

# BIBLE STUDY NOTES ON WHO WAS ATHALIAH?

# Key Passage: 2 Chronicles 23:3b

Jehoiada said to them, "Here is the king's son!
The time has come for him to reign! The Lord has promised
that a descendant of David will be our king.

# **Bad Associations Have Consequences**

Readings: 2 Kings 8:16-11:16 and 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:15

# Jehoshaphat's Plans Go Awry

- Jehoshaphat thought his small kingdom of Judah was secure with the marriage of his son, Jehoram, to Athaliah, the daughter of King Ahab of Israel
- After Ahab's death, Elisha anoints Jehu as king of Israel and instructs him to destroy the family of Ahab. This was a judgment for Jezebel killing the prophets of God. (2 Kings 9:1-13)
- Jehu kills both sons of Ahab, King Joram and Ahaziah. (2 Kings 9:14-21)
- Jehu goes to Jezreel to confront Jezebel and her own servants killer her. (2 Kings 9:30-37)
- Jehu continues to clean house, killing the rest of Ahab's family, including King Ahaziah of Judah (Athaliah's son and Jezebel's grandson) as well as the priests of Baal. (2 Kings 10:1 -30)
- Athaliah steps into the power vacuum and kills the remainder of the royal family.
- Athaliah's daughter, Jehosheba who is married to Jehoiada the high priest, saves her baby nephew from the carnage.

#### Reflection

The bloodshed of Athaliah, and later Joash, stem from Jehoshaphat placing his trust in alliances rather than God. In the New Testament, Paul warns believers not to be "unequally yoked." Jehoshaphat was a godly man; however, he followed the wisdom of the world in

some of his associations.
Have you made decisions because they "made sense" rather than being where God leads?

# Jehoiada's Strategy

- 2 Kings 11:1-16, 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:15
- Jehoiada hides Joash in the temple.
- Rather than confronting Athaliah right away, Jehoiada bides his time. He gathers military
  men together and they swear an oath to protect the small king.
- Joash is hidden in the Temple for 6 years under constant guard.
- When Joash is 7 years old, Jehoiada proclaims him king and Athaliah is killed.

#### Reflection

It is easy to react in a crisis, but reacting out of fear with a knee-jerk reaction rarely leads to good decisions. Jehoiada's end goal was to see Joash on the throne, but rather than trying to force it to come about, he waited strategically. He had a plan, gathered allies, and when the time was right, he made his move.

Is there a situation in your life where you need the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to guide you in proceeding? The next step may be just that, a step on the way to the end rather than the end itself.

#### Sin Takes Offense

- Joash reigns and Jehoiada is his mentor. (2 Chronicles 24:2)
- After Jehoiada died, Joash had bad counselors and began to fall away (2 Chronicles 24:17-19
- Zechariah, son of Jehoiada, confronted Joash about his sin and Joash had Zechariah killed in the Temple courtyard. (2 Chronicles 24:20-22)

#### Reflection

Rather than repent when confronted by the prophet of God, Joash hardened his heart and sunk deeper into sin. When we are convicted of a wrong we have done, we must be quick to repent or risk God abandoning us to our own reprobate mind. (Hebrews 6:4-8, Romans 1:28)

Is there an area in your life where the Holy Spirit is convicting your to repentance?	

# **Archaeological Evidence**

**Ahab:** Remains of Ahab's "ivory house" mentioned in 2 Kings 22:39 have been discovered.

https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/ the-palace-of-the-kings-of-israel-in-the-bible-and-archaeology/

On the ostraca: <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/27925599">https://www.jstor.org/stable/27925599</a>

The Moabite Stele gives an account of Moab freeing itself from the subjugation of Israel. The Bible gives an account of the wars of Israel's kings (Omri, Ahab, and Joram) against Moab.

https://www.ancient.eu/Moabite\_Stone
[Mesha\_Stele]/

**Jezebel**: A seal with the letters "YZBL" dating from the same time period was found and believed to be Jezebel's.

http://biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/inscriptions/fit-for-a-queen-jezebels-royal-seal/

**Shalmaneser II:** Shalmaneser III was king of Assyrian between 858-825 BC. Ahab of Israel is mentioned as one of 12 kings that fought against Shalmaneser in the sixth year of his reign.

Shalmaneser also records that he received tribute from Jehu, "son of Omri" 12 years later. In a later record, Jehu's tribute to Shalmaneser is listed.

http://penn.museum/sites/expedition/through-assyriaseyes/

**Shalmaneser III:** Jehu is recorded as bringing tribute to Shalmaneser III as well.

http://penn.museum/sites/expedition/through-assyriaseyes/

#### Resources

One Year Chronological

**Bible**: Reading from June 17th.

**KJV:** <a href="https://amzn.to/2YpwRjV">https://amzn.to/2YpwRjV</a>

NIV: https://amzn.to/32Qf3C9

NKJV: https://amzn.to/2LJJvZ9

NLT: <a href="https://amzn.to/2MIRoU8">https://amzn.to/2MIRoU8</a>

TLB: <a href="https://amzn.to/32U65nj">https://amzn.to/32U65nj</a>

#### More on the plan:

http://raisedtowalk.org/ resources/the-one-yearchronological-bible-onyouversion/

List of Available Bible Studies

www.RaisedtoWalk.org/bible-studies/

# Carla Alvarez / Raised to Walk

Instagram: @Raisedtowalk

Twitter: @RaisedtoWalk

Facebook: @RaisedtoWalk

Patreon: @RaisedtoWalk

Pinterest: @RaisedtoWalk

YouTube: @RaisedtoWalkTV

