

7/17/11

Athaliah, Pure Satanic Evil
2Kings 11:1-21

The worship of Baal has been destroyed by Jehu in the northern kingdom of Israel, now God will destroy it in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Though men and women will be the instrument of God, make sure you do not miss the unseen hand of God that is behind every action to keep His promise to David, of having an heir on the throne.
* Thought judgment is inescapable God is still at work, being faithful to his word!

We want to look at the record of Athaliah attempt to usurp the throne of Judah, being thwarted by God in three movements: 2Kings 11:1-21

- I. The wicked plot to destroy the seed of David. vs. 1-3
 - II. The godly plan to preserve the seed of David. vs. 4-12
 - III. The divine promise to protect the seed of David. vs. 13-21
- I. The wicked plot to destroy the seed of David. vs. 1-3**
- A. The treacherous deed of Athaliah. vs. 1
 - 1. Athaliah was the daughter of Jezebel.

- a. She was raised with a bad example of a mother.
 - 1) Athaliah grew up with Jezebel's debauched idolater and witchcraft as the norm. 2Kings. 9:22
 - 2) Athaliah grew up influence by Jezebel's hatred of God's prophets, as she massacred the prophets of Yahweh. 1Kings 18:4
 - 3) Athaliah grew up eating daily with Jezebel's 400 prophets of Asherah at her table. 1Kings 18:29d-e
- b. She was raised with her mother being a bad example of a wife.
 - 1) Athaliah constantly heard and saw Jezebel as a domineering wife demeaning her father, Ahab, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." 1Kings 21:7b-f
 - 2) Athaliah witnessed the evil influence of Jezebel, as a wife, over her father to do evil, "But there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do wickedness in the sight of the LORD, because **Jezebel** his wife stirred him up." 2Kings 21:25

- 3) Athaliah leaned her world view of being a wife and mother from her mother Jezebel, it was immoral and decadent, Jesus said to the church of Pergamos, “Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.” Rev. 2:20
2. Athaliah acted, true to form, as the daughter of her mother, seeing her opportunity to take the kingdom of Judah for herself. vs. 1
 - a. The time came at the death of Ahaziah by Jehu, “When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead.” vs. 1a
 - 1) Ahab her father was dead.
 - 2) Jezebel, her mother was dead.
 - 3) Jehoram, her husband was dead.
 - 4) Ahaziah, her son was dead.
 - b. The terrible crime of Athaliah was to murder all heirs in line to the throne of Judah, “she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs.” vs. 1b
 - 1) Athaliah without hesitation arose “quwm”, meaning decisively, to kill the sons of Ahaziah, her

- grandchildren, and any rival to the Davidic throne.
 - 2) Athaliah was more evil than her mother Jezebel, reigned from 841-835 B.C. 2Chron. 22:10-23:21
 - 3) Athaliah “Athalyah” means “afflicted of the Lord”.
 - 4) The Proverb, Like mother, like daughter. Ezk. 16:44
- B. The loyal deed of Jehosheba. vs. 2**
1. The person God used to rescue the heir to the throne of Judah was Jehosheba.
 - a. Jehosheba was the daughter of King Joram. vs. 2a-b
 - 1) Jehosheba “Y@howsheba”, means Yahweh has sworn”, indicative of the faithfulness of God.
 - 2) Jehosheba was the faithful daughter of compromising and unfaithful Jehoram, who married Athaliah.
 - 3) It has been about 152 years since David was king.
 - b. Jehosheba was the sister of Ahaziah. vs. 2c
 - 1) Both were raised in the same home, as Athaliah probably ruled over Jehoram, like Jezebel over Ahab.
 - 2) Both were influenced by the corrupt worship of Baal in the temple at Jerusalem. 2Kings 11:18

