

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS**  
**JOASH AND GOD'S PROVIDENCE**  
**2 KINGS 11:1-4**

**Introduction**

Tonight we will see both the **SOVEREIGNTY and PROVIDENCE OF GOD** in action in the saving of **King Ahaziah's** toddler, **JOASH**, from destruction and eventually bringing him to the throne of Judah!

**Sovereignty Of God** — God alone reigns over His creation and over history  
The LORD acts according to His own will and pleasure!

**Providence Of God** — God's Divine Guidance And Care! He supplies and provides! Again it goes to His control over all His creation!

Now, the Word "**PROVIDENCE**" is found only once in Scripture, but we sure can see it throughout the book! Just two examples:

**We see God's Providence in the Book of Exodus in the story of Moses:**

- 1) **God's Providence** is seen in the Hebrew midwives saving children's lives when the Pharaoh wanted them dead!
- 2) **God's Providence** is seen in Moses' mom hiding him for three months and then putting him in an ark made of bulrushes, slime, and pitch and setting that ark in the river where Pharaoh's daughter would be.
- 3) **God's Providence** is seen in Moses being found by Pharaoh's daughter such that he was saved from death and raised in Pharaoh's house by his own mother who was paid to nurse him!

**We see God's Providence in the book of Esther:**

Though the LORD's name is not mentioned in the Book of Esther, God's Providential hand is shown throughout the whole Book!

Many other examples could be given throughout Scripture! **God's Providence** is a great thing to look for as you read and study Scripture!

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Now, we've seen in the past couple of our studies how that the LORD used **Jehu** to take out **Ahab's** house in both **Jezreel** and in **Samaria**.

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The only remaining influence of **Ahab** at this point was in Judah! **Athaliah, Ahab and Jezebel's** wicked daughter, who had so much of her parent's ungodly characteristics was still very much alive! Had she been a male, she would have been on **Jehu's** hit list as well!

We know she had married into the royal family of Judah. Her husband, **King Jehoram (Joram)** only reigned for eight years before he died and then her son, **King Ahaziah**, was killed by **Jehu** in Jezreel after only a one year reign!

So, let's begin with the Scripture tonight here in **2 Kings 11:1**.

- I. **NOTICE THE PLAN TO DESTROY THE ROYAL SEED! (Vs 1)**  
We see here that **Athaliah**, after learning of the death of her son, **King Ahaziah**, concocted this evil plan to destroy ALL of the royal seed and make herself queen!

Now, understand that had she been able to carry out her evil plan in its entirety, the seed of David would have been terminated! But for the **PROVIDENCE** and **SOVEREIGNTY** of God, she would have been successful!

**A. We See Her Selfishness!**

Before any of the King's seed could be crowned king, she devised and attempted to carry out her evil plan!

The plan was to kill all the heirs to the throne including her own grandchildren, so that she herself might rule the kingdom!

Her plan was one of the most selfish plans you'll find in Scripture! This was all about **Athaliah!**

**B. We See The Scene!**

How exactly she carried out her plan is not revealed in Scripture. We don't know if she carried it out alone or if she had help, but **she was largely successful or so it seemed!**

It had was a tragic scene, unthinkable, and even unimaginable!

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These young men of royalty with so much promise, and potential were all murdered by **Athaliah**—**except for one who escaped her hand!**

**The most helpless of them all was saved from destruction!** He was unable to help himself. He was unable to walk or run away because he wasn't even two yet! His name was **Joash**, the youngest son of her late son, **Ahaziah!** **Here we see how the Providence of God protected David's seed!**

Now, we're not told, but **he could have been overlooked or saved for last because he posed no problem for her initially.** What is a one year old going to do—run or mount a resistance?

Now, I have no doubt that he was indeed on her kill list, but he was the last one! And most certainly she WOULD see to it that he would die without intervention! He was the last of the royal sons and so he was a potential threat to her in the future! He had to go, even though he was her grandson!

**II. NOTICE THERE WAS ONE WHO SAVED JOASH! (Vs 2)**

This last remaining child of the king would have been destroyed! He would never have reached his potential, and his position. He would never have received the promise had it not been for someone who was willing to save him! Her name was **Jehosheba**.

**Jehosheba** was the sister of **King Ahaziah**. She was the aunt of **Joash!** And she was either the daughter or stepdaughter of **Athaliah**, this very woman who sought to destroy the royal seed. **Jehosheba** was also the wife of the **Priest Jehoiada**—**That's not a coincidence!**

**A. Jehosheba Was A Woman Of Courage!**

**Jehosheba** had to put herself at risk here to do this great deed! **Athaliah**, as evil as she was, would have not hesitated to kill **Jehosheba**, had she caught her doing what she did!

