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offers Fast Bible Facts about

ATHALIAH, QUEEN OF JUDAH



As the spouse of King Jehoram, Athaliah was a queen consort ([2 Kings 8:16-24](#) and [2 Chronicles 21:1-20](#)) of the Southern Kingdom of Judah who later ruled on her own accord as a queen regnant ([2 Kings 11:1-16](#) and [2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21](#)).

It is of little surprise that Athaliah was an evil ruler in the eyes of the Lord, as she was the daughter of the dreadful King Ahab and [Queen Jezebel](#) (1) of the Northern Kingdom of Israel ([1 Kings 16:29-22:40](#) and [2 Chronicles 18](#)).

Jehoram ruled as the fifth king of Judah for 8 years. His grandfather, Asa, was the third king of Judah for 41 years ([1 Kings 15:9-24](#) and [2 Chronicles 14:1-16:13](#)). Jehoram's father, Jehoshaphat, was the fourth king of Judah for 25 years ([1 Kings 22:41-50](#) and [2 Chronicles 17:1-21:1](#)).

Both Asa and Jehoshaphat were righteous kings in the eyes of the Lord, but Jehoram did not follow their path. Instead, he rejected [God](#) (2) and married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab ([2 Kings 8:18](#)). When Jehoram died, their 22 year old son, Ahaziah, became the sixth king of Judah ([2 Kings 8:25-9:29](#) and [2 Chronicles 22:1-9](#)).

Ahaziah followed his father's example and was an evil ruler. He reigned for only one year before being killed by King Jehu of the Northern Kingdom of Israel ([2 Kings 9:1-10:36](#)). Jeru had been directed by a [prophet](#) (3) of the Lord to wipe out Ahab's entire bloodline ([2 Kings 9:6-10](#)).

This is where Athaliah seized her opportunity for power. Upon the death of her son, Ahaziah, she killed all other heirs (her grandchildren) to take the throne as queen. However, one remnant was overlooked and spared. Joash (*Jehoash*), infant son of Ahaziah, was hidden away with a nurse for six years while Athaliah ruled over Judah.

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In the seventh year of Athaliah's wicked reign, Jehoiada the priest organized a coup to remove her from the throne of power and install the young Joash to his rightful position as [king of Judah](#) (4). When Athaliah heard the commotion, she hurried to the Temple. Once there, she found Joash surrounded by the army as the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

Jehoiada ordered the army commanders to seize Athaliah but told them she must not be put to death in the Temple of the Lord. Accordingly, she was captured and executed where the horses entered the palace grounds ([2 Kings 11:15-16](#)).

Joash went on to serve righteously in the eyes of the Lord as Judah's king for 40 years ([2 Ki 11:21-12:21](#) and [2 Chronicles 24:1-27](#)).

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FOOTNOTES

- (1) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/jezebel>
- (2) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/god-of-the-bible>
- (3) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/prophets-of-the-bible>
- (4) <https://www.downriverdisciples.com/kings-of-israel-and-judah>

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<http://www.aboutbibleprophecy.com/p117.htm>