

TREASON AGAINST A TRAITOR. 2 KN. 11:1-21. 12/17/23. #23.

When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. ²But 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. ³So he was hidden with her in the house of the LORD for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land... ¹⁵Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts *and* the people, she came to the people *in* the temple of the LORD. ¹⁴When 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!" ¹⁶And 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." ¹⁶So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance *into* the king's house, and there she was killed. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸And 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. ¹⁹Then 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. ²⁰So 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. ²¹Jehoash *was* seven years old when he became king.

1. An evil thwarted

- a. When Athaliah heard that her son, Ahaziah, had been killed by Jehu, she moved to secure the throne for herself
 - a1. Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab & Jezebel
 - a2. She had introduced Baal worship to Judah
- b. Jehu had killed the brothers of Ahaziah
- c. Athaliah moved to kill all Athaliah's sons
 - a1. By eliminating all the heirs of David, God's covenant with David would end
 - a2. The line to the Messiah would be broken
- d. Jehosheba was Ahaziah's sister & the wife of Jehoiada, the High Priest
 - a1. She took 1 yr. old Joash from the royal nursery along with his nurse & hid him in a storage area in the palace (2 Chron. 22)
 - a2. When the coast was clear, Jehoiada took Joash to live in a room in the temple for 6 years
- e. One male from the line of David remained alive (God's will cannot be thwarted)

2. A time to act

- a. When Joash was 7 Jehoiada gathered the temple guards to show them the legitimate heir to the throne
 - a1. Athaliah had usurped the throne for herself
 - a2. Jeh. instructed the guards to stay at their duty stations on a certain Sabbath
- b. Jehoiada called for all Levites to the special worship service, along with the guards & leading citizens
 - a1. Joash stood near the king's pillar (1 Kn. 6)
 - a2. When the shofar was sounded, Jehoiada put the crown on Joash's head & the people shouted "long live the king"

3. Like mother, like daughter

- a. When Athaliah hears the commotion at the temple, she investigates what was going on
 - a1. She discovers that she is surrounded by troops
 - b1. Since Jeh. had posted troops at the palace gate & horse gate she could not retreat to call her own guards
 - b2. When she sees Joash by the king's pillar, she understands what was up
 - a2. Ironically, she cries "Treason! Treason!"
 - b1. She is the one who had committed treason against David's line
 - b2. She had dug a pit & fell into it (Pv. 26:27)
- b. Jehoiada orders Athaliah taken outside to be slain
 - a1. As with her mother, Jezebel, Athaliah faced a usurpation & execution
 - a2. As with her mother, she was a murderous idolater grabbing cruel power
- c. Several curious issues in this story:
 - a1. How did Athaliah not miss Joash in the body count when she slayed her grandsons?
 - a2. How was Joash hidden for 6 years undetected?
 - a3. How did Jehoiada certify Joash as a descendant of David?
 - a4. How did Jeh. wield such power?
 - a5. Why did Athaliah have no palace guards with her?
- d. At several stages, Satan has tried to foil God's plan, but has been defeated at each stage
 - a1. The line of David came down to 1 boy, but God preserved him & so the line continued
 - a2. Just like Herod, Athaliah could not defeat God