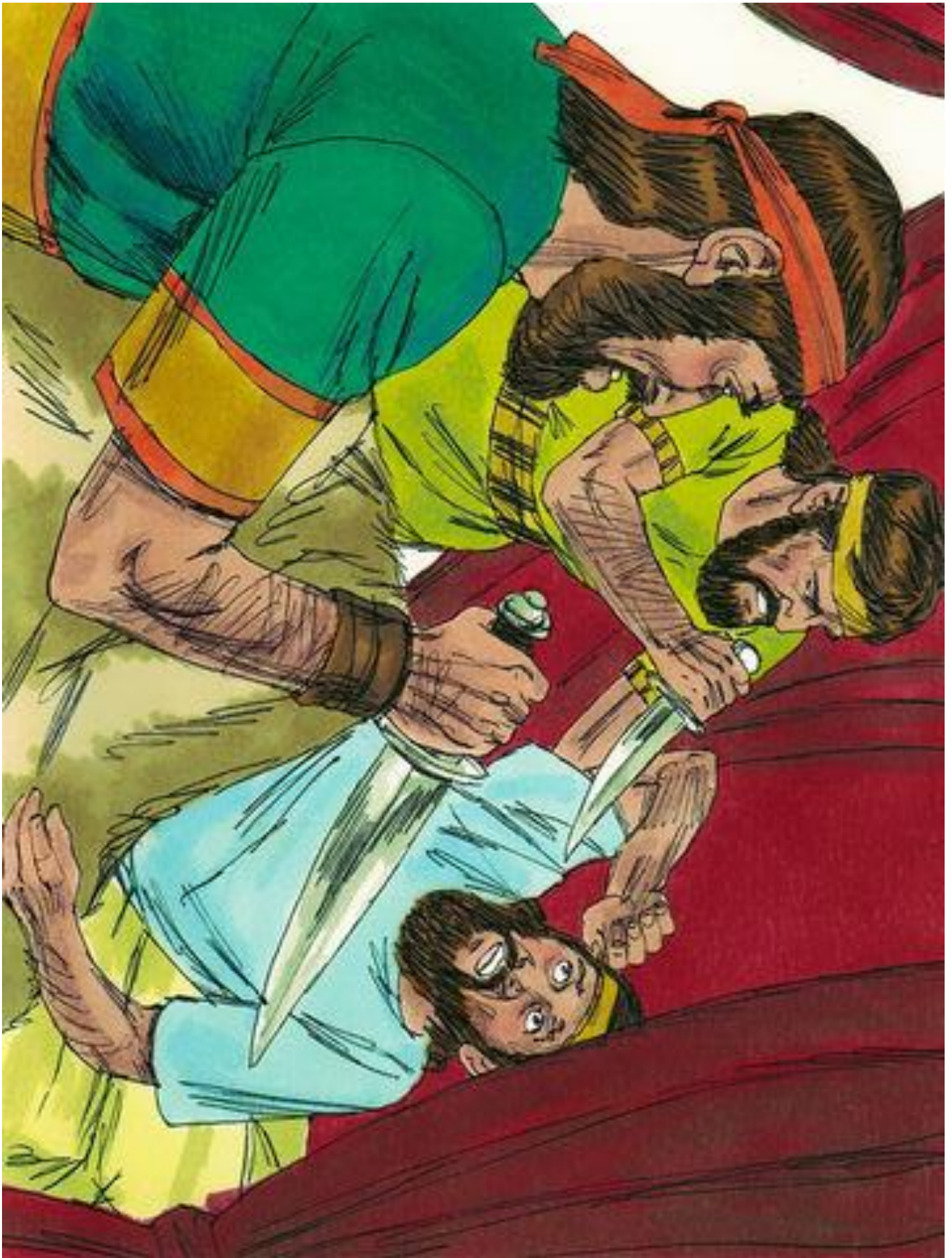
avenge/revenge/vengeance



[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 \(2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21\)](#)



Zechariah prayed, "May the Lord see and
avenge!" God answered his prayer when
Joash died.