- 3) Both chose, Ahaziah to continue the evil example, Jehosheba not to, not being pre-determined by their home environment.
- 4) Ahaziah, her brother follow Baal, but Jehosheba followed Yahweh.
- c. Jehosheba took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered." vs. 2d-e
 - 1) Jehosheba the sister of Ahaziah was able to rescue one of his sons, as they were being murdered.
 - 2) Joash "Yow'ash", means "given by the Lord", Athaliah murdered all of the rest of the sons of Ahaziah.
2. The particular location they concealed the heir to the throne was right under the nose of Athaliah. vs. 2f-3
 - a. They relocated Joash, "and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed." vs. 2f-h
 - 1) The word bedroom "chedar", means an inner chamber, with the idea of some seclusion, be it a parlous, private room or bedroom.
 - 2) The word most likely refers to one of the bedchambers of the priests or the high priest in the Temple, as the next verse states. vs. 3

- 3) Jehosheba brought the captains to the house of the Lord, to be his bodyguards. vs. 4
 - a) Brilliant, Athaliah would never look there because she did not worship Yahweh, but Baal in the temple of Baal!
 - b) Just like when God hid Elijah from Jezebel in Zarephath, in Lebanon, her own backyard.
- 4) The child was cared for by his nurse, another unnamed heroin.
- b. They remained faithful to protect Joash, "So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.
 - 1) The confirmation the Joash was hidden in the Temple is clear.
 - 2) The duration was for six years.
 - 3) The period marked the reign of Athaliah over the land of Judah.

Illustration

A Brooklyn man was arrested early and charged with murder after he "panicked" and allegedly dismembered the body of an 8-year-old Hasidic boy -- then hid the parts in a Dumpster and placed the child's severed feet in his freezer, authorities said. Police made the gruesome find after raiding a Kensington home and arresting 35-year-old Levi Aron, who led them to parts of missing boy Leiby

Kletzky's body, stuffed in a red suitcase and hidden in a Dumpster outside an auto repair shop about two miles away. N. Y. Post, July 14, 2011

Application

1. The type of cases of vicious, unnatural acts of dismemberments, women killing their own children, sons or daughters killing parents for inheritance, wives or husbands for life-insurance is not uncommon today.

* “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **unloving “astorgos” no natural affection or family love**, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,” 2Tim. 3:1-4

2. The more godless a person or nation becomes, the more inhuman their conduct and deeds will be played out in society.

- a. Those that were worshipping the god of sexual pleasure, Molech, had no problem killing their babies on the red-burning arms of Molech, so those in our day who abort their children don't believe they are doing anything wrong.
- b. Those who worshipped Asherah, had no problem engaging in ritual sexual orgies, even though they were married, so those in

our day that are unfaithful, visit prostitutes or live as swingers, swapping mates with other couples.

* The Psalm says those who serve idol gods become like them, insensate. Ps. 115:1-8

- 3. The disarray and breakdown of the family is an epidemic today in our nation.
 - a. The professionals call families dysfunctional, God calls them rebellious and disobedient.
 - b. The professionals call addictions a disease, God calls them sin.
 - c. The professionals call you judgmental, if you make a value judgment on someone's morality, God call you a righteous witness.
 - d. The professionals, educators and politicians. For the most part believe Christians are the problem, God says we are the restraining force that preserves society.
- * Jesus said, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.” Jn. 15:18-20

The wicked plot to destroy the seed of David was by Athaliah!

**II. The godly plan to preserve the seed of David.
vs. 4-12**

A. The instrument of God was Jehoiada. vs. 4

1. Jehoiada took the initiative for the protection of the young king. vs. 4a
 - a. The event took place six year after the killing of the sons of the Davidic line by Athaliah, “In the seventh year.” vs. 4a
 - 1) For six year Joash had been nurtured and cared for in secrecy.
 - 2) The nurse and Jehosheba seem to of been the only ones that knew about him, up to this point.
 - b. The military guard was summoned by Jehoiada, “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.” vs. 4a-c
 - 1) The captains of hundreds were like Roman centurions, over 100 men. five by name. 2Chron. 23:1
 - 2) The word for bodyguards “kariy” is a variant for Charethites, believed to be a group of foreign Carian or Asian mercenary

soldiers, as David’s bodyguards.

