### 2 Kings

## Chapter 11

1Well when AhaziAh’s mother AthaliAh heard that her son was dead, she had all the [heirs to the throne] killed.  
  
2However, JehoSheba (the daughter of King JehoRam and the sister of AhaziAh) took her nephew JehoAsh and hid him away, as the other sons of the king were being slaughtered... She hid him and his nurse in a storage closet for beds, so that AthaliAh couldn’t find him and kill him.  
  
3Then she kept him hidden in the Temple of Jehovah for 6 years.  
  
So thereafter, AthaliAh ruled the land.  
  
  
4But after 7 years, JehoiAda (the Priest) took the commanders who were in charge of patrolmen and couriers, and brought them into the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
Then he had them make an agreement with Jehovah and bound them with an oath in His presence… And that’s when JehoiAda showed the [dead] king’s son to them.  
  
5He told them:  
  
 ‘This is what you must do:  
  
 6‘On the Sabbath, 1/3 of you must take control of the city gates, 1/3 must take control of the gate that leads to the road, and 1/3 must take control of the gate to the king’s guardhouse...  
  
 ‘Then everyone must [protect our king]!  
  
 7‘Two of you must go to the Temple of Jehovah on the Sabbath to guard the king, 8and the rest must gather there and kill anyone who comes [to attack] him… He must be protected wherever he goes!’  
  
9Well, the commanders did just as JehoiAda had instructed them... For on the next Sabbath, each one gathered his men. And as the people were coming and going, they all went inside to JehoiAda the Priest.  
  
10Then the Priest gave the commanders the spears and shields of King David that were kept in the Temple of Jehovah, 11and they formed a contingent of armed bodyguards that stayed at the Temple extension to the right of the Altar, so as to form a protective circle around the [young prince].  
  
12Then they took the king’s son out and placed the royal turban on him, gave him [the royal scepter], poured the anointing oil [over his head], and made him the king, as everyone clapped their hands and shouted:  
  
 ‘Long live the king!’  
  
13However, when AthaliAh heard the sound of people running, she too went to the Temple of Jehovah, and that’s when she saw him standing at the columns acting as king!  
  
All the singers and trumpeters were there, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing their trumpets!  
  
14So AthaliAh started ripping her clothes and she shouted:  
  
 ‘Conspiracy! Conspiracy!’  
  
15But JehoiAda (the Priest) told the commanders and their lieutenants to take her outside and then kill her with their swords (because he didn’t want her to die there inside the Temple of Jehovah)... 16So they grabbed her and dragged her along the road that leads to the stables next to the king’s palace and killed her there.  
  
17Thereafter, JehoiAda proclaimed an agreement between Jehovah, the king, and his people, that they would be the people of Jehovah from then on.  
  
18Then all the people of the land went to the temple of BaAl and tore it down! They smashed its images and altars into fine pieces, and they killed Mathan (the priest of BaAl) right in front of his altar.  
  
And after that, the Priest appointed men to serve as overseers within the Temple of Jehovah.  
  
19Then he took the military commanders and their troops of patrolmen and couriers, along with all the people in the land, and they led the king from the Temple of Jehovah, through the gate of the royal bodyguards, and into the palace of the kings... There they seated him on the throne, 20as all the people of the land started rejoicing.  
  
And from then on, the city was once again at peace.