

Week 27
Athaliah the Queen of Judah

Athaliah was also the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. She was also the mother of Ahaziah, king of Judah. Ahaziah, along with all of her other sons, had just been killed by Jehu of Israel.

Athaliah's husband, King Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat, was dead after suffering an intestinal illness. She was a widow, so now is her time to seize the throne of David for herself. Her grandsons, descendants in the line of David, were the only heirs, so she has them killed—all but one. Joash is rescued by the wife of a faithful priest.

I like Alfred Edersheim's remarks on the treachery of Athaliah:

“And if her murderous purpose on seizing the government had been wholly successful, the political union between the house of Ahab (Israel) and that of Jehoshaphat (Judah) would have ended in the extermination of the whole house of David.”

But the line of David will continue, because God made a promise, and backed it with an oath, and God cannot lie.

The Outline: Athaliah the Queen of Judah
2 Kings 11–12; 2 Chron 22–24

2 Kings 11 The Reign of Athaliah (Judah) [2 Chron 22:10–23:15]

- 11:1-3 Her treachery and reign
- 11:4-12 Joash is brought out of hiding and anointed by Jehoiada
- 11:13-20 Athaliah is killed at the Horse Gate

2 Kings 12 The Reign of Joash (Judah) [2 Chron 23:16–24:27]

- 12:1-3 Summary of his reign
- 12:4-16 His Temple reforms
 - [2 Chron 24:15-16 Jehoiada dies]*
 - [2 Chron 24:17-22 Zechariah is murdered]*
- 12:17-18 The Syrian invasion *[2 Chron 24:23-24]*
- 12:19-21 His assassination and burial