
2KINGS 11: 1 Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.

Athaliah destroys all that remain of the seed royal of Judah, 2Kgs 11:1. Jehosheba hides Joash the son of Ahaziah, and he remains hidden in the house of the Lord six years; and Athaliah reigns over the land, 2Kgs 11:2, 2Kgs 11:3. Jehoiada, the high priest, calls the nobles privately together into the temple, shows them the king's son, takes an oath of them, arms them, places guards around the temple, and around the young king's person; they anoint and proclaim him, 2Kgs 11:4-12. Athaliah is alarmed, comes into the temple, is seized, carried forth, and slain, 2Kgs 11:13-16. Jehoiada causes the people to enter into a covenant with the Lord; they destroy Baal's house, priest, and images, 2Kgs 11:17, 2Kgs 11:18. Joash is brought to the king's house, reigns, and all the land rejoices, 2Kgs 11:19-21.

Verse 1

Athaliah - This woman was the daughter of Ahab, and grand-daughter of Omri, and wife of Joram king of Judah, and mother of Ahaziah.

Destroyed all the seed royal - All that she could lay her hands on whom Jehu had left; in order that she might get undisturbed possession of the kingdom.

How dreadful is the lust of reigning! it destroys all the charities of life; and turns fathers, mothers, brothers, and children, into the most ferocious savages! Who, that has it in his power, makes any conscience "To swim to sovereign rule through seas of blood?"

In what a dreadful state is that land that is exposed to political revolutions, and where the succession to the throne is not most positively settled by the clearest and most decisive law! Reader, beware of revolutions; there have been some useful ones, but they are in general the heaviest curse of God.

2KINGS 11: 2 But 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 slain, even him and his nurse, and put them in the bedroom; and they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not slain;

Verse 2

Daughter of - Joram, sister of Ahaziah - It is not likely that Jehosheba was the daughter of Athaliah; she was sister, we find, to Ahaziah the son of Athaliah, but probably by a different mother. The mother of Jehoash was Zibiah of Beer-sheba; see 2Kgs 12:1.

2KINGS 11: 3 He was with her hidden in the LORD's house six years. Athaliah reigned over the land.

Verse 3

He was - hid in the house of the Lord - This might be readily done, because none had access to the temple but the priests; and the high priest himself was the chief manager of this business.

2KINGS 11: 4 In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and fetched the captains over hundreds of the Carites and of the guard, and brought them to him into the LORD's house; and he made a covenant with them, and took an oath of them in the LORD's house, and showed them the king's son.

Verse 4

And the seventh year Jehoiada sent - He had certainly sounded them all, and brought them into the interests of the young king, before this time; the plot having been laid, and now ripe for execution, he brings the chief officers of the army and those of the body guard into the temple, and there binds them by an oath of secrecy, and shows them the king's son, in whose behalf they are to rise.

2KINGS 11: 5 He commanded them, saying, "This is the thing that you shall do: a third part of you, who come in on the Sabbath, shall be keepers of the watch of the king's house;

Verse 5

That enter in on the Sabbath - It appears that Jehoiada chose the Sabbath day to proclaim the young king, because as that was a day of public concourse, the gathering together of the people who were in this secret would not be noticed; and it is likely that they all came unarmed, and were supplied by Jehoiada with the spears and shields which David had laid up in the temple, 2Kgs 11:10.

The priests and Levites were divided into twenty-four classes by David, and each served a week by turns in the temple, and it was on the Sabbath that they began the weekly service, all this favored Jehoiada's design.

2KINGS 11: 6 A third part shall be at the gate Sur; and a third part at the gate behind the guard. So you shall keep the watch of the house, and be a barrier.

2KINGS 11: 7 The two companies of you, even all who go out on the Sabbath, shall keep the watch of the LORD's house around the king.

2KINGS 11: 8 You shall surround the king, every man with his weapons in his hand; and he who comes within the ranks, let him be slain. Be with the king when he goes out, and when he comes in."

2KINGS 11: 9 The captains over hundreds 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, and came to Jehoiada the priest.

2KINGS 11: 10 The priest delivered to the captains over hundreds the spears and shields that had been king David's, which were in the LORD's house.

