



JEHOIADA AND JEHOSHEBA MADE A COURAGEOUS CHOICE

Athaliah was an evil woman. She was the daughter of King Ahab of the northern kingdom of Israel. Ahab worshipped idols and when Athaliah married the son of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, she brought idolatry with her. After her husband died, her son, Ahaziah, became king. After he also died, Athaliah chose to carry out an evil plan. She would kill all those who could be made king of Judah – her own grandchildren. Then she would reign as queen over the land.

In the days when David was king of Israel, God had promised that there would always be a king from David's family. Could God's promise be broken because of an evil woman? God had two people who were faithful to Him and ready to make a courageous choice.

Jehosheba was the sister of King Ahaziah, the aunt of the children that Athaliah had decided to kill. Jehosheba was not able to rescue all the children, but she did save the youngest one, one-year-old Joash. Jehosheba was married to



Jehoiada, the priest. Together, they hid little Joash in a room in the temple. They kept him hidden for six years. When they did this, they were choosing to act in a very courageous way. They would have known that if Athaliah had found out what they were doing, their lives would have been in danger, as well as the life of the little prince.

For six years Jehoiada and his wife kept their secret. For six long years those who trusted in God must have wondered about God's promise. Then, when Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada again decided to act courageously. It was time for the people to know that the true king of Judah was alive.

Carefully, Jehoiada made his plans. All the Levites were called to the temple. The armed guard was set up and the leaders of the people brought together. Joash was then brought to the temple and crowned king.

Athaliah heard sounds of music and singing and came to the temple. She actually shouted "treason" as if she was the rightful queen. Jehoiada gave instructions and she was taken out and put to death.



READ: 2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12; 23:1-21

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Athaliah's evil plan?
(2 Chronicles 22:10)
2. What was Jehoiada and Jehosheba's courageous plan? (2 Chronicles 22:11-12)
3. What did Athaliah hear? (2 Chronicles 23:12-13)
and what did she see? (2 Chronicles 23:13)