

How Did it Happen?

Where does the event start? Let's start from the beginning (of the related events).

Background

Two kings were ruling: Ahab in the north (Israel), and Jehoshaphat in the south (Judah). Two kings of opposing character:

Ahab: “And Ahab the son of Omri did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah above all that were before him. And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. And Ahab made the Asherah; and Ahab did yet more to provoke Jehovah, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him” (1 Kgs. 16:30-33).

Jehoshaphat: “And Jehovah was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the first ways of his father David, and sought not unto the Baalim, but sought to the God of his father, and walked in his commandments, and not after the doings of Israel.” (2 Chron. 17:3-4).

Notwithstanding, “Jehoshaphat had riches and honor in abundance; and he joined affinity with Ahab.” Thus, the son of Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, who “walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab; for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife” (2 Chron. 21:6): whose name was Athaliah (2 Kgs. 11:1).

Athaliah was not JUST the daughter of Ahab, but her mother was “Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians.” The like character of Jezebel is depicted in Revelation, saying, “the woman Jezebel, who calleth herself a prophetess; and she teacheth and seduceth my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols” (2:20). Eth-baal, is described as “Ithobalus, whose name means “With him is Baal,” was originally priest of the great temple of Astarte, in Tyre” (Barnes). When Ahab married Jezebel he “did sell himself to do that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up” (1 Kgs. 21:25). Jezebel's zeal for baal was manifested when she “cut off the prophets of Jehovah” (1 Kgs. 18:4). To “cut off” is defined as, to “to cut, cut off, cut down, cut off a body part, cut out, eliminate, kill...cut off a body part, behead” (Brown-Driver-Briggs). That was the mother of Athaliah, and to coin the phrase, of Ezekiel, “As is the mother, so is her daughter” (16:44).

That being said, “Jehoshaphat being then king of Judah, Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah began to reign. Thirty and two years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife; and he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah” (2 Kgs. 8:16-18).

Treachery Afoot

Jehoram (son of Jehoshaphat) and Athaliah (daughter of Ahab and Jezebel) had a son named Ahaziah. Upon the death (another story), “Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal.” [Athaliah was successful in killing “all the seed royal,” i.e., her grandchildren, etc., except for one]: “Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash (Jehoash) the son of Ahaziah, and stole him away from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in the bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest (for she was the sister of Ahaziah), hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land (2 Chron. 22:10-12). Athaliah reigned for seven years.

Long Live the King

“And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself, and took the captains of hundreds, Azariah the son of Jeroham, and Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, and Azariah the son of Obed, and Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zichri, into covenant with him. And they went about in Judah, and gathered the Levites out of all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers' houses of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And he said unto them, Behold, the king's son shall reign, as Jehovah hath spoken concerning the sons of David. (2 Chron. 23:1-3)... “And Jehoiada the priest delivered to the captains of hundreds the spears, and bucklers, and shields, that had been king David's, which were in the house of God. And he set all the people, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the right side of the house to the left side of the house, along by the altar and the house, by the king round about. Then they brought out the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony, and made him king: and Jehoiada and his sons anointed him; and they said, Long live the king” (Vs. 9-11).

Justice Served

Jehoiada, having put all things in order: “And when Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people into the house of Jehovah: 2 Chron. 23:13 “and she looked, and, behold, the king stood by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpets by the king; and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew trumpets; the singers also played on instruments of music, and led the singing of praise. Then Athaliah rent her clothes, and said, Treason! treason! And Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains of hundreds that were set over

the host, and said unto them, Have her forth between the ranks; and whoso followeth her, let him be slain with the sword: for the priest said, Slay her not in the house of Jehovah. So they made way for her; and she went to the entrance of the horse gate to the king's house: and they slew her there” (2 Chron. 23:13-15).

Jehoiada's Work

Jehoiada's work was not yet done: “And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, and all the people, and the king, that they should be Jehovah's people. And all the people went to the house of Baal, and brake it down, and brake his altars and his images in pieces, and slew Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars... So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet. And Athaliah they had slain with the sword.” (2 Chron. 23:16-17, 21).

Joash Reigns

So, “Joash was seven years old when he began to reign; and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem... And Joash did that which was right in the eyes of Jehovah all the days of Jehoiada the priest” (2 Chron. 24:1-2).

The Chariot of Israel, and the Horsemen Thereof

And then! “Jehoiada waxed old and was full of days, and he died; a 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, and toward God and his house. Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them. And they forsook the house of Jehovah, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their guiltiness” (2 Chron. 24:15-18).

Effort of Restoration

As a result of the apostasy of Joash, Jehovah, “sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto Jehovah; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear” (2 Chron. 24:19).

Death of the Righteous

Among those prophets, “the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest; and he stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus saith God, Why transgress ye the commandments of Jehovah, so that ye cannot prosper? because ye have forsaken Jehovah, he hath also forsaken you. And they conspired against him, and stoned him with stones at the commandment of the king in the court of the house of Jehovah, Thus Joash the king remembered not the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but slew his son. And when he died, he said, Jehovah look upon it, and require it” (2 Chron. 24:20-22).

Back to the original question:

“How Did it Happen?”

After being highly influenced by Jehoiada, the husband of his father’s sister, a devoted priest of God and through his guidance caused the people of the land to rejoice, and bestow quietness to the city, to turn from the “house of Jehovah, the God of their fathers, and served the Asherim and the idols,” and not only so, but to slay the son of Jehoiada (Zechariah), the son of his father’s sister? ret