

## 30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW

### #11 Joash the Hidden King | 2 Kings 11:1-21

#### THE BACKGROUND: GOOD, BAD, AND MOSTLY UGLY

- About 125 years prior to the reign of King Joash of Judah, the kingdom of David had divided between North (Israel) and South (Judah).
- The Kingdom of Judah was the better of the two kingdoms. The northern Kingdom of Israel suffered under one bad king and dynasty after another. The southern Kingdom of Judah had a number of bad kings, but often would get a “good king to the rescue.” Joash is one of those kings.
- After King Solomon, there was Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, then Jehoram.
  - Jehoram was a very weak king, whose wife Athaliah was the real decision maker.
  - Athaliah was no friend of the Davidic dynasty, nor of God, and did everything in her power to turn the nation from God to serve pagan idols.
  - Athaliah convinced Jehoram to kill his six brothers, all in an attempt to end the Davidic dynasty.
  - Jehoram eventually died (after an eight-year reign) and was so hated that the Jews did not even give him a proper burial.
- Ahaziah, son of Jehoram and Athaliah became king.
  - Ahaziah was as weak as his father, and his mother Athaliah continued to be the real power of Judah.
  - Ahaziah was killed after only one-year.
- Athaliah the Queen mother had all remaining descendants of David killed, and she became Queen of Judah.
  - For nearly seven years she had a reign of terror in Judah, ruling with an iron fist, having support of the pagan nations around her.
  - The “true Jews” of the land had to go into underground conspiracies.

#### A FEW GOOD MEN (AND A VERY GOOD WOMAN!)

- When Athaliah had all the descendants of David killed, it appeared that God’s promise would forever be unfulfilled: 2 Samuel 7:12-13.
- When God makes a promise, He *always* fulfills that promise. And He most often uses those who care about His promises to bring about the miracle.
- An “unsung hero” named Jehosheba saved a little baby’s life – 2 Kings 11:2.

- She was the sister of Ahaziah, the last of the Davidic dynasty.
- She saved Ahaziah’s son, less than one-year old, and she did it cunningly, for six years.
- Where was the baby hidden? *In the Temple itself!* 2 Kings 11:3.
  - Queen Athaliah was so wicked that she had destroyed the Temple (2 Chron. 24:7).
- After six full years of hiding, Jehoiada, who was both the High Priest *and* the wife of Jehosheba (2 Chron 22:11), created bold and successful plan to make Joash king (2 Kings 11:4-21).

#### THE (MOSTLY) GOOD KING

- Joash (at age 7) became King, under the tutelage of Jehoiada – 2 Kings 11:2.
- Joash’s most famous act was to restore the Temple, raising funds by putting out a chest for people to put in offerings.
  - With the modern desire to have a “chapter and verse” for everything that is done, the “Chest of Joash” has become a favorite tool for church building projects.
- In the end, after Jehoiada’s death, Joash lost focus and eventually gave away the sacred (and expensive) items within the Temple to foreign kings, in an effort to “buy” peace.
- Joash ended up being assassinated by some of his own men, after a 40-year reign.

#### THE REST OF THE STORY

- Who was this wicked grandmother who would have all of her grandchildren killed so that she could reign? –She was the *daughter of Jezebel*.
  - Jehoram married the daughter of Jezebel (Queen of Israel), and this daughter became the Queen mother, who became the Queen of Judah. – see 2 Kings 8:18-19.
- If the *clergy* of the land do not stop evil, then many times nobody will.
- Rarely is everything as it seems.
  - Athaliah thought her reign was secure and the dynasty of David was gone...but there was a hidden baby!
  - The world mostly gives Joash high marks...but he eventually gave away all that was brought in.
  - Kipling reminded us: “If all men count with you, but none too much....” May we never be too discouraged by wicked queens, nor too trusting in (mostly) good kings.