

2 Kings 11

Verses 1 - 3

When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and eliminated all the royal children. ² But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and abducted him from among the king's sons who were being put to death, *and put* him and his nurse in the bedroom. So they hid him from Athaliah, and he was not put to death. ³ So he was kept hidden with her in the house of the Lord for six years, while Athaliah was reigning over the land.

When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and eliminated all the royal children.

She did this in order to take over the leadership role in Judah.

See chart 1105

Southern Kings

	King	Began	Ended	Years	Co-reign
1	Rehoboam	930	913	17	
2	Abijam (aka Abijah)	913	911	3	
3	Asa	911	870	41	
4	Jehoshaphat	873/870	848	25	3 years
5	Jehoram	853/848	841	8	5 years
6	Ahaziah (aka Jehoahaz)	841	841	1	
	Athaliah	841	835	6	
7	Joash (aka Jehoash)	835	796	40	
8	Amaziah	796	767	29	
9	Uzziah (aka Azariah)	791/767	740	52	24 years
10	Jotham	750/740	731	16	10 years

Jehu had already killed the older sons of Ahaziah's brothers.

See 2 Chronicles 22:8

⁸ And it came about, when Jehu was executing judgment on the house of Ahab, that he found the princes of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's brothers attending to Ahaziah, and killed them.

The younger sons of Ahaziah were still alive at the palace in Jerusalem and these were the royal children that Athaliah killed. So she murdered her own grandsons.

² But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and abducted him from among the king's sons who were being put to death, *and put* him and his nurse in the bedroom.

Jehosheba was the wife of Jehoiada the High priest. She was a daughter of Jehoram, but not necessarily of Athaliah. This was a brave act on her part because if she had been caught she most likely would have been put to death by Athaliah.

³ So he was kept hidden with her in the house of the Lord for six years, while Athaliah was reigning over the land.

Hiding a child in the temple and keeping it a secret for six years was an amazing feat. Just think about all the people that would have known about this matter and yet nothing reached the ears of the queen mother.

The fact that the queen mother reigned for 6 years presents a bit of a problem.

See Jeremiah 33:19-22

¹⁹ And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰ "This is what the Lord says: If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night do not occur at their proper time, ²¹ then My covenant with David My servant may also be broken, so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.

Here God is saying that nothing can stop David from having a son on his throne. But here we have a woman ruling in Judah (sitting on the throne of David) for 6 years.

It should be mentioned here that there is also a problem with these verses when one considers that no one from David's line ever sat upon the throne after 586 BC when Zedekiah was deported to Babylon.

Whedon in his commentary says that the explanation of this apparent incongruity is that, “the real reign of David was perpetuated in Christ”. That is true in a spiritual sense but that does not explain the end of the physical kingship of David 600 years before the coming of Christ.

A number of other commentators have also tried to explain these verses but none of their explanations pass the smell test. It’s better to admit that a verse is perplexing than to put forth an argument that lacks congruity.

Verses 4 - 8

Now in the seventh year Jehoiada sent *orders* and brought the captains of hundreds of the Carites and of the guards, and brought them to himself at the house of the Lord. Then he made a covenant with them and put them under oath at the house of the Lord, and showed them the king’s son.⁵ And he commanded them, saying, “This is the thing that you shall do: a third of you, who come in on the Sabbath and keep watch over the king’s house⁶ (a third also *shall be* at the gate Sur, and a third at the gate behind the guards), shall keep watch over the house for defense.⁷ And two parts of you, all who go out on the Sabbath, shall also keep watch over the house of the Lord for the king.⁸ Then you shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within the ranks shall be put to death. And you are to be with the king when he goes out and when he comes in.”

Now in the seventh year Jehoiada sent *orders* and brought the captains of hundreds of the Carites and of the guards, and brought them to himself at the house of the Lord. Then he made a covenant with them and put them under oath at the house of the Lord, and showed them the king’s son.

The Carites were probably the Cherethites who were Philistine mercenary troops that had been loyal to David.

See 2 Samuel 15:18

¹⁸ Now all of his servants passed by beside him, and all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had come with him from Gath, passed by before the king.

See map 1110



⁵ And he commanded them, saying, “This is the thing that you shall do: a third of you, who come in on the Sabbath and keep watch over the king’s house ⁶ (a third also *shall be* at the gate Sur, and a third at the gate behind the guards), shall keep watch over the house for defense.