2Sam. 8:18. 20:23, 1Kings 1:38

- 3) The word escorts “ruwts”, meaning runners, possibly lancers.
 - 4) Jehoiada “Y@howyada” means “Yahweh knows”, he and his wife were two of the godly remnant of God.
 - 5) Jehoiada by the way was the priest and the husband of Jehosheba, the sister of Jehoram. 2Chron. 22:11
 - b. The military guard took an oath of secrecy, “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.” vs. 4b-c
 - 1) The covenant was in view of the promise to David’s seed.
 - 2) The oath was by the God of Israel, Yahweh.
 - 3) The location was the house of the Lord, the Temple of Solomon.
 - * The commanders gathered all the Levites of Judah. 2Chron. 23:2-4
- B. The indicated plan was to conceal the King.
vs. 5-8**
1. There would be three contingents. vs. 5-6
 - a. Jehoiada gave orders to the first group, “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." vs. 5

- 1) These were captains of 100 men.
- 2) They would start on the Sabbath to watch the residence where the king was being concealed, one week out of three. The Comp. Bibl. Lib.

b. Jehoiada gave orders to the two remaining groups, "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." vs. 6

* Fountain Gate. 2Chron. 23:5

- 1) The second group would guard the gate of the Temple name Sur "Cuwr", meaning "turning aside".
- 2) The third group would guard the gate behind the escort "ruwts", meaning runners, possibly lancers.

2. There would be a rotation in the guard. vs. 7

a. The two gate groups would take their turn watching the Temple, "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." vs. 7

b. The Levites would personally guard Joash, not the soldiers, according to Chronicles. vs. 8

* "And the Levites shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes into the house, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out." 2Chron. 23:7

- 1) Ready and armed, in close proximity to the king, "But you shall surround the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand." vs. 8a-b
- 2) Ready to slay any intruder towards the king, "and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death." vs. 8c-d
- 3) Ready to follow the movements of the king, "You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in." vs. 8e

C. The implementation of the plan to secure the King. vs. 9-12

1. The captains carried out the orders. vs. 9
 - a.** They submitted to Jehoiada, "So the captains of the hundreds did

according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded.” vs. 9a

- b.** They set up the contingent groups, “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.” vs. 9b-d
- 2.** The priest Jehoiada provided the weapons for the guards. vs. 10
 - a.** He gave them to the captains, “And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields.” vs. 10a
 - b.** He used David’s personal armory, “which had belonged to King David.” vs. 10a
* David’s spoils of war. 2Sam. 8:7
 - c.** He knew of their close proximity, “that were in the temple of the LORD.” vs. 10b
- 3.** The bodyguards took their respective positions. vs. 11-12
 - a.** They secured the safety of the King on every side. vs. 11
 - 1)** Armed, “Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand.” vs. 11a-b
 - 2)** Vigilant, “all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the

left side of the temple, by the altar and the house.” vs. 11b-d

- b.** They set Joash on the throne. vs. 12
 - 1)** Jehoiada ushered Joash for the coronation, “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.” vs. 12a-c
 - a)** According to the law. Ex. 29:6-7, Lev. 8:9-10
 - b)** The copy of the Law for the king. Deut. 17:14-20
 - 2)** Jehoiada witnessed the celebration, “and they clapped their hands and said, “Long live the king!” vs. 12d-e

Illustration

God used one man to begin the idea of modern day State of Israel, it was Theodor Herzl, The term “Zionism” was first introduced in 1893 by Nathan Birnbaum, but Theodor Herzl, an Austrian Jew born to a prosperous, emancipated Budapest family, is recognized as the founder of the Zionist ideology when he published his book in 1896, “The Jewish State”, where he declared that the cure for anti-semitism was the establishment of a Jewish state. As he saw it, the best place to establish this state was in Palestine.”

