### 2 Chronicles

## Chapter 23

1Well, after 7 years, [the husband of Princess JehoShabeth, the Priest] JehoiAda, reckoned that the time had finally come... So he took several army lieutenants with him into the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
[They were:]  
  
 • AzariAh son of JehoRam,  
 • IshMaEl son of JoAnan,  
 • AzariAh son of Obed,  
 • MaAseJah son of AdiJa, and  
 • EliShaPhan son of ZachariAh.  
  
2Then they traveled around Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah and all the family heads of IsraEl and brought them to JeruSalem; 3and this whole gathering of Judah made a pact with the king there at the Temple of God.  
  
For [JehoiAda] showed the king’s son to them and said:  
  
 ‘Look… This is the king’s son!  
  
 ‘So, may he now become the king, just as Jehovah said concerning the house of David!  
  
 4‘Therefore, this is what you must do:  
  
 • A third of you Priests and Levites should come here on the Sabbath and occupy all the Temple gates and entrances;  
  
 • 5A third must surround the king’s palace;  
  
 • And a third must occupy the central gate.  
  
 ‘Then all the people must assemble in the courtyards of the Temple of Jehovah… 6Don’t let anyone enter the Temple that isn’t a Priest or Levite! Allow all the officiating Levites to enter, because they’re holy, and all the rest should guard the watches of Jehovah...  
  
 7‘Each of the Levites should gather around the king with their weapons in their hands, and then kill anyone who dares to enter the Temple… They must protect the king as he’s entering and leaving.’  
  
8So the Levites and all Judah did exactly as JehoiAda the Priest told them... Each of [the lieutenants] kept his men in their stations from the time that the Sabbath started until its conclusion, and JehoiAda didn’t allow the Priests to rest after their daily rotations.  
  
9He gave the Priests and army lieutenants their orders, and then he armed them with swords, large shields, and even the small shields that King David had placed in the Temple of God.  
  
10Thereafter, he stationed them (bearing their weapons) everywhere, from the room on the right of the Temple to the room to the left of the Altar, and all around the king’s palace... 11Then he brought out the king’s son and placed the trappings and proofs of his kingship upon him, and the [High] Priest JehoiAda and his sons anointed him as the king, shouting:  
  
 ‘Long live the king!’  
  
12Well, [Queen] AthaliAh heard the sounds of the people running and shouting, praising the king, so she went to the Temple of Jehovah 13and she saw {Look!} the king standing at his station in the king’s entrance as the trumpets were blowing!  
  
Also, there were all the governors standing around the king, as the people of the land were joyfully shouting and blowing trumpets, the musicians were playing their instruments, and the singers were singing praises!  
  
So [Queen] AthaliAh tore her robe and shouted:  
  
 ‘Attack them!’  
  
14But JehoiAda the Priest told the army lieutenants:  
  
 ‘Throw her out of the Temple, then take her outside and kill her with your swords… Don’t kill her inside the Temple of Jehovah!’  
  
15Well at that, they released her... And as she was walking through the gate of the horsemen towards the king’s palace, they killed her.  
  
16Then JehoiAda proclaimed an agreement between himself, the people, and the king, that they were all going to be Jehovah’s people. 17And thereafter, all the people of the land went to the temple of BaAl and tore it and its altars down, and they ground its idols into a fine dust... Then they put Mathan (the priest of BaAl) to death in front of his altars!  
  
  
18Thereafter, [High] Priest JehoiAda commissioned the Priests and Levites to refurbish the Temple of Jehovah, and he re-established the assignments and daily rotations of the Priests and Levites as they were set up by David for the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
Then he sacrificed whole burnt offerings to Jehovah in the way that was written in the Law of Moses, as they played the joyful songs that were written by David. 19He also assigned gatekeepers to stand at the gates of the Temple of Jehovah so as to prevent anyone who was unclean in any way from entering.  
  
20After that, he gathered the family heads, the dignitaries, the people’s governors, and all the people of the land. Then they led the king into the Temple of Jehovah through the inner gate of the king’s palace, and sat him down on the king’s throne.  
  
21However, although all the people of the land were joyful, everything became silent as they executed Queen AthaliAh with a sword.