

2 Kings 10-11

Good evening church, it is wonderful to be back with you all tonight.

We are going to continue our study of the Old Testament tonight.

We will be in 2 Kings Chapter 10 and 11.

Let's pray before we get into it...

These two chapters before us give the sense that we are watching a Netflix TV series about ancient kingdoms and struggles for power and dominion.

There will be moments that evil seemingly will win out the day, and then good will come from behind and triumph over evil.

Understand the story in Kings includes the same Meta-Narrative we have seen throughout God's Word, from Genesis on.

There is a battle raging between the Kingdom of Truth, and the Kingdom of Lies, between Light and Darkness, there is an unseen enemy tirelessly working against the Promises of God.

In the Garden, God gave the Promise of a Messiah that would solve the sin problem created by Adam and Eve.

The Seed of a Woman would come through His chosen Bloodline of Faith, and one Day that Seed would Provide the way back for man, to have Fellowship with God.

Satan worked through the Antediluvian Age, or Pre-Flood Age through genetics, perverting the bloodline of man, mixing the human race with mutants, half fallen angels and half man.

God wiped out the corrupted bloodline in the flood, saving only the Pure Noah and his family, but the battle continued, with the sin gene still flowing through the blood of mankind.

Man was tempted by the Pride in their heart, and with the help of the Tempter, they lifted up their hearts against their Creator, and Abraham was then set apart and separated, he would become the Father of all who would believe.

The Promised Salvation would be found now through his bloodline.

God built a nation from Abraham's decedents, and the Promise carried on through terrible trials, and great opposition, as his dependents struggled to stay true to God's Commands and the way He set forth for them.

Satan used idolatry and sensual worship to draw their hearts away.

Then came the Kingdom Age, where God established a young shepherd boy as His chosen vessel, to carry on the Messianic Bloodline.

The Kingdom divided and weakened as David's descendants fell to the whiles of the Devil.

But even after civil war and strife, we see God's Promises will prevail, until Christ the King comes as Promised.

Even tonight, we will see continued wickedness in the North after a transition of power, and in the South, in Judah, the Holy Bloodline will almost be lost.

We ended the drama last time with bloody and grotesque scene in the Norther Kingdom as God has raised up another to wipe out the wicked bloodline of Ahab.

Remember Jehu the commander of Israel's Army has begun to systematically take down the decedents of Ahab, even having Jezebel his wicked wife brutally thrown from a tower to her bloody doom.

Although Ahab had been dead for at least 14 years, he had many sons and grandsons.

And we pick up the narrative now in verse 1 of chapter 10.

Ahab's Seventy Sons Killed

10:1 Now Ahab had seventy sons in Samaria. And Jehu wrote and sent letters to Samaria, to the rulers of Jezreel, to the elders, and to those who reared Ahab's sons, saying:

2 Now as soon as this letter comes to you, since your master's sons are with you, and you have chariots and horses, a fortified city also, and weapons, 3 choose the

best qualified of your master's sons, set him on his father's throne, and fight for your master's house.

4 But they were exceedingly afraid, and said, "Look, two kings could not stand up to him; how then can we stand?" 5 And he who was in charge of the house, and he who was in charge of the city, the elders also, and those who reared the sons, sent to Jehu, saying, "We are your servants, we will do all you tell us; but we will not make anyone king. Do what is good in your sight."

6 Then he wrote a second letter to them, saying:

If you are for me and will obey my voice, take the heads of the men, your master's sons, and come to me at Jezreel by this time tomorrow.

Now the king's sons, seventy persons, were with the great men of the city, who were rearing them. 7 So it was, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons and slaughtered seventy persons, put their heads in baskets and sent them to him at Jezreel.

8 Then a messenger came and told him, saying, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons."

And he said, "Lay them in two heaps at the entrance of the gate until morning."

9 So it was, in the morning, that he went out and stood, and said to all the people, "You are righteous. Indeed I conspired against my master and killed him; but who killed all these? 10 Know now that nothing shall fall to the earth of the word of the Lord which the

Lord spoke concerning the house of Ahab; for the Lord has done what He spoke by His servant Elijah." 11 So Jehu killed all who remained of the house of Ahab in Jezreel, and all his great men and his close acquaintances and his priests, until he left him none remaining.