Application

1. God always has His faithful servants in the midst of apostasy and evil.

- a. Those who will step up and do what they know is the will of God.
- b. Those who will not be intimidated or fear man, while considering the fearful consequences, in obeying God.
- c. Those who see themselves as being placed in such a time and place for the purposes of God, like Joseph, Boaz and Ruth, Esther and Mordicai.

* “And Mordecai told them to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther 4:13-14

2. The people of God must be faithful soldiers to defend the word of God and those who are faithful servants of God.

- a. Today so many are excepting false teaching within the church.
- * “As I urged you when I went into Macedonia--remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other

doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.” Tit. 1:3-4

- b. Pastors are compromising with important doctrines to be popular or excepted.
 - * “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching **ears**, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their **ears** away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” 2Tim. 4:1-4
- c. Pastors, Christians and churches get involved with others that are sympathetic, if not down right promoters of “Seeker Friendly Churches” and “Emergent Churches”, contradicting Biblical truth.
 - * “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” 2Tim. 4:5-8

The godly plan to preserve the seed of David was by Jehoiada the priest!

III. The divine promise to protect the seed of David. vs. 13-21

- A.** The usurper Athaliah was taken by surprised. vs. 13-14
1. Athaliah inquired about the sound of the celebration, “Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the LORD.” vs. 13
 - a. She heard not only clapping, shouting, but singing. 2Chron. 23:13
 - b. She never went to the Temple, but the temple of Baal and heard, “Long live the king!”
 2. Athaliah was dismayed at the coronation. vs. 14
 - a. She could not believe her eyes, “When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the

trumpeters were by the king.” vs. 14a-c

- 1) Asking herself, “How did I miss Joash?”
 - 2) Thinking to herself, “Where has he been hidden, all these six years?”
- b.** She could not believe her demise, “All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, “Treason! Treason!” vs. 14d-g
- 1) Treason “qesher”, means conspiracy.
 - 2) Athaliah’s cry described the guilt of her own crime, no one rejoices or had blown the trumpet at her!
 - 3) Recall Jehoram cried out “treason” to Ahaziah, deceit. 1Kings 9:23
- B.** The usurper Athaliah was taken and executed. vs. 15-16
1. The command for the execution came from the faithful servant of God. vs. 15
 - a. The proclamation of the order against Athaliah and her followers, “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.” vs. 15a-e

- b. The specification of her execution, “For the priest had said, “Do not let her be killed in the house of the LORD.” vs. 15f-g
- 2. The carrying out of the execution. vs. 16
 - a. Athaliah was arrested, “So they seized her.” vs. 16a
 - b. Athaliah was escorted out, “and she went by way of the horses’ entrance into the king’s house.” vs. 16b-c
 - c. Athaliah was put to death, “and there she was killed.” vs. 16d
- C. The usurper Athaliah being removed brought about reform. vs. 17
 - 1. The priest Jehoiada initiated a renewal of the covenant with God. vs. 17
 - a. The covenant was a three parties, “Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD, the king, and the people.” vs. 17a-c
 - b. The covenant was to re-establish their relation with God, “that they should be the LORD’S people.” vs. 17c
 - c. The covenant was to have a godly leader, “and also between the king and the people.’ vs. 17d
 - 2. The people of Judah gave evidence of their re-commitment to God and the covenant. vs. 18

- a. They destroyed the temple of Baal, “And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down.” vs. 18a-b
 - 1) The worship of Baal had made a strong infiltration into the kingdom of Judah with a temple present, but we do not know the location.
 - 2) The sons of Athaliah had broken into the house of the Lord and dedicated the thing of God to Baal. 2Chron. 23:7
 - 3) Ironically, it took seven years longer to in Judah to expel Baal worship, then in Israel.
- b. They destroyed worship icons of Baal, “They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images.” vs. 18c
 - 1) Elijah destroyed the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. 1Kings. 18:25-29
 - 2) Jehu destroyed Baal worship in Israel. 2Kings 10:18-28
- c. They destroyed the mediator of Baal, “and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.” vs. 18d
- 3. The priest Jehoiada re-established the worship of Yahweh, “And the priest appointed officers over the house of the LORD.” vs. 18e

