

2 Kings 11-12 – Thursday, April 14th, 2016

2 Kings 11:1 -- 1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. 2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. 3 So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

- It's important to remember this evil woman Athaliah, was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, which explains why she does this.
- Namely that of murdering her own grandchildren in order to stay in power, which is right out of the playbook of both her parents.
- Enter Jehosheba who takes Joash, who's about one year old and hides him for what we're told ends up being a total of 6-years.

- Couple of interesting thoughts here concerning what this Jehosheba does, and perhaps more importantly, why it is she does it.
- First, Joash as the son of the King of Judah was the only remaining descendant of King David, which is the line of the Messiah.
- In other words, were she to have somehow killed Joash then God's promise to David would have been broken, which can't be.

- The second thought has to do with what would have seemed like the Word of God not being found true for a period of six years.
- More specifically, that of God's promise to David seeming like it failed by virtue of Athaliah killing every one of the royal heirs.
- Here's what I'm thinking, for six thousand years, it may seem like God's Word is not true in keeping His promise of His coming.

- I find it interesting, as we're about to see in the next verse in the seventh year, Jehoiada moves to reveal the son of King David.
- The point being is for six thousand years it may seem that God's promise may not be kept, in the seventh year, we know it was.
- It's also interesting to note how that he was hid for six years in the temple, which is one place where Athaliah would never go.

4 In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds—of the bodyguards and the escorts—and brought them into the house of the LORD to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the LORD, and showed them the king's son. 5 Then he commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king's house, 6 one-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the escorts. You shall keep the watch of the house, lest it be broken down. 7 The two contingents of you who go off duty on the Sabbath shall keep the watch of the house of the LORD for the king. 8 But you shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in." 9 So the captains of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each of them took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. 10 And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of the LORD. 11 Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, by the altar and the house. 12 And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"

- I don't know if it's possible to overstate how grand and glorious this must've been for them after six long years of evil reigning.
- As far as they're concerned there was no legitimate king and there were no surviving heirs to the throne of David's royal line.
- But God, true to His Word, and true to His promise, on the seventh day, in the seventh year, reveals and anoints their true King.

F.B. Meyer - "Is not the spiritual condition of too many children of God represented by the condition of the Temple, during the early years of the life of Joash? The king was within its precincts, the rightful heir of the crown and defender of the worship of Jehovah: but as a matter of fact, the crown was on the head of the usurper Athaliah, who was exercising a cruel and sanguinary tyranny. The king was limited to a chamber, and the majority of the priests, with all the people, had not even heard of his existence. There needs to be an anointing, an enthroning, a determination that He shall exercise his power over the entire Temple of our Being."

13 Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD. 14 When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"

- These two verses should bring both encouragement and hope in that this is how it will be when Jesus is anointed King of kings.
- More specifically as F.B. Meyer says, anointing and enthroning of our King, after a cruel and murderous tyranny of the usurper.
- I would suggest that we are at the end of that sixth year, and our greater than Joash, is about to be anointed and enthroned.

15 And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD." 16 So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and there she was killed.

- It should be noted that this judgment on Athaliah was in accordance with the Law of Moses for turning Israel away from God.
- The reason I mention this is because God takes very seriously the leading of His people away from Him to worship false gods.
- It should also be noted that Athaliah had been fully given over to the worship of Baal, and as such, had led Israel into that sin.

17 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people, that they should be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people. 18 And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD. 19 Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the LORD, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings. 20 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house. 21 Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.

- Notice that the first thing the king and the people do after making a covenant was to thoroughly break down the temple of Baal.
- Not only do they break it into pieces, they do so with excitement, which seems to indicate they had suffered enough under this.
- The reason I point this out is because when the righteous rule and reign, people will rejoice, but when wicked rule, they groan.

Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) - When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

Proverbs 11:10 (NKJV) - When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.

2 Kings 12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba. 2 Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

- As I had mentioned a while back, I'm looking forward to doing a study of the nine good kings of Israel, of which Joash is one.
- Joash as one of the good kings is also one of eight who started well, but in the end did not finish well because of disobedience.
- Such is the case here with Joash, who it seems did what right in the sight of the Lord only while Jehoiada the priest was alive.

3 But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. 4 And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD—each man's census money, each man's assessment money—and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD, 5 let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found." 6 Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple. 7 So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple." 8 And the priests agreed that they would neither receive more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple. 9 Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD. 10 So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD. 11 Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD, 12 and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple. 13 However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD. 14 But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it. 15 Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully. 16 The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests.

- Here we're told that Joash redirected the monies that were sorely needed to repair the temple damaged under Athaliah's reign.
- One commentator suggested the reason the temple-needed renovation was because Athaliah and her evil sons vandalized it.
- This should come as no surprise given that Joash had a soft spot for the temple having been raised in the temple for six years.

17 Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. 18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he 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 And his servants arose and formed a conspiracy, and killed Joash in the house of the Millo, which goes down to Silla. 21 For Jozachar the son of Shimeath and Jehozabad the son of Shomer, his servants, struck him. So he died, and they buried him with his fathers in the City of David. Then Amaziah his son reigned in his place.

- Lest you think the chapter ends with this cruel end to the life of Joash, it should be noted that he was warned by the prophets.