The Sur gate was also called the Foundation Gate. It was located on the west side of the Jerusalem temple. It may have provided access to the temple from the royal palace therefore this gate needed to be guarded.

⁸ Then you shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within the ranks shall be put to death. And you are to be with the king when he goes out and when he comes in.”

Joash is about to be crowned king so he needed to be protected by these armed guards until the queen is dead.

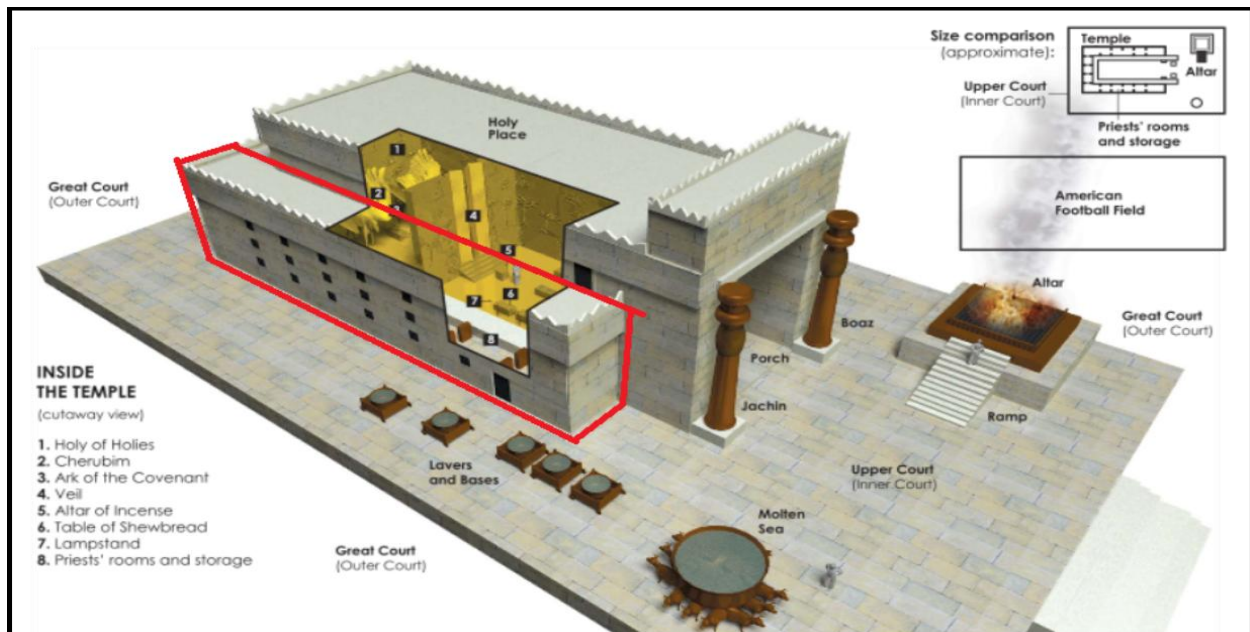
Verses 9 - 11

⁹ So the captains of hundreds acted in accordance with everything that Jehoiada the priest commanded. And each one of them took his men who were to come in on the Sabbath, along with those who were to go out on the Sabbath, and they came to Jehoiada the priest. ¹⁰ Then the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields that *had been* King David’s, which *were* in the house of the Lord. ¹¹ The guards stood, each with his weapons in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the house, by the altar and by the house, around the king.

¹⁰ Then the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields that *had been* King David’s, which *were* in the house of the Lord.

We find out here that someone had stored David’s weapons in the temple.

See pic 1115 Storage rooms on side of temple



Some of the rooms were used for storage but many of them were the living quarters for the priests who worked at the temple on a rotational basis.

See pic 1120

Work schedule at the Tabernacle and Temple

In the time of David there were 38,000 Levites
The priests and the Levites were divided into 24 groups
Each of the 24 groups served twice a year
The length of service for each group was 7 days
The week of service began and ended on the Sabbath

In addition, all the groups served for 3 extra weeks during the year

So each group served for a total of 5 weeks during the year

Most of this information can be found in 1 Chron. 23 thru 26

The Jewish calendar had 51 weeks in a year.
So if we divide 32000 Levites by 24 groups
(Minus 6,000 who were officers and judges)
There were over 1300 Levites serving in the temple each week
And 32,000 during the three festivals

Verses 12 - 16

¹² Then he brought the king's son out, 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!" ¹³ When Athaliah heard the noise of the guards *and of* the people, she came to the people at the house of the Lord. ¹⁴ And she looked, and behold, the king was standing by the pillar according to the custom, with the captains and the trumpeters beside the king; and all the people of the land were joyful and were blowing trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Conspiracy! Conspiracy!" ¹⁵ And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of hundreds who were appointed over the army and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks, and whoever follows her, put to death with the sword!" For the priest said, "She is not to be put to death at the house of the Lord." ¹⁶ So they seized her, and when they brought her to the horses' entrance of the king's house, she was put to death there.

