

2CHRONICLES 23: 1 In the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him.

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Jehoiada the priest, after having taken counsel with the captains, Levites, etc., proclaims Joash, and anoints him king, 2Chr 23:1-11. Athaliah, endeavoring to prevent it, is slain, 2Chr 23:12-15. He makes the people enter into a covenant, that they would serve the Lord, 2Chr 23:16. The people break down the temple of Baal, and slay Mattan his priest, 2Chr 23:17. Jehoiada makes several alterations, and remodels the kingdom, 2Chr 23:18-21.

Verse 1

And in the seventh year - See on 2Kgs 11:4 (note), etc.

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2CHRONICLES 23: 2 They went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers' households of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

2CHRONICLES 23: 3 All the assembly made a covenant with the king in God's house. He said to them, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the LORD has spoken concerning the sons of David.

2CHRONICLES 23: 4 This is the thing that you shall do. A third part of you, who come in on the Sabbath, of the priests and of the Levites, shall be porters of the thresholds.

2CHRONICLES 23: 5 A third part shall be at the king's house; and a third part at the gate of the foundation. All the people shall be in the courts of the LORD's house.

2CHRONICLES 23: 6 But let no one come into the LORD's house, except the priests, and those who minister of the Levites. They shall come in, for they are holy, but all the people shall follow the LORD's instructions.

2CHRONICLES 23: 7 The Levites shall surround the king, every man with his weapons in his hand. Whoever comes into the house, let him be slain. Be with the king when he comes in, and when he goes out."

2CHRONICLES 23: 8 So the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded: and they took every man his men, those who were to come in on the Sabbath; with those who were to go out on the Sabbath; for Jehoiada the priest didn't dismiss the shift.

2CHRONICLES 23: 9 Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds the spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king David's, which were in God's house.

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Verse 9

Spears and bucklers - See on 2Kgs 11:10 (note).

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2CHRONICLES 23: 10 He set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the house, along by the altar and the house, around the king.

2CHRONICLES 23: 11 Then they brought out the king's son, and put the crown on him, and gave him the testimony, and made him king: and Jehoiada and his sons anointed him; and they said, "Long live the king!"

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Verse 11

God save the king - May the king live! See on 2Kgs 11:12 (note).

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2CHRONICLES 23: 12 When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the LORD's house:

2CHRONICLES 23: 13 and she looked, and, behold, the king stood by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpets by the king; and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew trumpets; the singers also played musical instruments, and led the singing of praise. Then Athaliah tore her clothes, and said, "Treason! treason!"

2CHRONICLES 23: 14 Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks; and whoever follows her, let him be slain with the sword." For the priest said, "Don't kill her in the the LORD's house."

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Verse 14

And whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword - He who takes her part, or endeavors to prevent the present revolution, let him be immediately slain.

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2CHRONICLES 23: 15 So they made way for her. She went to the entrance of the horse gate to the king's house; and they killed her there.

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Verse 15

Of the horse-gate - See on 2Kgs 11:16 (note).

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2CHRONICLES 23: 16 Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, and all the people, and the king, that they should be the LORD's people.

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Verse 16

Made a covenant between him - The high priest was, on this occasion, the representative of God; whom both the people and the king must have had in view, through the medium of his priest.

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2CHRONICLES 23: 17 All the people went to the house of Baal, and broke it down, and broke his altars and his images in pieces, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.

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Verse 17

Mattan the priest - The Targum will not prostitute the term priest, but calls him כומרא cumera, priestling.

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2CHRONICLES 23: 18 Jehoiada appointed the officers of the LORD's house under the hand of the priests the Levites, whom David had distributed in the LORD's house, to offer the burnt offerings of the LORD, as it is written in the law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, according to the order of David.

2CHRONICLES 23: 19 He set the porters at the gates of the LORD's house, that no one who was unclean in anything should enter in.

2CHRONICLES 23: 20 He took the captains of hundreds, and the nobles, and the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and brought down the king from the LORD's house: and they came through the upper gate to the king's house, and set the king on the throne of the kingdom.

2CHRONICLES 23: 21 So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet. Athaliah they had slain with the sword.

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Verse 21

The city was quiet - There was no attempt at a counter-revolution. Concerning the coronation of Joash, there is a curious circumstance mentioned by the Targumist on 2Chr 23:11, it is as follows: - "And they brought forth the son of the king, and put on him the royal crown which David took from the head of the king of the children of Ammon. In it was inserted the precious attracting stone, in which was engraven and expressed the great and honorable Name [יהוה] which David had placed there by the Holy Spirit: and it was of the weight of a talent of gold; it was therefore a testimony to the house of David that no king who was not of the seed of David should be able to put it on his head, nor be able to bear its weight. When, therefore, the people saw it placed on the head of Joash, and that he was able to bear this crown, they believed him to be of the seed of David, and immediately constituted him king. Therefore Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and said, May the king be prosperous in his kingdom!"

The Jews say that this was the crown of the king of the Ammonites; and that it was always worn afterwards by the kings of the house of Judah. See Jarchi on this place.