Back in 1 Kings Chapter 21, Elijah the Prophet had given God's Word regarding Ahab and his godless lineage.

God told Ahab in...

1 Kings 21:22 I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.

And the time had come for this to be fulfilled, every last decedent of Ahab would be wiped out.

The Lord had commissioned Jehu to be His Sword of Judgement.

The Prophet spoke to him in...

2 Kings 9:6-7 "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I have anointed you king over the people of the Lord, over Israel. 7 You shall strike down the house of Ahab your master, that I may avenge the blood of My servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the Lord, at the hand of Jezebel.

Ahab and Jezebel had turned the heart of God's people away from Him, and they promoted Baal worship.

Their influence even spread to the Southern Kingdom of Judah, the king Jehoram married their daughter Athaliah, and the Southern Kingdom embraced this Baal worship as well.

This family was Satan's instruments in his efforts to corrupt the line of David that jeopardized the Messianic promises.

Jehu had already killed Joram king of Israel, Ahab's son, and Ahaziah king of Judah, Ahab's grandson.

Now Jehu was in Jezreel, about 25 miles from Samaria, and from there he communicated with the leaders in Samaria.

He wrote an official letter to the respected men of the city so he could take over the city without a battle.

He at first tried to intimidate these men by challenging them to choose one descendent of Ahab and to put him on the throne to lead them to fight Jehu.

Perhaps a one and one fight, winner takes all kind of fight.

Jehu's reputation had spread, and Jehu is trying to capitalize on their fears.

Even though he admits the odds against him, pointing out that they had chariots and horses and a fortified city with weapons,

He is getting into their hearts and imaginations, and boldly calling them out, using their fear against them.

He is getting into the heads of his enemy.

This is a tactic that has been used throughout the ages, even the wicked Adolf Hitler wrote, “Mental confusion, contradiction of feeling, indecisiveness, panic, these are our weapons.”

Makes you wonder about what is happening today, as the government creates fear in the hearts of its people, and is changing its minds, and creating confusion, to continually take more control and gain more power for themselves.

They play mind games as they try to break the will of the people.

Jehu uses this tactic, and it works here, although they could easily beat him in battle, they believe the bellicose statements of Jehu.

They conclude that he seems invincible as he has already taken out two kings.

They completely surrender to his will, and he sends a second communication telling them to bring the heads of Ahab’s descendants to him.

This could be understood one of two ways, one by bringing those in charge to meet with Jehu, or the literal heads of his sons.

They understand it to be the second way, and they cut the heads off of the young men, and neatly put their heads in a basket for their new king.

And Jehu orders them to be used for a grisly seen here, as he has the heads stacked up at the entrance of the gate of the city, no doubt putting even more fear behind his name and reputation.

The people would be reminded that challenging Jehu would come at a great cost.

But Jehu shows himself to be a master politician, as he shifts the blame of their murders to the people of Samaria in verse 9.

He absolved himself of any guilt on the matter, and he then reminded the people of the word of the Lord through the Prophet Elijah.

So he in essence is blaming God and His Servant Elijah. But at the same time he is aligning himself with God's Will.

He is a smooth talking a master of the political double talk that is even so prevalent today.

David summed up the politicians speech with **Ps 12:2**

2 They speak falsehood to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak. NASU

Now, verse 11 reveals the wickedness within Jehu's heart.

He moves beyond God's decree, and begins his own personal crusade.

Ambition is so dangerous in the service of God.

Ambition blinds us, it creates miseries, and begins to create lies.

It is interesting that wicked ambition often tries to destroy the past, to erase information, in order to garner more control over people.

Ahab was a wicked man, but there were lessons to learn from his mistakes.

Jehu wipes out anyone who could have taught him from those mistakes.

Interesting today, that there are movements that want to erase history, this is never wise.

Our nation was not perfect, but to erase the mistakes, will soon lead to forgetting the mistakes, then as the saying goes, "those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it or those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Forgetting history, good or bad is never healthy for a nation.

Jehu went after not only the family of Ahab, but his friends, chief officers, and priests who served in the palace.

He was trying to erase opposition, but in turn he destroyed valuable resources and men full of political wisdom.

It was a huge slaughter based upon being guilty by association.

