

2 Kings Lesson 11

2 Kings Chapter 11

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Memory verses for this week: *Job 13:13 Hold your peace, let me alone, that I may speak, and let come on me what will.*

Introduction: In chapter 10, we saw the complete destruction of Ahab's house as Jehu brought the promised judgement that God had promised through Elijah. Jehu also brought an end to Baal worship in Israel. This next chapter of II Kings presents the dramatic establishment of Joash (also known as Jehoash) as king in Judah. There is also a record of the revival brought about in Judah by Jehoiada the priest.

I. Joash is Appointed King of Judah

2Ki 11:1 And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

2Ki 11:2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of king Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain; and they hid him, even him and his nurse, in the bedchamber from Athaliah, so that he was not slain.

2Ki 11:3 And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

The account hearkens back to II Kings 9:27 where record is made of the death of Ahaziah the former king of the Judah.

2Ki 9:27 But when Ahaziah the king of Judah saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And Jehu followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot. And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there.

According to II Kings 8:18 and 26, Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab, king of Israel, and the granddaughter of Omri. Accordingly, she was of the ungodly mindset of the northern kingdom. As noted in the text, she proceeded to destroy all others of royal descent so that she might seize the throne. What is even more grisly is that this "seed royal" likely were either the children or grandchildren of this wicked woman.

Jehosheba was the daughter of king Joram and Ahaziah's sister. She took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain and hid him in the bedchamber. The bedchamber mentioned literally was a 'chamber of beds' and likely was one of the chambers of the priests and Levites

in the Temple, which adjoined it. It was there that he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. Meanwhile, Athaliah ruled over the land.

As the arithmetic of the text will reveal, little Joash was evidently one year old when he was hidden by Jehosheba in the Temple. Six years later, when he was seven years old, he was revealed as king.

John Wesley in his commentary said this about the young man Joash.

They hid Joash in the bed chamber. (Jehosheba and her husband Jehoiada.) Which was in the house of the Lord. So that it was one of those chambers adjoining to the temple, that were for the uses of the priests and Levites only: which made it more proper for this purpose. Now was the promise made to David bound up in one life. And yet it did not fail. Thus to the Son of David will God, according to his promise, secure a spiritual seed: which tho' sometimes reduced to a small number, brought very low, and seemingly lost, yet will be preserved to the end of time.

It was a special providence that Joram tho' a king, a wicked king, married his daughter to Jehoiada, a priest, an holy priest. This some might think a disparagement to the royal family; but it saved the royal family from ruin. For Jehoiada's interest in the temple, gave her an opportunity to preserve the child: and her interest in the royal family, gave him an opportunity of setting him on the throne. See what blessings they lay up in store for their families who marry their children to those that are wise and good.

II. Jehoiada Establishes a Covenant

2Ki 11:4 And the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the rulers over hundreds, with the captains and the guard, and brought them to him into the house of the LORD, and made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the house of the LORD, and shewed them the king's son.

2Ki 11:5 And he commanded them, saying, This is the thing that ye shall do; A third part of you that enter in on the sabbath shall even be keepers of the watch of the king's house;

2Ki 11:6 And a third part shall be at the gate of Sur; and a third part at the gate behind the guard: so shall ye keep the watch of the house, that it be not broken down.

2Ki 11:7 And two parts of all you that go forth on the sabbath, even they shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD about the king.

2Ki 11:8 And ye shall compass the king round about, every man with his weapons in his hand: and he that cometh within the ranges, let him be slain: and be ye with the king as he goeth out and as he cometh in.

According to II Chronicles 22:11, Jehoiada was the husband of Jehosheba.

2Ch 22:11 But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not.

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada took action to establish the boy as king. He then enlisted the support of the leadership of Judah seeking their loyalty. They in turn took an oath of secrecy whereupon he showed them the boy king.

In verse 5, Jehoiada, the high priest announced his plan of action. He assigned one-third of the leadership of the Temple to serve as guards where the king was hidden on the coming Sabbath day. One-third of the Temple priests and Levites and their temple guard were placed there to secure that entrance. The gate of Sur was thought to be an eastern gate to Jerusalem which probably entered directly into the Temple.

Finally, the other third would guard the rest of the Temple itself against Athaliah's party. The two parts mentioned likely were the courses of Levites coming on and going off duty on that Sabbath day.

Those going off duty were not to go home, but stay put and assist in the looming confrontation. Jehoiada's plan was this. The assembled Levites, priests, and Temple police were to surround the young king with weapons drawn. The word translated as ranges (hrds sederah) simply means 'ranks.' They were to be the armed bodyguard and escort for the young king and anyone who challenged their ranks was to be killed.

2Ki 11:9 And the captains over the hundreds did according to all things that Jehoiada the priest commanded: and they took every man his men that were to come in on the sabbath, with them that should go out on the sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

2Ki 11:10 And to the captains over hundreds did the priest give king David's spears and shields, that were in the temple of the LORD.

2Ki 11:11 And the guard stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, round about the king, from the right corner of the temple to the left corner of the temple, along by the altar and the temple.

