



Lesson 139

The Treachery of Queen Athaliah

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: 2 Ki. 11:1-21; 2 Ch. 22:10-23:15 • Setting: circa 841-834 B.C., in Jerusalem • Main Characters: God, Athaliah, Joash, Jehoida, and Jehosheba • Plot: The wicked queen Athaliah tries to annihilate the house of David. • Key word(s): "God save the _____" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax: <i>2 Kings 11:12 And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king.</i> |
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Background

1. The LORD had cursed Ahab's house because of idolatry, murder, and persecuting the prophets (1 Kings 21:17-28). Jehu, who was as ruthless as he was zealous, was God's means of carrying out divine judgment against the Omride dynasty. Jehu killed Joram, king of Israel, Jezebel, Joram's mother, and Ahaziah, king of Judah. Additionally, all seventy sons of Ahab were slain. But Ahaziah's death left a _____ in Judah.

Athaliah's Treachery

2. (2 Ki. 11:1-2) When Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and the mother of Ahaziah, saw that her son was dead, she seized the opportunity to exterminate all the royal sons of Ahaziah – thus eradicating the house of _____.
 - a) But Jehosheba, Ahaziah's half-sister, took one infant son and hid him in a room. The boy's name was _____.
 - b) (2 Ki. 11:3) For six years Joash was raised in secrecy, brought up by Jehosheba's husband, _____ the high priest.

Athaliah's Demise

3. (2 Ki. 11:4) In Joash's _____ year, Jehoida formulated a plan to depose Judah's murderous queen and to reinstate the line of David. The captains and guards were summoned to the temple and sworn to secrecy, and then they were shown the last surviving direct descendant of King David.
4. (2 Ki. 11:5-12) Jehoida's plan was this:
 - a) The third of the bodyguards that would come on duty on a selected Sabbath would perform their normal functions, and the other two divisions would secretly assemble to provide _____ for the young king.
 - b) At a given signal, Joash would be anointed king and officially enthroned. Of course, Jehoida expected Athaliah to _____.
5. (2 Ki. 11:10) On the day of the coronation, the priests gave the captains and guards the spears and shields that had been dedicated to the LORD by King David many years before (2 Sam. 8:7). What was the significance of such a gesture? _____

6. (2 Ki. 11:13-16) The commotion of the trumpeting, shouting, and celebrating drew the attention of Athaliah; when she perceived what was happening she cried, "Treason! Treason!" But everyone knew she was the treasonous one. So as not to desecrate the _____, the wicked queen was escorted out to the king's house and killed.
7. (2 Ki. 11:17-21) Jehoida then renewed the covenant of the LORD with the people and the house of David.
 - a) The temple of _____ was smashed, its prophets slain, and the sinful influence of Ahab in the kingdom of Judah was eliminated.
 - b) The people rejoiced and lived in peace, and King Joash began his reign at the tender age of _____.

Application

8. This story is one of the most dramatic stories in all the Bible. The line of the Messiah was reduced to just one _____. It appeared all would be lost and the line of David would be extinct. It is sobering to think just how close humanity came to utter hopelessness. But God is sovereign, and he allows these times of darkness to display his glorious power and to remind us that he is in control, that he keeps his promises, and that his mercy endureth forever.

1 Kings 9:5 Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.

9. Our all-powerful God often uses human _____ to accomplish his will. Were it not for the quick-thinking compassion of Jehosheba, and the faithful courage of Jehoida, all would've been lost. Let us emulate them and do what we know is right today. Only God knows how our obedience will make a difference in the lives of others.
10. Joash's story is a beautiful illustration of the Christian's long-awaited exaltation. Matthew Henry tells us, "Though the sons and heirs of heaven are now _____, the world knows them not (1 Jn. 3:1), yet the time is fixed when they shall appear in glory, as Joash in his seventh year."¹

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): "king" • 1. power vacuum • 2. David; a) Joash; b) Jehoida • 3. seventh • 4. a) security; b) resist • 5. Using David's spears and shields was a reminder to that they were fighting for the sake of the covenant the LORD made with David; it was a sentimental and symbolic. • 6. temple • 7. a) Baal; b) seven • 8. infant • 9. means • 10. hidden

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

¹ Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.