The Lord wanted to rid the land of Ahab's descendants, and hinder them from taking the throne again, beyond that was unnecessary.

And in Jehu's ambitious zeal he will even cross the line in attacking the Davidic Bloodline as we read now in verse 12...

Ahaziah's Forty-two Brothers Killed

12 And he arose and departed and went to Samaria.

On the way, at Beth Eked of the Shepherds, 13 Jehu met with the brothers of Ahaziah king of Judah, and said, "Who are you?"

So they answered, "We are the brothers of Ahaziah; we have come down to greet the sons of the king and the sons of the queen mother."

14 And he said, "Take them alive!" So they took them alive, and killed them at the well of Beth Eked, forty-two men; and he left none of them.

So Jehu left Jezreel and went to claim his throne in Samaria.

On the way there he met a band of travelers who had not heard of all the changes in the land.

They were relatives of King Ahaziah and Jehu thought it was right to kill them as well, 42 men were murdered.

Yet these men were not related to Ahab by blood, they were descendants of David.

Jehu was now working against the plan of God, as he let his ambition blind him.

So now, on his way to take his prize, the capital of Israel, Samaria, he will have one more mysterious meeting.

Look now starting in verse 15...

The Rest of Ahab's Family Killed

15 Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab, coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?"

And Jehonadab answered, "It is."

Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.

16 Then he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord." So they had him ride in his chariot. 17 And when he came to Samaria, he killed all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had destroyed them, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke to Elijah.

The Rechabites were an ascetic group that lived a simple nomadic lifestyle.

They belonged to the Kenites, descendants of Moses' brother-in-law.

They followed the traditions laid out from their ancestors, the Prophet Jeremiah, in Jeremiah Chapter 35 exempted them from the Judgement meted out against Israel, because of their loyalty to God.

They were separated from the everyday life of the Hebrews, and distant from the politics.

Jehu saw this leader among the Rechabites, Jehonadab as a strategic ally.

Often, harsh leaders will place a more pragmatic and moral man as their second, to try and soften their own campaigns.

He was a distinguished, respected man, and would bring credibility to Jehu's crusade among those loyal to Yahweh.

They symbolically sealed their alliance with a chariot ride, and they rode together to carry out the final act of Jehu's massacre.

They arrive in Samaria, and Jehu is now the unopposed ruler, and the bloody purge continued of all who remained to Ahab in Samaria.

Next Jehu will go after the false religion that Ahab infected the land with...

Worshippers of Baal Killed

18 Then Jehu gathered all the people together, and said to them, "Ahab served Baal a little, Jehu will serve him much. 19 Now therefore, call to me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests. Let no one be missing, for I have a great sacrifice for Baal. Whoever is missing shall not live." But Jehu acted deceptively, with the intent of destroying the worshipers of Baal. 20 And Jehu said, "Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal." So they proclaimed it. 21 Then Jehu sent throughout all Israel; and all the worshipers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left who did not come. So they came into the temple of Baal, and the temple of Baal was full from one end to the other. 22 And he said to the one in charge of the wardrobe, "Bring out vestments for all the worshipers of Baal." So he brought out vestments for them. 23 Then Jehu and Jehonadab the son of Rechab went into the temple of Baal, and said to the worshipers of Baal, "Search and see that no servants of the Lord are here with you, but only the worshipers of Baal." 24 So they went in to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had appointed for himself eighty men on the outside, and had said, "If any of the men whom I have brought into your hands escapes, whoever lets him escape, it shall be his life for the life of the other."

25 Now it happened, as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, that Jehu said to the guard

and to the captains, "Go in and kill them; let no one come out!" And they killed them with the edge of the sword; then the guards and the officers threw them out, and went into the inner room of the temple of Baal. 26 And they brought the sacred pillars out of the temple of Baal and burned them. 27 Then they broke down the sacred pillar of Baal, and tore down the temple of Baal and made it a refuse dump to this day. 28 Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.

With his throne secure now, he goes after the Baal worship.

Jehu chose to use deception to rid the land of the false worship.

He was a powerful man, and could have commanded the worship of Baal cease, and those who refused could have been banished, he could have even tried to convert the worshippers of Baal over to True Religion, but instead he will massacre them.

Jehu, makes the statement that Ahab served Baal a little, and there was truth to that statement.