Then he brought the king's son out, 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!***"

Joash is given a crown and a copy of the law which the king of Israel was supposed to read daily.

See Deuteronomy 17:18-20

¹⁸ "Now it shall come about, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this Law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. ¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, so that he will learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully following all the words of this Law and these statutes, ²⁰ so that his heart will not be haughty toward his countrymen, and that he will not turn away from the commandment to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may live long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

¹³ When Athaliah heard the noise of the guards *and of the people*, she came to the people at the house of the Lord. ¹⁴ And she looked, and behold, the king was standing by the pillar according to the custom, with the captains and the trumpeters beside the king; and all the people of the land were joyful and were blowing trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Conspiracy! Conspiracy!"

This probably occurred on a feast day so there would be a large crowd.

Athaliah had realized too late what was happening and there was nothing she could really do.

¹⁵ And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of hundreds who were appointed over the army and said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks, and whoever follows her, put to death with the sword!" For the priest said, "She is not to be put to death at the house of the Lord." ¹⁶ So they seized her, and when they brought her to the horses' entrance of the king's house, she was put to death there.

The house of Ahab had finally come to an end.

See chart 1125

The House of Ahab is exterminated

Person	Ruler	Family	Event	Date	Scripture
Ahab	7n		Died in battle against Syria	853	1 Kings 22
Ahaziah	8n	son of Ahab	Fell from upper room	852	
Joram	9n	son of Ahab	Killed by Jehu in battle	841	2 Kings 9
Ahaziah	6s	Grandson of Ahab	Killed by Jehu in battle	841	2 Kings 9
Jezebel	7n	wife of Ahab	Killed by Jehu in battle	841	2 Kings 9
70		Sons of Ahab	Killed by officials of Jezreel	840 - 835	2 Kings 10
42		Relatives of Ahaziah	Killed by Jehu	840 - 835	2 Kings 10
		Relatives of Ahab	Killed by Jehu	840 - 835	2 Kings 10
Athaliah	6.5	Daughter of Ahab	Killed by the temple guards	834	2 Kings 11

Verses 17 - 21

¹⁷ Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people, that they would be the Lord's people, and between the king and the people. ¹⁸ And all the people of the land came to the house of Baal and tore it down; they thoroughly smashed his altars and his images in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. Then the priest appointed sentries over the house of the Lord. ¹⁹ And he took the captains of hundreds and the Carites, and the guards and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the Lord, and came by way of the gate of the guards to the king's house. And he sat on the throne of the kings. ²⁰ So all the people of the land rejoiced and the city was peaceful. For they had put Athaliah to death with the sword at the king's house. ²¹ Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.

¹⁷ Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people, that they would be the Lord's people, and between the king and the people.

The people recognized that the Lord allowed Athaliah to rule in place of one of David's male descendants because they had forsaken the Lord.

They showed their repentance by making a renewal of the covenant that had been made at Sinai, that the people would obey the commandments and statutes of the Lord. They would also obey their king who was also bound to the Word of God.

¹⁸ **And all the people of the land came to the house of Baal and tore it down; they thoroughly smashed his altars and his images in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. Then the priest appointed sentries over the house of the Lord.**

This was the 3rd major victory over the Baal religion in Israel.

See chart 1130

The House of Baal is exterminated			
Place	Event	Date	Scripture
Mount Carmel	Elijah killed 450 prophets of Baal	866	1 Kings 18
	400 prophets of Asherah		
Samaria	Jehu kills servants of Baal in Baal Temple	836	2 Kings 10
	No number given but probably quite large		
Jerusalem	Temple of Baal torn down by the people	835	2 Kings 11
	They kill Mattan the Priest of Baal		

²⁰ **So all the people of the land rejoiced and the city was peaceful. For they had put Athaliah to death with the sword at the king's house. ²¹ Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.**

Very little is said about the reign of Athaliah but verse 20 says all that we really need to know. She was the kind of person that brightens up a room by leaving it. ☺