

Lesson 11 – 2 Kings 11-12

Text: 2 Kings 11-12; 2 Chronicles 22-23

Main Characters: God, Athaliah, Jehoiada, Jehoshabeath, Joash

Key Passages:

- 2 Chronicles 23:16 – Jehoiada reaffirmed the covenant between God and the people: that they should be His people, and that He would be their God.
- 2 Kings 11:20-21 – All of the people of Judah rejoiced when the evil Athaliah was killed.

Main Storyline:

When Athaliah saw that her son, Ahaziah (king of Judah), was dead, she killed all of the other heirs of the throne of Judah except for one baby son, Joash. Joash was rescued from Athaliah by King Ahaziah's (Judah) sister, Jehoshabeath. Jehoshabeath was also the wife of a priest, Jehoiada. Together, they hid Joash from Athaliah for six years in the temple while Queen Athaliah reigned over Judah.

In the seventh year, Jehoiada brought together the captains of the army with all of their men. They went throughout Judah, gathered all of the Levites and elders from all of the different cities, and assembled in Jerusalem. The whole group met together in the temple of God and made a covenant with the rightful king (Joash) to restore him to the throne. Together, they planned to keep watch over the king's house and the house of God (the temple) in order to protect the king.

Jehoiada then called the people together in the temple. They brought out Joash, put the crown on him, and made him king of Judah. Jehoiada and his sons anointed him with oil and said, "Long live the king!" All of the people began to shout and praise the new king of Judah with trumpets and songs.

When Athaliah heard all of the commotion by the temple, she went there to investigate. When she arrived, she saw Joash standing with the leaders of Judah at the entrance of the temple being praised by all of the people as the new king of Judah. Athaliah was enraged, tearing her clothes and accusing all of the people of treason against her.

Jehoiada immediately called for the soldiers to seize her. He instructed them to take her outside the temple and kill her there. Further, he told them to kill anyone who came to defend or follow her. The men did as Jehoiada instructed, taking Athaliah outside the temple and executing her.

Jehoiada took this opportunity to reestablish the relationship between God and Judah. He made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king that they would be the Lord's people. Together, they went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They broke down the altars and images of Baal and killed the priest of Baal, Mattan.

Jehoiada made many changes in Judah in order to restore many of the traditions that God and David had established. He restored the responsibility of overseeing the temple to the Levites. He also put the Levites in charge of offering burnt offerings with rejoicing and singing. He also put gatekeepers at the gates to the temple to prevent any unclean people from entering. Finally, Jehoiada, together with the army and the people, brought Joash up to the palace and set him on the throne of the kingdom. All of the people of the land rejoiced because Athaliah had been slain. Joash became king of Judah when he was seven years old.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) Even in the darkest hours, God makes a way to keep His promises with His people.
- 2.) Those who are evil are ultimately brought to judgment and destruction by God.
- 3.) We need to remember that God's ways are the only correct way – sometimes we must re-examine ourselves and be restored to His ways.