Ahab more than likely allowed the worship to happen in his kingdom to appease his wife Jezebel.

He gave his children names that spoke of Yahweh as we discussed before.

He was a compromised believer in Yahweh.

And the people must have known that Ahab was not fully in with his commitment to Baal.

But Jehu was now leading the people, and his religious alliances were unknown.

He used this to his advantage.

He deceptively made it seem like he was more enthusiastic about Baal than Ahab, and the worshippers of Baal came to the assembly there at the temple built by Ahab.

Jehu assembled the prophets, servants, and priests of this false religion, and they came in great numbers.

The temple was full end to end.

Thinking they were there for a great celebration, they were probably excited for their new king, finally someone who would not be so wishy washy in his stance for Baal.

Jehu performed all the correct rituals, and used the proper vestments and even offered the main sacrifice.

No doubt gaining the applause of the people gathered.

But once their trust was earned, and their guard let down, Jehu revealed his true intentions.

He told the eighty guards outside the building to surround the temple, and to slaughter everyone gathered there.

They tore down the sacred pillars and destroyed the sacred images and tore down the entire temple.

The destruction was so complete that they turned the place into a refuse dump.

Literally a latrine, or cesspool, a place for human feces.

This would bring the ultimate insult upon the worship of Baal all throughout the land.

And here we are tempted to cheer on Jehu, we are hopeful that finally in Israel, in the Northern Kingdom there will be a good king, a leader that follows after God.

This man Jehu is obeying God's Will more than anyone in the North has up to this point.

But Jehu as we will see is just another people pleaser in the end.

He trusted in the polls and the survey of the people, looking to please the people, he followed what would make him popular among them.

Although he could have led the nation in the right way, he sought to be popular among the masses.

The most popular and less controversial worship in the land was the worship that Jeroboam the son of Nebat had established with the two golden calves.

Although it was idolatry, at least that religion was performed with Yahweh's name and Yahweh's rituals.

But it was a false worship, and Jehu will be another compromised and wicked ruler, even after all that God has done through him and for him...

Look now starting in verse 29...

29 However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan. 30 And the Lord said to Jehu, "Because you have done well in doing what is right in My sight, and have done to the house of Ahab all that was in My heart, your sons shall sit on the throne of Israel to the fourth generation." 31 But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart; for he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam, who had made Israel sin.

By joining the national religion Jehu united the people and gained their respect, and he continued to be a successful politician.

But Jehu was an idolater at heart, using the Lord's Name only to advance his career and to cover up his sins.

The Lord did however commend Jehu for the work he had done and rewarded him with the longest dynasty in the Northern Kingdom, he would rule twenty-eight years, and his descendants would bring over 100 years to the dynasty of Jehu.

He was succeeded by Jehoahaz, Joash, and Jeroboam the II and finally by Zechariah who would reign only for six months before he was assassinated.

Jehu's dynasty started with the murder of two kings, and it will end with the murder of the fourth from his descendants.

As we will see next, even during his reign, God chastened him, to try to bring him back around.

Look now starting in verse 32.

Death of Jehu

32 In those days the Lord began to cut off parts of Israel; and Hazael conquered them in all the territory of Israel 33 from the Jordan eastward: all the land of Gilead — Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh — from Aroer, which is by the River Arnon, including Gilead and Bashan.

34 Now the rest of the acts of Jehu, all that he did, and all his might, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel? 35 So Jehu rested with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria. Then Jehoahaz his son reigned in his place. 36 And the period that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

God allowed the Syrians to take the territories from the tribes east of the Jordan River.

This would create instability for Jehu, having his enemy right across the river.

Jehu was a warrior, but not much of a nation builder, and he will be remembered only for the people that he killed.

He could have surrounded himself with gifted and experienced men, to assist him in nation building, but instead he killed those he deemed a threat, and settled for following the crowds and he worshipped manmade statues as his god.

He started so well, and as many others that we have seen, he finished poorly.

May this be a lesson for us, and may we endeavor to say at the end of our life, as the Apostle Paul did in...

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Church, understand something about our enemy, the devil does not care if he gets you at the beginning of your life or at the end; all that he cares about it making sure you end your life in his camp.

Be vigilant to the end, and keep fighting and stay in the fight until the Lord brings you home, and you get to hear those precious words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of our Lord."

