

2 Chronicles 23 — “The Demise of the Wicked, the Courage of the Godly & God’s Unshakeable Faithfulness! A New Beginning to a Very Old Promise!”

Introduction:

Ecclesiastes 9:3 — “the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives.”

Consider how the **Light** dispels the darkness:

- the darkness of the exile, the light & courage of **DANIEL** arose,
- the darkness of Persia, the light & courage of **ESTHER** arose,
- the darkness of Ephesus, the light of the gospel of **PAUL** came,
- the darkness of apostate Judah, the LIGHT of **JEREMIAH’S** message,
- the darkness of intertestamental period (400 years), the LIGHT of GOD’S WORD burst in thru **JOHN THE BAPTIST**,
- the darkness of sinful men, the LIGHT OF THE WORLD enfleshed in the **LORD JESUS** -- the very embodiment of Divine Glory & Light!

Background to 2 Chronicles 23

- This is part 3 of the “Triology of Traitors” or the “Rulership of Rebels” or the “Kings of Corruption”. Jehoram; Ahaziah, & Now Athaliah. *A glimmer of light comes in Jehoiada!*
- **2 key words in the chapter that are so often repeated:**
 - 1) People/men/citizens/assembly — 12x
 - 2) Jehoiada — 20x in this narrative about him (chs 22-23)

THESIS — As we watch this amazing event transpire, let’s see it unfold in 3 headings:

I.SEE THE PERFECT COUP! (1-11)

The key word: is “enthronement/coronation”// by Jehoiada

A. The planning for the COUP (1-7)

B. The execution of the COUP (8-10)

C. The perfection of the COUP (11)

In verse 11: Amazingly, a 7-year old boy who lived in seclusion ALL HIS LIFE suddenly found himself surrounded by a HORDE of armed Levites & shouting multitudes in the middle of the sacred precinct of the Temple!

This is the classic text that contains the FULLEST ACCOUNT of the protocol/order of events in the “installation of a new ruler” in ancient Israel (particularly in Judah with its Davidic overtones):

The Order of the “Enthronement Ceremony”:

1. the presentation and coronation of the candidate (2 Chron 23.11)
2. the presentation to the king of a copy of the Torah regulations (v.11)
3. the public proclamation of his kingship (v.11)
4. the anointing by the priests (v.11)
5. the acclamation by the people: “LONG LIVE THE KING” (v.11; cf. 1 Kings 1.40)
— Eugene Merrill

“When God has a work to do he will qualify and animate men for it!” (Matthew Henry, speaking on Jehoiada)

II. SEE THE PERMITTED KILL! (12-15)

The key word: is “execution // of Athaliah

Note the inescapable irony of Athaliah:

This evil, dark, Satanic kingdom has an ultimate goal: to undermine God’s authority, to oppose Christ’s kingship & destroy God’s people!

III. SEE THE PUBLIC COVENANT! (16-21)

The key word: is “exultation // led by Jehoiada

This is a Public Ceremony where Jehoiada leads the nation & King to faithfulness to YHWH.

What does the worship in this covenant-ceremony entail? **3 elements...**

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1. marked by **ATONEMENT** — come with burnt offerings. they had sinned; but God has opened away for them to come thru blood atonement, a sacrifice. [thru Jesus!]
2. marked by **REJOICING** — redemption always leads to rejoicing and singing (Ps 103.2-4)
3. marked by **PURITY** — the role of the doorkeepers was to keep out of the temple things that were unclean, and defiled. [cf. Ps 24!]; they even tear down the house of Baal & kill the priest (Mattan; v.17!)

What marked Jehoiada?

As we examine him, see JEHOIADA’s

1. **Concern** for purity in worship (WORSHIP)
2. **Commitment** to obedience to Scripture (the WORD)
3. **Courageous** in walking in holiness (his WALK)
4. **Consciousness** for returning to GOD (his WITNESS)
5. **Care** in upholding God’s covenant (protecting Joash)

Jehoiada was a godly man! He was:

- ❖ a man of great prudence
- ❖ a man of great interest
- ❖ a man of great faith
- ❖ a man of great religion
- ❖ a man of great resolution

--Matthew Henry

CONSIDER THE ROLE OF JEHOIADA

It’s very significant in this narrative. God amazingly raises up & uses the man Jehoiada to preserve the Davidic line!

His name appears 20x in this narrative of only 45 verses!!

- he never appears in any of the priestly genealogical lists
- His priesthood probably began as early as the reign of Rehoboam since he died at 130 years old, perhaps sometime in the midpoint of the reign of Joash.
- Amazingly: Nothing is said of him before Athaliah events so his role must have been considered rather insignificant prior to then

BUT even though he was fairly quiet, reserved and faithfully unknown >> we **cannot** diminish his importance.

- He married a daughter of Jehoram, Jehosheba, they preserved the life of Josh, the infant heir to David’s throne, he led in the overthrow of the Athaliah, took the initiative of the installation of Josh as king, led in a great ceremony of covenant affirmation between Yahweh and the people, reorganized the cults, and maintained the temple worship until his death.
- He was deeply committed to Mosaic Law
- He knew the written Law had ultimately authority over the KING and KINGDOM & the PEOPLE
- he knew of the Davidic laws and administrations of the priests and Levites and followed them minutely and carefully.

Conclusion:

- The sinfulness of sin; deep darkness; when does it seem that evil has triumphed? In darkness, light invades!!
 - The **Cross** — Acts 2.22-23
 - The **Culture** — Psalm 73
 - The **Tribulation** — Daniel 7.20-22 [antiChrist, the little horn; cf. Dan 7.23-27!]

The Church’s One Foundation

The church's one Foundation
 is Jesus Christ her Lord;
 she is His new creation,
 by water and the Word;
 from heav'n He came and sought her
 to be His holy bride;
 with His own blood He bought her,
 and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
 yet one o'er all the earth,
 her charter of salvation,
 one Lord, one faith, one birth;
 one holy Name she blesses,
 partakes one holy food,
 and to one hope she presses,
 with ev'ry grace endued.

I once was lost in darkest night
 Yet thought I knew the way
 The sin that promised joy and life
 Had led me to the grave
 I had no hope that You would own
 A rebel to Your will
 And if You had not loved me first
 I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
 Indifferent to the cost
 You looked upon my helpless state
 And led me to the cross
 And I beheld God’s love displayed
 You suffered in my place

'Mid toil and tribulation,
 and tumult of her war,
 she waits the consummation
 of peace for evermore;
 till with the vision glorious
 her longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious
 shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
 with God the Three in One,
 and mystic sweet communion
 with those whose rest is won.
 O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 like them, the meek and lowly,
 on high may dwell with Thee.

All I Have Is Christ

You bore the wrath reserved for me
 Now all I know is grace

***Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
 Hallelujah! Jesus is my life***

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
 And live so all might see
 The strength to follow Your commands
 Could never come from me
 O Father, use my ransomed life
 In any way You choose
 And let my song forever be
 My only boast is You

The Gospel Song

Holy God in love became Perfect man to bear my blame
 On the cross he took my sin! By his death I live again!