- a. He restored the oversight, priest, sacrifices and worship and gatekeeper, after the order of David. 2Chron. 23:18-19
 - b. A group of faithful godly men were over-seers over the house of God.
 - c. A place where the people could seek the God of Israel, Yahweh.
4. The priest supervised the enthroning of Joash the king. vs. 19
- a. Everyone was involved, “Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land.” vs. 19a-d
 - b. Everyone moved in a procession, “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.” vs. 19e-g
5. The outcome of righteous justice resulted in a safer society. vs. 20
- a. The people celebrated, “So all the people of the land rejoiced.” vs. 20a
 - b. The atmosphere was peaceful, “and the city was quiet.” vs. 20b
* Quiet “shaqat”, tranquil and untroubled.
 - c. The reason being, “for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king’s house.” vs. 20c

6. The summary statement for the enthronement of Joash, “Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.” vs. 21
- a. The faithfulness of God to David, did not fail.
 - b. The faithful few used of God saw the faithfulness of God.

Illustration

“Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for a light by day, The ordinances of the moon and the stars for a light by night, Who disturbs the sea, And its waves roar (The LORD of hosts is His name): If those ordinances depart From before Me, says the LORD, Then the seed of Israel shall also cease From being a nation before Me forever.” Jer. 31:35-36

Application

1. There have been so many who have destroyed the Jew throughout history, yet they are gone and the Jews are still here.
- a. Spain used to be a world power, but she persecuted the Jews, she is nearly bankrupt.
 - b. Hitler’s Germany was going to conquer the world by destroying the Jews, she was reduced to nothing.
 - c. England also used to be a world power, she betrayed the Jews at the end of the British

Mandate, now she is surrounded and overtaken by Islam.

- d. America is taking a very shaky stand towards Israel, attempting to force her to divide the land, Obadiah says they fight against God.

* “Those that bless you, I will bless, those that curse you, I will curse.” Gen. 12:3

2. The modern day history of Israel speaks for itself.

- a. In 1967 the President of Egypt Nasser blocked entry to the Jewish port of Eilat and invited other Arab nations to help him wage war on Israel. The Arabs were heavily supported by Russia with about 547,000 armed troops, 504 tanks and 957 fighter aircrafts, while the Jews had 264,000 troops, 800 tanks and 300 combat aircrafts, mostly from USA.
- b. On June 5, 1967 in the six day war, Israeli planes launched a pre-emptive strike on the airbases of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq, eliminating much enemy air power. After taking the entire Sinai Peninsula and all the land to the Jordan River, Egypt and Jordan worked out a cease-fire on June 8. Israel captured a buffer zone over the Golan Heights and regained control of the city of Jerusalem for the first time.
- c. In good faith and peaceful intentions General Moshe Dayan gave the Temple

Mount to the King of Jordan and in 1994, Jordan turned it over to the P.L.O., the openly terrorist organization.

- d. In 1973 on the Day of Atonement “Yom Kippur”, the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack on Israel, Israel once again triumphed.
- e. The 2006 attack by Hezbollah from Lebanon firing hundreds of Katyusha rockets, missile sights situated over schools and hospitals.
- f. There is Iran’s ongoing threats to annihilate Israel and constant supply to Syria to harass Israel.

3. The future regarding Israel is certain, even though the majority of churches teach “Replacement Theology”, that God is through with Israel and the church replace Israel.

- a. The land belongs to Israel and it will be restored. Ezk. 35-36
- b. The rebirth of the nation of Israel is prophesied. Ezk. 37
- c. The attack on Israel by Russia with her confederacy of Islamic nation will take place in the future and God will destroy them. Ezk. 38-39

The divine promise to protect the seed of David was by God!

Conclusion

Athaliah's attempt to usurp the throne of Judah was thwarted by God:

- I.** The wicked plot to destroy the seed of David was by Athaliah!
- II.** The godly plan to preserve the seed of David was by Jehoiada the priest!
- III.** The divine promise to protect the seed of David was by God!