So now the narrative will shift back to the vacancy that Jehu created in the Southern Kingdom as well.

Where another of Ahab's descendants will be used by the devil to try to wipe out the Holy Lineage.

Athaliah Reigns in Judah(2 Chron. 22:10-12)

11:1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal heirs. 2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being murdered; and they hid him and his nurse in the bedroom, from Athaliah, so that he was not killed. 3 So he was hidden with her in the house of the Lord for six years, while Athaliah reigned over the land.

Joash Crowned King of Judah(2 Chron. 23:1-11)

4 In the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of hundreds — of the bodyguards and the escorts — and brought them into the house of the Lord to him. And he made a covenant with them and took an oath from them in the house of the Lord, and showed them the king's son. 5 Then he commanded them, saying, "This is what you shall do: One-third of you who come on duty on the Sabbath shall be keeping watch over the king's house, 6 one-third shall be at the gate of Sur, and one-third at the gate behind the escorts. You shall keep the watch of the house, lest it be broken down. 7 The two contingents of you who go off duty on the Sabbath shall keep the watch of the house of the Lord for the king. 8 But you shall surround

the king on all sides, every man with his weapons in his hand; and whoever comes within range, let him be put to death. You are to be with the king as he goes out and as he comes in."

9 So the captains of the hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. Each of them took his men who were to be on duty on the Sabbath, with those who were going off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. 10 And the priest gave the captains of hundreds the spears and shields which had belonged to King David, that were in the temple of the Lord. 11 Then the escorts stood, every man with his weapons in his hand, all around the king, from the right side of the temple to the left side of the temple, by the altar and the house. 12 And he brought out the king's son, put the crown on him, and gave him the Testimony; they made him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"

The Queen mother Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab, saw her opportunity here, and with a demonic lust for power seized the throne.

It is interesting, Ahab named his daughter Athaliah, it means 'Yahweh is Exalted.'

He named all of his children after Yahweh, showing some loyalty to God.

Perhaps he hoped his children would find true faith because of their names.

However, Athaliah's name could not change her wicked and adulterous heart.

This is a great reality of our faith, it is through individual confession.

We are not saved by our fathers, or our wife's faith, we must come to God individually and receive forgiveness of sin, and find salvation.

I have seen kids raised in the perfect Christian environment, they were in church weekly, homeschooled, sheltered and protected, and when they came of age they became the most vial of heathens.

I have seen too, children raised in the world, with terrible influences and they have come to find the most stable and realistic faith in Christ.

As parents we simply must do our best to raise our children in the way they should go, but the reality is they must choose for themselves.

This reality should cause us to be in prayer for our little ones often, this is an inescapable reality.

Athaliah is vial and sick, she kills her own son's children. What a terrifying grandmother.

Jehu had wiped out the other relatives, and here the heirs are the sons of Ahaziah, and they are taken out by grandma.

We see here the line of David is in jeopardy.

She is the only woman who ruled in Judah there were none in Israel.

The villain of the story here is a woman, but so is the hero, God has a faithful servant in Jehosheba, the aunt of Joash.

She took and hid this baby heir and hid him away from his psychotic grandmother.

He was stole away for seven years in the Temple.

The Temple of Yahweh was one place they were sure the wicked queen would not go.

She assumed that he had been killed with the others.

And Jehosheba and Jehoiada hid their secret for many years until the boy was at the age of seven.

Jehoiada convinced the Temple officials and Temple guards that the boy was the royal heir, they had no reason to believe the priest of the Most High God was lying to them.

The Temple guard served in shifts and rotated in and out.

The guards also had the duty of guarding the royal palace.

The shifts changed on the Sabbath, so Jehoiada chose that day to execute his coup.

At that time, there would be the greatest presence of guards, and it would give the priest a full military presence.

Also, it meant that Athaliah would not know any better, because the crowd gathered on the Sabbath would not stand out to her.

Each man knew his instructions, and the guards protected the young boy as he went out and came in. Jehoiada gave them the ceremonial weapons there at the Temple for the coronation.

They used the decorative and expensive shields that King David had installed there.

They were used only when Judah's royalty were in the Temple.

In verse 12, the boy prince received the royal crown and also the Testimony, or the Royal copy of God's Holy Law.

