

## **How Did it Happen?**

### **Treachery Afoot**

Jehoram (son of Jehoshaphat) and Athaliah (daughter of Ahab and Jezebel) had a son named Ahaziah. Upon his death, “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).

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 (Joash) 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?

The tactics of evil are the same today as they have been since the time of Adam and Eve. The apostle John puts it this way: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of

the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (1 Jn. 2:15-16).

Here is how it happened: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” (Jam. 1:13-15).

Joash was enticed by the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Having been thus enticed, and drawn away, the lust conceived and brought forth sin. As a result of being in “the flesh” a desire to gratify the flesh is ever present.

### **What shall a man do?**

1. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (Jam. 4:7).
2. “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1 Cor. 10:12-13).
3. Avoid “evil companionships” (1 Cor. 15:33).
4. Take heed, “lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” (Heb. 3:12-13).
5. Be mindful to not “forake our own assembling together...but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as ye see the day drawing nigh (Heb. 10:25). ret