

2 Kings Chapter 11 Commentary

2Ki 11:1 ¶ "And when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal. 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. 3 And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land."

Athaliah was the mother of king Ahaziah, who king Jehu had just slain. She was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. She was married to Jehoram, eldest son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. In response to the death of her son, Ahaziah, she tried to kill all the royal seed. We see the wickedness of Jezebel has been passed down to her daughter, because she has no morals, and she does not even love her own family, since she has them killed. Athaliah then proclaims herself as queen of Judah and begins to reign in Judah. Why would she do this? I believe there are two reasons: One, she wanted no one else to have a bloodline right to the kingship of Judah. Second, she was like her mother Jezebel and was a devout worshipper of Baal. She was so hardened against God that she wanted to extinguish the light of the house of David.

Jehosheba, the daughter of king Jehoram, took Joash, the son of Ahaziah who had just been slain, and hides him away, along with his nurse, so he is not slain. This left the house of David with only one progenitor in the family line, thus fulfilling God's promise seen in **2Ch 21:7 "Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons forever."** Notice also that Jehosheba was married to Jehoiada the priest. Thus, there was a secure hiding place in the house of God for Joash to be hidden.

"and stole him from among the king's sons which were slain;" Apparently, this child was wounded and left for dead or hidden among the dead, and presumed to be already slain, because he was taken from among the dead sons of the king. Apparently, Athaliah thought he was dead because she did not try to find him.

3 "And he was with her hid in the house of the LORD six years." Notice where Joash and his keepers found a safe haven, **"in the house of the LORD."** Likewise, the spiritual child of God is hidden in Christ, who is the house of the Lord, which is a picture of the New Testament Church. As seen in **Col 3:3 "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."**

Athaliah had no business in the house of the LORD, as she was going to the house of Baal to worship. But we thought that Baal was destroyed. Yes, Baal was destroyed in Israel, the northern kingdom, not in Judah, the southern kingdom. Thus, Joash was protected and hidden **"in the house of the LORD."** Every person, for whom Jesus died upon the cross, to procure to Himself those chosen of God to be saved eternally, is hid in Christ, and they are protected in **"in the house of the LORD,"** which is in Christ. That is why the spiritual person that has been born again cannot sin, because the Christ in you cannot sin. Those who are followers of Satan and his angels have no business **"in the house of the LORD"** therefore, we are hidden in Christ. However, that does not mean that Satan and his minions do not infiltrate the organized church. Why? Because the organized church is like a nation, and is comprised of people, who even if they are born again, they still possess the fallen in sin nature inherited from our father Adam.

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."

This would be the seventh year of the reign of queen Athaliah in Judah. Athaliah and Jehu began reigning at almost the same time. Jehu began to reign and killed her son, and then she began reigning as queen.

Jehoiada, who is believed to be high priest, gathers the rulers, the captains, and the guards, to the house of the Lord. Jehoiada there makes a covenant with them, and took an oath of them, to support Joash as king, and then shows them the king's son. Jehoiada is setting things in order to put Joash upon the throne of Judah. He also expects to set Judah back on the path of following the Lord.

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; 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.**"

Jehoida appoints one third of the guards to guard the house of the king, so that it be not broken down. He appoints one third of the guards outside the temple at the gate Sur, an entrance into the temple. He appoints one third of the guards inside the gate Sur, in the house of the Lord. Thus, he procures a safe route of travel for the king from the temple to the king's house. He next appoints guards for the sabbath when he plans to bring forth Joash and make him king. He gives them the weapons that king David had made to keep the king safe. He orders them to have their weapons in hand and surround the king. He tells them: if any person approaches to close, you are to slay them. Then Jehoida brings forth Joash and puts the crown on his head and the testimony, the word of God, and then they pronounced him king and anointed him. They all clapped their hands and proclaimed, **"God save the king."**

This is a good example of the children of God in today's age of salvation by the grace of God. When one is brought into the fold, it is the duty of the church to help to guard them against the wiles of the devil. It is our duty to recognize that they are a king in the kingdom of God as seen in **Re 1:5-6; 5 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."** It is our duty to be sure they have the testimony of God, and to build them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Likewise, it is our duty to proclaim that this is a child of God. This should all be done with rejoicing.

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. 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. 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. 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."

Athaliah hears the noise of the celebration of Joash being made king and goes to investigate. She sees the king standing by the pillar, with all the supporters, and the people of the land rejoicing in the new king, and she rends her clothes and cries out treason. Jehoiada has the captains to take her, carry her out of the temple, and slay her. He did not want her blood shed in the temple.

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. 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."

Jehoiada has the king and the people make a covenant to serve God faithfully, and he also has the people, and the king, make a covenant with one another, that they will all support one another in serving the Lord.

Next, we see that they destroy the house of Baal, his altars, and his images, and they slay Mattan the priest of Baal. But we thought that Jehu had destroyed Baal out of the land of Israel. That he did, but only in the

northern kingdom, which did not include Judah and Jerusalem of the southern kingdom. It seems to be that Athalia set up a house of Baal in Judah, following the example of her mother Jezebel in Samaria.

Now we see, the beginning of the return to worship the Lord, by the appointment of priests to serve in the house of the Lord. This gives us the picture of what a child of God is to do when they are born again. Having long been under the bonds of sin and Satan in their inherited sin nature, now they must slay the queen of idolatry in their lives and make a covenant to serve God with the whole heart, mind, soul, and body. Having been made kings and priests to God in the new birth, they are to take their rightful place in the house of the Lord, and covenant to serve him faithfully.

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. 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. 21 Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign."

They escort king Joash from the temple to the king's house and sit him upon the throne of the kings. Then all the people of the land rejoiced and the city was quiet. This reminds us that we are to pray for the leaders that we may lead quiet and peaceable lives here in time.

Another point we see here is that Jehoash was only seven years old when he was made king. Among the Primitive Baptist faith, there have been many, for many years, who would refuse to receive children into the church fellowship. We see here an example of a seven-year-old child being brought into the fold. We also remember that Jesus tells us in **Mr 10:14 "But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."**

We would also point out that Joash has been under the tutelage of Jehoiada the priest all these years, which gives us the example that we are to bring our children up as see in **Eph 6:4; 1 ¶ "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."** In this text we see a picture of Joash living in obedience to Jehoiada, the high priest, as a father figure in his life, and in subjection to his teachings, thus honoring him in the Lord. We also remember that Jehoiada gave king Joash a copy of the testimony of the Lord when he was anointed king. Wherefore, we expect that Joash was taught as God had commanded, for the kings that were to rule over Israel, in **De 17:18-20; 18 "And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."** May we do as well as Jehoiada, in rearing up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, Amen!

As we conclude this chapter, we see light has returned to Israel for a time. They have been in darkness, because of idolatry for a long time. But with the lineage of David on the throne and under the guidance of Jehoiada the priest, hope is shining bright again. The light of David is portrayed by those who were guarding the temple and the king's house, armed with the weaponry and shields that king David provided. The new king Joash is provided with the testimony of the Lord and is under the tutelage of Jehoiada the priest, so the word of God is being preached once more. Praise and glory to God!