Young Joash was now officially the king of Judah.

This boy king was raised in the Temple, not the palace, and the priest Jehoiada shaped his faith and moral character.

And as long as the priest was in his life, this king Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord.

So now, what about the wicked queen? We read next starting in verse 13...

Death of Athaliah(2 Chron. 23:12-24:1)

13 Now when Athaliah heard the noise of the escorts and the people, she came to the people in the temple of the Lord. 14 When she looked, there was the king standing by a pillar according to custom; and the leaders and the trumpeters were by the king. All the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. So Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"

15 And Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains of the hundreds, the officers of the army, and said to them, "Take her outside under guard, and slay with the sword whoever follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not let her be killed in the house of the Lord." 16 So they seized her; and she went by way of the horses' entrance into the king's house, and there she was killed.

The booming shout, "Long live the king!" got Athaliah's attention and she ran from the palace to see what was happening at the Temple.

And because she was hasty in her movements, she found herself trapped, there were guards all around her with no escape.

She came to the Temple courts and saw her grandson, the seven year old king standing by the pillar protected by the captains of the Temple.

And this was not only an assembly of officials, but as verse 14 reveals all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets in excitement.

She in a ridiculous accusation accuses them of treason, when she was in fact the real traitor.

This boy had every right to the throne, while she stole the throne and had no legitimate claim to it.

Jehoiada ordered the officers to take her outside the Temple to kill her and anyone willing to follow her.

Once they were near the palace and out of the Holy Place, they killed the treacherous queen.

Then we read now starting in verse 17...

17 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people, that they should be the Lord's people, and also between the king and the people. 18 And all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal, and tore it down. They thoroughly broke in pieces its altars and images, and killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest appointed officers over the house of the Lord. 19 Then he took the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, the escorts, and all the people of the land; and they brought the king down from the house of the Lord, and went by way of the gate of the escorts to the king's

house. Then he sat on the throne of the kings. 20 So all the people of the land rejoiced; and the city was quiet, for they had slain Athaliah with the sword in the king's house. 21 Jehoash was seven years old when he became king.

The Holy Covenant was renewed, and both the people and the king agreed to be Lord's people once again.

The people of Judah were a part of the Covenant Nation, and as long as they followed the Lord and His Holy Law, they would flourish.

The Nation of Israel has a unique relationship with the Lord, as the Psalmist reveals in...

**Ps 147:19-20 He declares His word to Jacob,
His statutes and His judgments to Israel.**

20 He has not dealt thus with any nation;

And as for His judgments, they have not known them.

Praise the Lord!

The nation was strongest when it adhered to all that God asked of them.

It was at its weakest when it did not seek to know and obey God's judgements.

And we see Revival taking place here in God's people as they flush the land of their idolatry, and rid themselves of the Baal worship and the priest that Athaliah had installed.

And God used a weak child, to usurped the powerful wicked rule of Athaliah.

When all hope seemed lost, God triumphed through the most unlikely character, and God's Light shines forth once again, and the Messianic line is preserved.

1 Cor. 1:27 God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty

And what a contrast we see here with Athaliah and the boy Joash.

What a refreshing sight it must have been to see the young king, with all the purity and innocence of his childhood, standing in stark contrast to a demonically controlled vial woman.

His presence there in the Temple spoke of the hope of a new beginning, whereas Athaliah showed the marks and scowls of a lifetime of treachery and vial disobedience to God.

No wonder the people rejoiced as they breathed a sigh of relief over the ideas of what the future may hold.

Light had expelled the Darkness once again.

And church, understand something about our day, as Darkness looms over our land.

I talk to God-fearing people today who are just wearied in their faith, they are tired, and they even have doubts and bouts of hopelessness.

It seems as though wickedness is winning out the day, it seems at times we are heading in a direction of doom and moving so fast we cannot correct course.

But understand the history of our God, evil always loses, and the Darker things get, understand the incredible impact the Light will have when it once again burst forth.

Today, we live in the Church Age, and today He shines through us.

Do not lose hope, keep seeking, keeping asking and keep waiting for Revival.

Because when it hits, God will work through people like you.

Church do not lose hope, God can turn this all around, in the meantime, keep preaching, keep sharing, and keep believing.

Amen?

Let's pray...