Verse 10

King David's spears and shields - Josephus expressly says that David had provided an arsenal for the temple, out of which Jehoiada took those arms. His words are; Ανοιξας δε Ιωαδος την εν τω ιερω όπλοθηκην, ήν Δαβιδης κατεσκευασε, διεμερισε τοις εκατονταρχαις άμα και ιεροισι και Λευιταις άπανθ' όσα εύρεν εν αυτη δορατα τε και φαρετρας, και ει τι έτερον ειδος όπλου κατελαβε. "And Jehoiada having opened the arsenal in the temple, which David had prepared, he divided among the centurions, priests, and Levites, the spears, (arrows), and quivers, and all other kinds of weapons which he found there." - Ant. lib. ix., c. 7, s. 8.

2KINGS 11: 11 The guard stood, every man with his weapons 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.

2KINGS 11: 12 Then he brought out the king's son, and put the crown on him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, "Long live the king!"

 Verse 12

Put the crown upon him - This was a diadem or golden band that went round the head.

And - the testimony - Probably the book of the law, written on a roll of vellum. This was his scepter. Some think that it was placed upon his head, as well as the diadem. The diadem, the testimony, and the anointing oil, were essential to his consecration.

They clapped their hands - This I believe is the first instance on record of clapping the hands as a testimony of joy.

God save the king - יהי המלך yechi hannmelech; May the king live! So the words should be translated wherever they occur.

2KINGS 11: 13 When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the LORD's house:

2KINGS 11: 14 and she looked, and behold, the king stood by the pillar, as the tradition was, and the captains and the trumpets by the king; and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her clothes, and cried, "Treason! Treason!"

 Verse 14

The king stood by a pillar - Stood On a pillar or tribunal; the place or throne on which they were accustomed to put the kings when they proclaimed them.

Treason, Treason - קשר קשר keshar, kasher; A conspiracy, A conspiracy! from kashar, to bind, unite together.

2KINGS 11: 15 Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of hundreds who were set over the army, and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks. Kill him who follows her with the sword." For the priest said, "Don't let her be slain in the LORD's house."

Verse 15

Have her forth - She had pressed in among the guards into the temple.

And him that followeth - The person who takes her part, let him instantly be slain.

2KINGS 11: 16 So they made way for her; and she went by the way of the horses' entry to the king's house. She was slain there.

Verse 16

By the way - which the horses came - They probably brought her out near the king's stables. It has been supposed, from Eze 46:1, Eze 46:2, that the east gate of the inner court was that by which the king entered on the Sabbath day, whereas on all other days he entered by the south gate.

And there was another gate, called the horse gate, in the wall of the city, (Jer 31:40), for the king's horses to go out at from the stables at Millo, which is therefore called, 2Chr 23:15, the horse gate toward the king's house.

2KINGS 11: 17 Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, that they should be the LORD's people; between the king also and the people.

Verse 17

Jehoiada made a covenant - A general covenant was first made between the Lord, the Supreme King, the king his viceroy, and the people, that they should all be the Lord's people; each being equally bound to live according to the Divine law.

Then, secondly, a particular covenant was made between the king and the people, by which the king was bound to rule according to the laws and constitution of the kingdom, and to watch and live for the safety of the public. And the people were bound on their part, to love, honor, succor, and obey the king. Where these mutual and just agreements are made and maintained, there can be nothing else than prosperity in the Church and the state.

2KINGS 11: 18 All the people of the land went to the house of Baal, and broke it down; his altars and his images broke they in pieces thoroughly, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. The priest appointed officers over the LORD's house.

Verse 18

His altars and images brake they in pieces - It is probable that Athaliah had set up the worship of Baal in Judah, as Jezebel had done in Israel; or probably it had never been removed since the days of Solomon. It was no wonder that Jehoiada began his reform with this act, when we learn from 2Chr 24:7, that the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord did they bestow upon Baalim.

2KINGS 11: 19 He took the captains over hundreds, and the Carites, and the guard, and all the people of the land; and they brought down the king from the LORD's house, and came by the way of the gate of the guard to the king's house. He sat on the throne of the kings.

2KINGS 11: 20 So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet. Athaliah they had slain with the sword at the king's house.

Verse 20

The people - rejoiced - They were glad to get rid of the tyranny of Athaliah.

And the city was in quiet - She had no partisans to rise up and disturb the king's reign.

2KINGS 11: 21 Jehoash was seven years old when he began to reign.

Verse 21

Seven years old was Jehoash - The first instance on record of making a child seven years old the king of any nation, and especially of such a nation as the Jews, who were at all times very difficult to be governed.