*Jehosheba Was A Woman Of Courage...*

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**B. Jehosheba Was A Woman Of Compassion!**  
She could not bear the thought of seeing this baby destroyed! She did what she did out of a heart of compassion!

**C. Jehosheba Was A Woman Of Conviction!**  
It did not matter to **Jehosheba** who was committing this atrocity or why it was being done! It was wrong, and something had to be done!

**D. Jehosheba Was A Woman Of Commitment!**  
She had to be willing to pay the price to get involved here! There would be a cost involved in rescuing **Joash!**

She would not only have to rescue him, but she would have to hide with him and help raise him!

**There usually is a cost to getting involved in the work of the LORD, but the rewards are eternal!**

Now, in reality, we know the LORD is the One Who saved **Joash!** **Jehosheba** was just the LORD's instrument that He used to save **Joash!** **This was the Providential hand of God!**

Understand that **had Jehosheba not been willing to be used by the LORD, the LORD would have used someone else and she would have missed out on a blessing!**

*NOTICE THE PLAN TO DESTROY THE ROYAL SEED!  
NOTICE THERE WAS ONE WHO SAVED JOASH!*

**III. NOTICE THERE WAS A PLACE TO SHELTER HIM! (Vs 3)**

The Priest **Jehoida**, who just so happened to be **Jehosheba's** husband, **provided lodging at the house of God!** So, having saved **Joash** from destruction, she took him to the house of God. There she sheltered **Joash** for 6 years as **Athaliah** assumed the position of Queen and reigned over Judah as the only female ruler over Judah's history! **What better place than the House of God for security, and shelter!**

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They apparently did not worry much about **Athaliah** coming to the Temple! She was a Baal worshiper like her mom and dad had been! We know that Baal worship had been destroyed in Israel by Jehu, but it is still in Judah! In fact, from **2 Chronicles 24:7** it says that Athaliah had a portion of the House of God broken up and took all the dedicated things of the house of the LORD to use for her Baal worship.

So, what better place or what safer place could there be than the house of God to protect **Joash** in?

**IV. NOTICE THERE WAS A PRIEST, HIS WIFE, AND A NURSE TO HELP GUARD HIM SUSTAIN HIM AND TRAIN HIM!**

*(Vs 3-4)*

**Jehoiada, Jehosheba's husband, was a Godly man, and a faithful priest! He and his wife, along with Joash's nurse had a tremendous impact and great influence upon the young Joash!**

**Joash** was blessed indeed to have such great role models to take him in, care for him and see that he was raised in the ways of the LORD!

**When Joash took the throne six years later he was only seven years old, but we can see the godly character instilled in him!**

*2 Chronicles 24:2—"And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest."*

**Jehoiada was a man of SERVICE, SACRIFICE, and STEADFASTNESS to the LORD!**

*2 Chronicles 24:14—"And they offered burnt offerings in the house of the LORD continually all the days of Jehoiada."*

He remained faithful to carry out his calling as Priest of the Temple before the LORD and he was honored because of that.

*2 Chronicles 24:15—"But Jehoiada waxed old, and was full of days when he died; an hundred and thirty years old was he when he died. And they buried him in the city of David among the kings, because he had done good in Israel, both toward God, and toward his house."*

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Did you know that just like **Jehoiada** and **Jehosheba** and **the nurse** had a impact upon young Joash, **we too can impact the lives of people by being priests before the LORD!**

**The Apostle Peter wrote in his first epistle to Believers:**

*1 Peter 2:9 – "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"*

**Wait, if we are a royal priesthood, what does that even mean?**

Well, it means at least three things:

We can intercede to God on behalf of others! (Prayer)

We can offer sacrifices of praise for the LORD before others!

We can train others for a life of service for the LORD!

**V. NOTICE THERE WAS A PROMISE THAT SECURED HIM!**

*(Vs 4)* **This whole story here is evidence of the faithfulness of God—both to His people and to His Word!**

He had promised to David that his house would reign forever!

Satan tried to hinder the promises of God! He was behind ALL that **Athaliah** did and attempted to do! **But God was faithful to bring to pass that which He had promised!** Because of that:

**A. Joash Received Protection.**

Joash was sheltered safely in the house of God by Jehosheba, and Jehoiada for six years!

**B. Joash Received Promotion.**

We are not told how the priest knew when the time was right but as Athaliah ended her sixth year of reigning and as Joash was only 7 years old, Jehoiada made a tremendous step of faith, and called for leaders, and soldiers to come to the Temple!

He revealed to them that one of the King's sons had indeed survived! The priest then aligned the soldiers so as to provide security for the King! We'll see that and what comes next!