

Turning the Hearts: Athaliah/Joash

II Kings 11-12 and II Chronicles 22-24

Background

Jehoshaphat allies himself with the house of Ahab

- Through marriage: Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, is given to his son, Jehoram.
- Through battle: he fights with Ahab against Ramoth-Gilead.
- Through building ships: he has a joint venture with Ahaziah, but they are destroyed.
- Through battle: he fights against Moab with Jehoram (of Israel), and the king of Edom.

**T/F “Bad company corrupts good morals.”
Nothing bad happens to Jehoshaphat and his
faith in God says strong.**

Jehu cleans out the house of Ahab

- Shoots Jehoram of Israel with an arrow; throws body in Naboth's field.
- Ahaziah of Judah (Jehoshaphat's grandson) is shot with an arrow and dies.
- Jezebel is thrown down and trampled.
- Ahab's seventy sons are beheaded.
- Ahaziah's relatives (also from Jeshoshaphat) are killed.
- Baal-worshippers are killed.

Athaliah seizes power.

- She kills the royal family.
- She sets herself up as sole ruler.

What is at stake
here?

This just isn't another story of insurrection and a national coup. It is the kingdom of darkness (Baal-Jezebel-immorality-witchcraft) taking over and eradicating God's kingdom and followers on earth.

This is targeting the redemptive plan of God through the royal family of David. It is destroying and compromising the one God-given place of worship on the earth: the Temple in Jerusalem.

Jehosheba seizes baby Joash.

- She is Ahaziah's sister (likely by another mother).
- She is married to Jehoiada, the high priest, who is 100+.
- They hide him in the Temple storerooms for six years.
- They crown him as king when he is 7 years old.

This just isn't another story of heroism against an evil despot. It is the righteous minority recognizing the plan of God and acting in accord with His kingdom purposes—even at risk to themselves.

Athaliah is seized and killed.

- Jehoiada makes an agreement with the military and Levites.
- They surround Joash in the courtyard and anoint him king.
- Athaliah hears the commotion and shouts “Treason!”
- She is put to death with the sword outside of the Temple.

Turning the Hearts: Athaliah/Joash

II Kings 11-12 and II Chronicles 22-24

Joash Reforms

**Reform: to improve by correcting errors;
To give up harmful or immoral practices.**

- Jehoiada puts him on the throne of David—the only surviving heir.
- Jehoiada makes a covenant with Joash and the people to be GOD'S people.
- Jehoiada gives Joash a copy of the Law—to restore the moral direction of the country.
- Jehoiada authorizes the tearing down of the altars and images of Baal.
- Joash restores the Temple—takes the collection and expedites the work.
- Jehoiada is buried with the kings of Judah.

What
happened?!

Jehoiada died
and new
advisors came.

Joash Conforms

Conform: to be in agreement. To comply.

- He abandons God's house.
- Worship of Asherah is reinstated.
- God sends prophets (probably Joel comes at this time).
- Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, rebukes Joash and is ordered to be stoned in the Temple court.
- Joash takes the gold from the Temple and palace to pay Hazeal not to destroy Jerusalem.
- Joash is wounded and assassinated by two foreign servants. He is not buried with the kings.

The Bottom Line

Joash followed God like those guiding him did.

continue in the faith **firmly established** and **steadfast**, and **not moved away** from the hope of the gospel that you have heard. Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been **firmly rooted** and now being built up in Him and **established** in your faith.

Colossians 1:23, 2:7