

Fairview Memorial Winter Bible Study

Theme for 2024 Study: “Women of The Bible”

Tonight’s Lesson - “Athaliah”

by

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Related Scripture: 2 Kings 8:26, 2 Kings 11:1-16, and 2 Chronicles, Chapters 22 and 23.

In our study tonight, we will look at who Athaliah was; also, at her **behavior and conduct**. We will see how she came to reign as Queen beside her Husband, King Jehoram. After Jehoram’s death, their son, Ahaziah became King, and she reigned as Queen Mother with him. After the death of their son, Ahaziah, she continued as the Queen. She had a very devious mind!

We will discover **some of the reasons why** she turned out to be so evil. 2 Chro. Chapters 21 and 22 informs us about the death of her husband, King Jehoram, who reigned 8 years, and her son, King Ahaziah, who reigned only one year; and her reign, as Queen, which continued 6 years.

SOME FAMILIAR HISTORY

After the death of King Solomon, The Kingdom of Israel became divided. The 10 Northern Tribes followed his son Jeroboam, and the two Southern tribes followed his son Rehoboam. The subject of our lesson tonight **“Athaliah”** was born in the Northern Kingdom and she was a citizen of Israel; She was the granddaughter of Omri, the sixth King of Israel, and she was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, the seventh King of Israel. The Scriptures tell us, that after the death of King Zimri, the Northern Kingdom became divided over who they wanted for King. (1 K 16:21-28) Half the people wanted to make Tibni to be the King, and the other half wanted Omri to be King. Omri prevailed in the election and became King of the 10 tribes of Israel.

Now Omri, was Athaliah’s Grandfather! Omri reigning six years in Tirzah, after which, he bought the hill of Samaria, from Shemer, for 2 talents of silver, which was about \$3,900.00, and he built the City, of Samaria, which became known as the “Omride Dynasty”, and became the capital of Palastine. (1 K 16:24) It was also known as ”The House of Omri.” The bad thing about all of this success is stated in (1 K 16:25) **“But Omri wrought evil in the sight of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him”**. (1 Kings 16:25) Bad Example!

“So Omri reigned a total of 12 years, and slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: And Ahab, his son, reigned in his Stead”; And , Ahab. the son of Omri reigned over Israel 22 Years. (1Kings 16:25-28) And the same thing was said of him; “And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him.” (1 Kings 16:29-30)

“And it came to pass as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam, *Ahab* took to wife, “Jezebel, the daughter of king Ethbaal, King of the Zidonians, and went and worshipped and served Baal”. (1 Kings 16:31-33)

So Athaliah's mother, Jezebel was a Phoenicia, also called, Zidonians, and she was a champion of Baal worship. Jezebel led Ahab the King, and Israel, into gross immoralities, of heathen idol, and pagan worship. **"But there was none like Ahab which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up."** Ahab was the seventh King of Israel and reigned 22 years. (1 Kings 16:29-33) These were Athaliah's parents.

ATHALIAH'S EVIL INFLUENCE

We don't know what brought Johoram and Athaliah together, but they were husband and wife. Johoram the son of Jehoshaphat King of Judah, of the Southern Kingdom, and Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, of Israel, of the Northern Kingdom were married. Johoram became King of Judah upon the death of His father. So Athaliah, as the wife of Johoram, became his Queen. Athaliah influenced King Johoram and instead of following the righteous ways of His father Jehoshaphat, **"he walked in the way of the Kings of Israel, and did that which was evil in the Eyes of the Lord."** (2 Kings 8:16-19 and 2 Chro. 21:5-6)

This verse is important! 2 Chro. 21:7, "Howbeit the Lord would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he made with David; and, as he promised to give light to him and his sons forever." (Also 2 Kings 8:19) (For the promise to David. See 2 Sam. 7:12-16) For the Promise to Christ (See Luke 1:31-33)

However, Johoram, Athaliah's Husband reigned in Judah eight years. but because of his evil ways, died from a plague sent upon him from the Lord . He had a disease of the bowles. (2 Chro. 21:12-15) Also, the Philistines, Arabians, and the Ethiopians came to Judah, and carried away all that was found in the Kings house, including his wives and sons, except the youngest one. (2 Chro. 21:16-17)

Following the demise of Johoram, the only survivor of the invasion, Ahaziah, the youngest son of Jehoram and Athaliah was made King by the people of Jerusalem. He reigned one year, His mother's name was **Athaliah** the (granddaughter) of Omri. "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counselor to do wickedly. He walked also after their counsel..." (2 Chro. 22:1-5) That's why I called her the Queen Mother, because she was telling him what to do.

AHAZIAH'S UNTIMELY DEATH

Jehu, whom the Lord had anointed to be King over Israel, and,... to cut off the house of Ahab, found Ahaziah The King of Judah, hiding in Samaria, and slew him, for he had aligned himself with the wicked house of Ahab. (2 Chro 22:5-9)

"And when Athaliah the mother of King Ahaziah, heard that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal". The **"Seed Royal"** has reference to the **Blood Line of David**, from which the Messiah was to come. This murderous act would have included her grandchildren, as well as the nephews and nieces of her son, Ahaziah, and his wives.

Athaliah had been Queen in Judah ever since she married Johoram, She controlled him while he was King, she controlled her son, Ahaziah, while he was King; and she was determined that she would not risk losing control, so she murdered those who were qualified to be King.

“AND ATHALIAH DID REIGN OVER THE LAND”, for six years (2 K 11:1-3).

However, unknown to Athaliah, Jehosheba, the daughter of King Johoram, and sister of her husband, King Ahaziah, who was the wife of the High Priest Jehoiada, stole Joash (The son of Ahaziah by another one of his wives) and hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not slain. And he was with her **“hid”** in the house of the Lord (2 Kings 11:2-4) Joash was **the only one left in the Blood Line of David**, was rescued, and the promise of God, to David stood firm. God’s Plan can not be altered, set aside or prevented.

THE DEATH OF ATHALIAH

Everything seemed to be going great for Athaliah. She had been the ruling Queen for six years when she heard a noise in the temple, so she went to see what was going on. The High Priest Jehoida had gathered all the rulers of Judah together. They brought Joash, now seven years old, into the temple. Remember, Joash, was the son of King Ahaziah, and a rightful heir to the throne. So, Jehoida put the crown on Joash, and anointed him, and made him King of Judah. And they clapped their hands and said, **“God save the King”**.

Now, Athaliah’s response to this was to cry, “Treason, Treason! Meaning, You have betrayed me! The truth is she had no claim and no right to be the Queen.

The High Priest gave the command to kill her with the sword, but not in the House of the Lord. They laid hands on her as she came by the way the horses came into the King’s house, and there she was slain. (2 Kings 11:4-20 Joash began to reign when he was seven years old, and The High Priest was his adviser.

What is the moral of this Story? Athaliah followed the evil way of her Parents and Grandparent!
The 10 commandments are the moral standard set by God and agreed to by Israel,
These were moral, social, and religious principles by which we should live. (Exodus 20:1-17

Parents are to Teach and enforce moral and righteous principles to their children.
Children are to be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

I think she had no moral training. The Bible says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it”. (Proverbs 22:6)

I think some of the great problems in America today can be laid at the feet of Parents.

Lack of proper example.

Lack of proper discipline.

Lack of Biblical religious teaching.