

A Year for the One

10 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family of the house of Judah. 11 But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes who were about to be murdered and put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Because Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and wife of the priest Jehoiada, was Ahaziah's sister, she hid the child from Athaliah so she could not kill him. 12 He remained hidden with them at the temple of God for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

II Chronicles 22:10-12

I. Genocide in Judah.

* There is a spirit of genocide released in our world.

II. 2 Js / Jehoiada and Jehosheba. Meet two unusual heroes of faith.

(II Kings 11:1-3)

1 King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter-- Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. 2 They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.

A. Spiritual midwives can never be underestimated. They facilitate the birth and protection of God's work in the world.

B. Moses was saved from Pharaoh. Esther from Haman. Christ from Herod. Now Joash from Athaliah.

III. God's protected link.

A. Meet the safest kid in Judah.

B. Joash was the last living link on earth from the line of King David.

C. If he died Messiah could not have come.

D. Often there's more at stake in events than we know.

IV. Jehoiada works safely behind the scenes to recruit safe people.

(II Chronicles 23:1-3)

1 In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength. He made a covenant with the commanders of units of a hundred: Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zikri. 2 They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites and the heads of Israelite families from all the towns. When they came to Jerusalem, 3 the whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God. Jehoiada said to them, "The king's son shall reign, as the LORD promised concerning the descendants of David.

V. Joash is crowned king of Judah.

* At 7 years of age he is put on a platform with a crown on his head and a bible in his hand.

VI. The Joash principle

* If you are necessary for the ongoing work of God's kingdom in the world, you live. If not, you enter eternity.