On the appointed Sabbath day, the Levites, priests, and Temple police did as directed by Jehoiada. The incoming course of Levites was pressed into their ranks and the outgoing course did not leave. Apparently during the reign of David, weapons of war had been taken from enemies and dedicated to the Temple for its defense. Jehoiada provided these arms to his followers.

They in turn formed a line of defense from one end of the Temple to the other near the front of the Temple by the altar of sacrifice. A defensive perimeter was formed around young king Joash at the entrance of the Temple proper.

John Gill in his commentary said this about the weapons in the temple:

And to the captains over hundreds did the priest give King David's spears

and shields, that were in the temple of the Lord. Such as he had taken in war from his enemies, and had dedicated for the service of the temple, to defend it on occasion, and laid up there; those the priests gave to the captains, to arm their men with, who came unarmed, and so unsuspected, and in this way might be armed without being seen and known.

2Ki 11:12 And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.

2Ki 11:13 And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the LORD.

2Ki 11:14 And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.

In the morning light, young Joash, son of Ahaziah the deceased king of Judah, was formally brought forth. In the Temple of God, Jehoiada, the high priest, placed the royal crown of Judah upon him and presented him with the testimony, that is the Book of the Law. Jehoiada then anointed him as king over Judah. Whereupon, the assembled force of Levites, Priests, and the Temple guard erupted in applause and they roared, "God save the king."

In verse 13, wicked Athaliah heard the roar of the crowd in the Temple and entered into the Temple to see what was going on. Apparently, it was the custom in Judah, when the king entered the Temple to stand at a prescribed place by a pillar in the temple. As Athaliah marched in, the priests and Levites blew their trumpets as a royal fanfare to the king as the people cheered.

Athaliah made no mistake as to what was going on. She cried out, "Treason, Treason." Yet, she was the treasonous one. This brings to mind the current state of Washington DC at this present time.

2Ki 11:15 But Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the host, and said unto them, Have her forth without the ranges: and him that followeth her kill with the sword. For the priest had said, Let her not be slain in the house of the LORD.

2Ki 11:16 And they laid hands on her; and she went by the way by the which the horses came into the king's house: and there was she slain.

It was the direction of Jehoiada that bloodshed not take place in the Temple itself. Upon Jehoiada's orders, Athaliah was forcibly escorted out of the ranks by the Temple guards. Anyone who followed her was to be slain as well. The wicked queen was taken forcibly out of the Temple to a place near the palace where the horses entered into the King's house, perhaps its stables, and there she was executed.

F. B. Meyer said this about Athaliah's death.

The death of Athaliah led the way to a thorough change throughout the kingdom. There was a double covenant, first, between the Lord on the one hand and the king and the people on the other, and second, between the king and the people; then the demolition of the Baal-house, which had sadly profaned the Holy City; and finally regulations for the proper performance of divine worship. These led the way to the public enthronement of the boy-king.

The joy and quiet which ensued always follow the casting out of evil. Adjust a nation or an individual to the claims of God, and at once peace and joy succeed. The Lord Jesus, who is now hidden, shall one day be manifested, as we have seen. Those that hate Him shall be put to shame. Then shall come salvation and the kingdom of God. Every evil that exalts itself against Him shall be cast out, and the nations shall rejoice and be quiet because they have discovered their rightful ruler.

Notice the alliance between the young king and the aged priest. It was necessary, under the old Covenant, that the functions of king and priest should be fulfilled by different individuals. The civil and religious elements demanded separate expression, but in Jesus they perfectly blend. He is "a priest upon His throne," [Zec 6:13](#).

2Ki 11:17 And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD'S people; between the king also and the people.

2Ki 11:18 And all the people of the land went into the house of Baal, and brake it down; his altars and his images brake they in pieces thoroughly, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.

2Ki 11:19 And he took the rulers over hundreds, and the captains, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the house of the LORD, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings.

Upon ridding Judah of the wicked queen Athaliah, Jehoiada reaffirmed the covenant between the king and the people that they should be Jehovah's people. The final phrase of the verse seems to indicate that the king for his part would rule the people according to the Law of God. After years of weak or no godly influence in the land, a king was reestablished who would honor the Lord God.

Evident is that Athaliah had built a temple for Baal in the heart of Jerusalem. The people destroyed this pagan temple and killed its chief priest, a man by the name of Mattan. After having purged the wicked influence of Athaliah and Baal worship from the land, Jehoiada officially brought young Joash from the Temple (where he had lived) to the royal palace. There, he was placed upon the royal throne of Judah and confirmed as King.

2Ki 11:20 And all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was in quiet: and they slew Athaliah with the sword beside the king's house.

2Ki 11:21 Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign.

The climatic events of the preceding chapter are here summarily rehearsed.

The nation of Judah rejoiced in being relieved of the wicked oppression of Athaliah.

Moreover, when she was executed as noted above, the city was quiet. (No one rose up in her defense). Jehoash was seven years old when he began to reign. Though he is called Jehoash here, he is otherwise called Joash, both in the following chapter as well as in the account in II Chronicles.

All attempts to frustrate God's revealed plan are foolish and bound to be fruitless.

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Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

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Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.