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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1554 ~ Leaders in Israel.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

In the 19th century, a woman called Anna Jarvis was instrumental in saving thousands of lives during the United States' Civil War. She taught women in her Mothers' Friendship Clubs the basics of nursing and sanitation that she had learnt from her doctor brother.

After the war, Mrs Jarvis formed a group called "Mothers' Friendship Days" to help reconcile families and communities that had been torn apart by the war. To others, her hard work was all the more touching considering the personal losses she herself was going through. Four of her children had died during the war, and eight of her twelve children died before reaching adulthood. Her unmarried daughter established the first internationally celebrated holiday, Mother's Day, in her honour using the anniversary of Anna Jarvis' death as its date.

Each year around the world, on the second Sunday in May, people show their gratitude to their mothers by them giving gifts and flowers. In today's Bible Adventure, we see King Joash of Judah behaving in a most ungrateful way against the family who had once saved his own life.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound.](#)

Joash depended on Jehoida's godly counsel. He didn't develop his own personal relationship with God and so couldn't enquire of the Lord what to do when problems arose. When Jehoida died, Joash didn't seek a godly new counsellor to help him and soon fell away into practices of sin. His pride made him unwilling to listen to God's prophets. There's a saying: "God has no grandchildren." Each person must have their own faith in God and hold fast to it throughout their whole life.

During Jehoida's lifetime, Jehoida was really the power behind the throne of Joash. While good is in control, evil is suppressed. But when evil abounds, good is out of favour. After Jehoida's death, the leaders of Judah came to King Joash to bully him into allowing Baal worship to start again. They tried to get him to please the people when he should have continued standing resolutely for God. Unhappily, it was a test that he failed.

The era of today's Bible Adventure in world history seems to have been a very violent time. People didn't know from day to day if they would incur the wrath of the king and be killed. Or if soldiers from some other nation would come up against them to kill and take off whatever spoil they could find. As per the pattern of the kings of Judah, some kings were good to start off but when they had built up their armies and wealth, their hearts became filled with pride. They then stopped following God's ways and with selfish ambition, tried hard to hold onto their power and lands.

Pride leads to a hardness of heart, which progresses to an arrogant disregard for God and sin. Psalm Chapter 10, says: "The wicked do not care about the Lord; in their pride they think that God doesn't matter."

The kings of those times had so much power that their word was the law. It wasn't for another two thousand years that the people in England brought a petition to their king to restrain the amount of power that he had. It was called the Magna Carta and like a legal document, spelt out the rights of ordinary citizens. With intense pressure from church leaders and lords of the land, the King of England signed it into law in 1215 AD. This King of England had previously, like so many kings before him, lived above the laws of the land, breaking them whenever it suited him. The Magna Carta was revised a number of times before it became the framework for the constitutions of many countries around the world.

Life starts to fall apart when we stop obeying the Lord. Joash couldn't understand how such a small group of Syrians could defeat his large army. He could not see that God's protection was removed from his kingdom because he had forsaken God. As a result, God had indeed forsaken him. Joash became very sick and as he lay on his bed, two of his servants still loyal to Jehoida's family came in and killed him. When Joash's son came to the throne, he had the servants executed for their crime.

Is there ever such a thing as 'good pride?' In the New Testament book of 1st Corinthians, Chapter 1, it reads: "As the Scripture says, 'Whoever wants to boast must boast of what the Lord has done.'" Pride is only appropriate when it causes us to be grateful to God for His gifts.

Have you set your mind to follow the Lord Jesus wherever He may lead you? To persistently reject the Lord Jesus' rule over your life only hardens your heart. If you reject the witness of God's Holy Spirit to the truth of the Gospel and your need of Christ's forgiveness, you will be eternally lost. Take heed to this warning. Each time you say "No" to a conviction in your heart, it becomes easier to say "No" to God's Spirit the next time He convicts you. Don't justify what you've done or are still doing. Saying 'No' to God only hardens your heart that little bit more.

Eventually the Holy Spirit will no longer speak to you. Your reward at the end of time will be a total separation from God's mercy with no possibility of this ever changing. Escape a miserable eternity suffering in hell while the door is still open for you to do so.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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